

Submission
No 364

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

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Thank you for the opportunity of making this submission. Cats are sentient beings and in many cases are part of the family unit. Those community cats that exist are also in most cases loved and nurtured by families who are not in a position to take them into their home. These and other cats that have to survive by themselves are not 'feral' but homeless and free-living. On that basis i make the following recommendations: ~ Public comments should not be allowed which demonize cats based on ridiculous estimates of how many native animals that they kill. This is based on a small estimate and extrapolated across Australia. (these figures should not be used as a basis of any policy) Robust accurate estimates should be calculated, which will demonstrate the minimal impact they have on wildlife. ~ Council and government projects should be set up where de-sexing of cats is free or a minimal cost, especially in low socio-economic areas. ~ Councils should understand (and regulate) such that it is accepted that cats that roam will not be impounded. It is a fact that in many situations (especially share houses) it is difficult to sometimes contain a cat in the residence. ~ Cats should not be bred commercially but people who choose to buy a cat from a shelter / rescue facility can do so at minimal cost (by subsidy) on the condition they are de-sexed, micro-chipped and inoculated prior. ~ Govt programs should be established to subsidize low income earners with the Vet care of their cats, which are a member of their family, and provide a level of stress relief and love ~ It should be recognized the value of cats to humans and the health benefits to humans and the consequential savings in health costs to the economy.