

Submission
No 340

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

Name: Professor Peter Sainsbury

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Thank you for providing the opportunity to have input to the inquiry.

I very strongly support the containment of domestic/pet cats within the owner's home.

The evidence is clear that it is not just feral cats in the outback that kill millions of native animals (small mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, etc.) every day. Pet cats in urban areas that are allowed to roam in gardens and around the streets and parks also kill millions of native animals every day. They also sometimes escape and go feral and that creates a population of feral cats in urban areas which also kill native animals. I live in Darling Point in the centre of Sydney and I often see both pet cats and feral cats roaming the streets and gardens.

Australia is suffering from a massive loss of its native species, especially small animals which are very vulnerable to cat predation: population sizes are decreasing, natural ranges are shrinking, and some species are seriously threatened with extinction. Pet cats are very significant contributors to this crisis.

If people want to keep pet cats, fair enough, but they should be responsible for the welfare of the cats themselves and for protecting native animal species. Allowing cats to wander around suburbs is negligent pet-owning behaviour. We do not see pet dogs wandering around in their own these days and there is no reason why pet cats should be allowed to wander.

I strongly urge you to recommend that pet cats should be contained within homes at all times. This move is long overdue.

Thank you.