

Submission  
No 405

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

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As a member of the public, a pet owner, an animal science student and a person interested in the interactions between people and other animals, I have witnessed through social media, academic research and discussions with people in animal rescue various sides of this debate. I know of people and groups who love native wildlife but despise cats and other feral or lost companion animals. There are people and groups who love every single animal and want all to have a chance to survive. I have seen and been part of many lost animal groups on Facebook and through various websites and newsletters. People can have the misfortune of their house cat escaping. Not all people and not all cats are the ones to be demonised for doing the wrong thing. Rescuing and rehoming, as well as desexing, vaccinating, microchipping and educating people how to look after their cats, maybe even working with companies who construct cat runs and giving citizens council discounts for looking after their pets well, could all help. Work with the ecosystem surrounding cats, instead of making decisions on behalf of all without understanding the bigger picture. Greater punishments for animal abuse and neglect could also help, as would reducing kitten farms and gumtree, trading post and social media pet sales. Give homes to the cats that are here instead of allowing people to keep breeding cats or letting their cats be undesexed, unvaccinated, and allowed to roam the streets. Work with all groups involved, adhere to the research of Jenny Cotterel and others in this space about what works and what doesn't, and please do what is research-based and driven by unbiased data, rather than the agendas of different people and groups. Let the numbers speak for themselves and have compassion where possible. Thank you.