

Submission
No 441

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I have heard and seen first hand the absolute heinous cruelty that cats face from those who wish them harm and I am concerned that this inquiry will provide these cruel voices a platform to influence rules around cats. By looking into curfews and restricting roaming cats, I fear that this black and white view will give justification to those wishing to cause them harm.

With the rental crisis, housing crisis, and cost of living crisis, many people are forced to give up and leave their beloved pets behind. This is even more common for those who have been given "free" undesexed cats, and just leave them behind or abandon them. A curfew during these socially difficult circumstances will also contribute to higher cat abandonment and cause greater problems for pounds, shelters, and rescues, with extreme circumstances leading many cats to die.

While I agree that cats should be kept safe at home, the issue is not that simple and this inquiry has the potential to oversimplify and cause more harm.

I want your brief to be expanded and look into the merit and legalisation of TNR Programs, with added support for the rescuers that focus on reducing colony sizes. We know that cats in colonies who are fed and supported cause less environmental impact on wildlife, as they would only kill to eat.

I want your brief to explore the implementation of funding support for rescuers that run desexing programs. These measures provide desexing services to those who can't afford them, as well as helping minimise colony sizes. This is surely a more helpful option that can have longer term success.

I want your brief to look into ways to take assertive action with cat hoarding without punishing the cats. These cats have done no wrong and usually bear the brunt of this cruelty for their whole lives.

I want this brief to look at ways that there can be improvements to education and support in areas that have religious, socio economic or other drivers that bring population challenges.

Please consider expanding your brief to support those who are helping and not unduly punish cats and cat owners.