

Submission
No 392

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

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Management of Cat Populations in New South Wales

As a retired constituent & animal lover, I believe that the way we treat animals is a fundamental reflection of our progress as a society. Cats, like all animals, deserve humane treatment and respect, and their welfare should be at the heart of any management strategies.

I urge the committee to prioritise solutions that are both compassionate and effective. Humane management practices, such as accessible desexing programs, community education, and support for responsible pet ownership, must be central to any approach. These measures not only protect the welfare of cats but also address concerns about their impact on wildlife and communities.

Community education is critical. Many issues with cat populations stem from misinformation or lack of resources. By raising awareness about desexing, microchipping, and responsible ownership, we can create long-term change. Subsidised or free desexing programs, particularly in vulnerable or remote communities, are essential to prevent unwanted litters.

Any control measures must avoid cruel practices, such as trapping and euthanasia, which are not only inhumane but also ineffective in the long term. Instead, evidence-based programs like Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) can manage feral cat populations while minimising suffering.

Cats are sentient beings, not pests. By implementing policies that focus on welfare, education, and humane practices, NSW has an opportunity to set a benchmark for compassionate and effective management. Our treatment of animals defines who we are, and I urge the committee to lead with kindness.

Thank you for considering my submission.