

Submission
No 427

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

Name: Ms Jan O'Leary
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Inquiry into the Management of Cat Populations

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important issue.

While I am not personally involved in a programme focusing on rehoming, feeding and desexing of cats I have several friends who are and I am convinced of the success of the TNR approach in relation to feral cat populations. There are many very dedicated people who daily feed stray cats (and often travel great distances to do so), they trap them and take them to vets and have them desexed either at the individual's own expense or at the expense of a group of people involved in the TNR programme. The cats are fed on a regular basis which significantly reduces the risk of the cats killing wildlife. The effectiveness of these programmes in reducing stray cat populations is now fairly well recognised but much more could be done. A large scale, targeted desexing programme would help enormously and more resources would help that happen.

Community groups can only do so much and there does seem to be an inequity in that these groups of kind hearted individuals get no assistance, financially or otherwise from the government or large animal welfare groups like RSPCA. In fact the RSPCA would be ideally suited to run such a programme themselves or at least assisting the groups which currently do and which have to bear the full responsibility and costs themselves. With a total of \$145,032,000 in accumulated assets and reserves (as reported in their 2023/24 financial statement), RSPCA would be in a good position to run such a programme but they have repeatedly rejected such proposals.

'Keeping cats safe at home' programmes should also be supported with local councils administering them. Subsidies for outdoor cat enclosures would help keeping cats from roaming.

One of the biggest problems facing renters at the moment is not being able to take pets with them when they move. With a cost of living crisis affecting renters and ever-increasing rents being demanded by landlords, many renters have few choices when they need to move and if landlords won't allow pets, pets may be dumped. Surrendering an animal costs quite a lot. I feel landlords should not be able to outlaw pets. If damage is caused by a pet, a child or adult, the cost of repair should come out of the bond money.