

Submission
No 363

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 20 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

In relation to proposed measures to control cat numbers I believe that much of them are counter productive and likely based on unreliable data. Numbers quoted for native animals killed seem unrealistic and there are never killed numbers of invasive species such as rats and mice shown. If these numbers were included it would provide a more accurate and even handed perspective as cats help vermin numbers down which is obviously of some benefit and something that native predators would not be able to do. A number of these proposals have been tried by various local councils with little, if any real success. The necessity of having to have an enclosure or limit the number of cats that could be owned would act as a barrier to cat ownership meaning less strays taken in with more cats abandoned to live on the streets preying on the animals that these proposals are meant to protect. Less cats would be adopted placing pressure on adoption centers which would mean more cats and kittens being put down with resultant stress on vets as they would have to kill more perfectly healthy animals, noting that it is well known that vets suffer a number of mental health problems and that such a situation would cause them further mental stress. There may not be any perfect solution to all of this but free, properly conducted, no questions asked desexing programs would go a long way to helping. Fair on owners, fair on cats, fair on vets, fair on adoption centers and helping native animals in as reasonable a way as possible. As for curfews these could be considered in areas close to major wildlife refuges such as National Parks but need not apply elsewhere. ,,, .