

Submission
No 347

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

PETA (people for the ethical treatment of animals) have pretty much summed up what I would put in my submission but I would like to add the following in very strong terms as i believe the feral cat population has been made almost unreversable because of farmers and their lack of responsibility in country areas of the bush.

All farmers should like the population in the urban areas be forced to microchip and desex the cats on their properties. They use cats in plague proportions to keep vermin under control but these cats are not desexed and overbreed then take refuge in the bush where they are forced to try and survive. This is unbelievable cruelty in itself as we all know how harsh the Australian outback can be. The cats are often passing on various diseases to their litters and it becomes a vicious and never ending cruel cycle. The colony of wild cats that are in the bush are the result of farming practices and no doubt our wildlife has had to pay the price. Farmers need to take responsibility for what they have created in a productive and non violent way. Desex, microchip and manage the colony using cruelty free husbandry just like they are supposedly doing with the livestock that they manage.

Breeders: Breeders just like farmers are placing thousands of cats into an uneducated community and allowing cruelty in the fact that each one of those cats are more than likely going to having many litters of their own. What started as a pure breed is no longer and becomes another unwanted moggie. Breeders should be forced to desex a cat or kitten that they are selling. It can not just be the responsibility of the rescue organisations to be doing this as by the time they get them into care it's tooooo late. Damage has been done.

Just the above 2 communities mentioned will do more than halve the rate of the feral cat population both in the country and in the cities but we need to get tough on the rule breakers and police these laws and increase fines as an incentive to follow the rules.