

Supplementary
Submission
No 426a

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

This is an ADDITION to a previous submission I made.

I feel strongly about these additional points & don't think that came through in my previous submission, as I focused on a lot of the TOR with studies and references rather than "impacts" to real people & the stray cats they endeavour to help every day!

This addition to my previous initial submission is to ensure that that "humanness" & effect on the stray cats is not lost.

Firstly I DO NOT SUPPORT THE AUSTRALIAN DRAFT THREAT ABATEMENT PLAN (TAP) for predation by feral cats with its proposal to reclassify stray / urban domestic cats under the feral cat class with intentions for ALL stray cats to be poisoned, short trapped & culled like feral /wild cats. This will halt rescue and animal welfare efforts for strays (semi owned/community/colony cats and more)

That as it stands would encourage cat haters to take matters into their own hands.

NSW should adopt the terms & classification "feral" & "domestic" for owned, semi owned or unowned, street cats who are NOT feral cats.

Stray cats are domestic & not feral, found mainly in urban , or urban adjacent areas & rely or semi rely on food from humans, not predominantly hunting wildlife.

This draft plan started off on the incorrect basis by classing stray cats as "feral" & they are not.

NSW should establish a domestic cat committee with its initial output being a domestic cat management strategy and this committee be established with domestic cat expert stakeholders including RSPCA, APWF, AVA, AIAM , community cat rescuers & carers to include their contributions of cats saved , rehomed & desexed in estimating resources spent & then those needed for effective management.

The NSW Companion Animal Act & the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals act, need improvements & provisions to ensure that desexing programs and efforts of the community rescuers & cares can continue without blockers or limits & re wording CAA clause 32 where a cat can be seized for harming a single non vermin animal should also be drafted.

The effect of cats on threatened native animals in metropolitan areas quoted numbers should be considered mis information as it is based on information that is implied rather than researched directly.

Mandated cat confinement is not effective with findings from the APWF from a number of Australian councils showing it does not achieve its aims. There are many barriers for residents for this blanket approach, and also becomes a barrier an midfield to navigate for those trying to independently desex and assist abandoned cats.

Mas and targets public education is needed including involvement & funding by local councils.

TOR(e) there are MASSIVE implications to local council resources and staff if they are to implement , and enforce mandatory cat confinement. Cat haters think they are individually empowered to trap/ harm & cull cats, and they are not! This would fall to councils who already have stretched resources, and that's without the effect on resources of pound facilities.

Largescale desexing (mass / high intensity) is supported, for owned, semi owned and unowned cats, for its effectiveness in minimising cat populations

It would put unimaginable strain on council facilities that are already overburdened, & also come at a huge personal cost, imagine vets & staff whose only job day in day out was to 'only' euthanise cats humanely, and also the human cost to those seeking to independently help street cats have a better life, rescuing & rehoming suitable adults, desexing & then feeding the other adults (feeding them decreases the hunting they do for food) & aiming to adopt out kittens. Many of us do this at great personal financial and emotional cost.

Those of us who are responsible believe focusing on mass desexing & TNR of colonies we support, feed and look out for the welfare. This should be supported by councils, RSPCA /AWL & related animal welfare agencies & is the truly the way to manage street cats. Focusing on mass desexing will in time see cat populations stabilise.

Independent rescuers, colony caretakers shoulder much of the burden financially and urgently need government assistance and access to free desexing and equipment like more humane traps to help with the TNR efforts.

Independent rescuers fill much of the gap & create capacity that local government & councils do not have, & this is also hidden and should be both highlighted, recognised & resourced