

Submission  
No 445

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

I believe there needs to be consideration of animals that currently exist outdoors or indoor/outdoor and the impact curfews and containment may have. I believe a curfew can be beneficial for both the safety of the animal and native wildlife. But permanent containment can be difficult depending on living circumstances eg strata, can be costly and may not suit the wellbeing of the animal. Deterring people from adopting needy cats in currently over run cat rescues is not the solution.

However, the issue remains that majority of cats that roam, disturb neighbours, get into fights or those not desexed. Desexing has a huge impact on behaviour, particular of male cats and this needs to be an aspect of consideration in the report. Desexed cats are less likely to roam and wander from their home boundaries, they prefer to sleep close to their owners (usually indoors), are less likely to be injured or meet a poor fate as they are not travelling distances seeking a mate and crossing roads etc. and remain more content indoors, not seeking to get outside. It also changes their temperament.

It is for these reasons I believe the biggest efforts to manage cat populations, firstly needs to be educated ownership, but ensuring desexing is accessible with Council programs.

Following this there needs to be greater support for those groups and cat rescue organisations managing cat populations on the street. Many are self operated and funded and the work conducted to trap, desex and monitor strays has a huge impact to cat populations. I have seen it first hand in my local area how quickly a few cats can turn into 10s of cats, to kittens dying, to cats fighting over food scraps, neighbourhood complaints and threats. I have also seen the impact that desexing and rehoming can then have on the lives of remaining cats on the street. To support this there needs to be:

- The legalisation of TNR Programs, and support for the rescuers that focus on reducing colony sizes.
- Implementation of funding support for rescuers that run desexing programs.
- Improvements to education and support in areas that have religious, socio economic or other drivers that bring population increases

This is the space that can have huge impact with the right funds and support.

Thankyou!