

Submission
No 371

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

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MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Submission by Warwick SCHOFIELD B.A.,

- (a) I have seen the direct impact of 'stray' cats :
 - In suburban Sydney I have seen multiple chewed off heads of Eastern Bandicoots.
 - In Tamworth I have seen multiple sugar glider chewed off tails.
 - I understand the destruction to native ecosystems is substantial .
 - I have seen raided nests of small birds.
- (b) Wildlife conservators have gone to great expense to erect cat proof barriers in many parts of Australia. They have proven effective and have allowed the preservation of many threatened animal species from extinction.
 - Domestic dogs must be retained inside the fence of their owners or held on a lead at all times. Cats should be treated the same way.
 - ALL FERAL/STRAY cats should be destroyed before they do further damage before it is too late. (FERAL HORSES, CAMELS, PIGS, DEER , GOATS should all receive the same treatment before the fragile ecosystem is irreversibly destroyed.)
- (c) Domestic cats should be managed under the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Legislation, as are other domestic animals.
- (d) Community education and enforcement is important and essential. It will take a while for a critical mass of community support to be gained.

- (e) Current Shire Rangers should be given the powers to remove cats in the same way as they do dogs.
- (f) Cats held under mandatory licence should all be desexed unless registered for breeding purposes. Most are already desexed anyway...it the unmanaged roaming (especially at night) desexed or otherwise that must be controlled.
- (g) Pound should not be necessary, chipped cats should be returned feral cats destroyed immediately.
- (h) Other states should comply to do the same.
- (i) Encouraging trapping, destruction, hand in to Shire Ranger.
- (j) Whilst agriculture is clearly the greatest destroyer of our natural environment (and only 2.5% of our GDP and 4.5% of our export income) the destruction and ultimate EXTINCTION of our small birds, reptiles, and small mammals from the free roaming CATS must be brought under control.

Since 1983, I have located and destroyed 220 feral cats on my New England property. It is possible that as I owned a commercial poultry farm located on the New England Highway near Tamworth, that people were 'dumping' unwanted cats at my property. This should be an offence. Similarly, I have trapped and destroyed stray cats at me opal mines in Lightning Ridge. The mines are located near a rubbish Tip, a definite haven for people to dump cats!. I will attach photos as evidence for my comments. (The tradition of having cats around the house to catch mice should be condemned and the community re-educated).

Community groups are making traps to catch and destroy feral birds (starlings and Mynahs) , the same support could be sponsored to catch and destroy feral cats.