

Submission
No 355

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 20 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent proposals put forward by the Invasive Species Council to increase lethal controls, baiting, and trapping of cats, as well as the push for mandatory cat containment. I strongly disapprove of these measures, which I believe to be not only ineffective but also deeply inhumane.

Cats are often unjustly demonized as invasive species without due consideration of the complexities of their behavior, environment, and the broader ecosystem. While it is important to protect native wildlife, we must approach this issue in a way that prioritizes humane treatment, science-based solutions, and the well-being of all animals involved.

The methods being proposed—baiting, trapping, and other lethal measures—are not only cruel but also ineffective in addressing the underlying environmental concerns. Evidence shows that these approaches often fail to achieve their intended outcomes and can result in unnecessary suffering for the animals involved. Lethal measures do not address the root causes of cat overpopulation or provide lasting solutions. Instead, they often lead to further suffering and contribute to the cycle of cruelty.

I urge you to consider alternative, more humane solutions for managing cat populations. These might include increased support for responsible pet ownership, targeted spaying and neutering programs, and community education on how to care for cats in a way that minimizes their impact on local wildlife. Moreover, any measures should be carefully evaluated for their effectiveness, ensuring that they do not cause harm to the animals they aim to control.

Cats deserve protection and respect. They are often the result of human negligence or abandonment, and they should not be punished for the mistakes of people. Rather than focusing on harmful tactics, we should be working to create a compassionate, balanced approach that considers both the needs of wildlife and the humane treatment of cats.

I urge the local government to stand against these proposals and to advocate for humane, science-driven strategies that protect both wildlife and cats. It is our responsibility to approach these challenges with compassion and integrity, ensuring that the methods we use are both effective and ethical.

Thank you for considering my views on this important issue.

Sincerely,