

**Submission
No 381**

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

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Cats in NSW should not be killed simply for being cats. While there is work that needs to be done, it is not in anyone's interest--cats, wildlife or humans--to just have mass killing of cats, wild and feral cats included. Humane management and education are key and provide a real result, while keeping compassionate morals and setting ethical standards for society.

Killing cats does not protect wildlife; more cats will just move into the area to fill the void left behind. It also causes untold damage to society's conscience and promotes a lack of caring and respect for life. Mass killings have never, ever worked in trying to "manage" or "contain" a species, since it has been proven time and time again that if there is an ecological niche left to fill, it will be filled. What does work is Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) to manage community cats. Within a couple years, with TNR, cat colonies are reduced to nearly zero, and TNR does not promote cruel and pointless killing. If NSW is actually worried about the wildlife, taking a look at human behavior will be far, far more beneficial than blaming cats. Deforestation for agricultural use and home building, pesticide use, and human encroachment on wildlife habitats all factor in much more heavily and cause massive damage to ecosystems and wildlife. Promoting the myth that cats cause more problems than humans is passing the blame onto a species that 1) is actually not the primary cause of ecological collapse or species extirpation, 2) prevents human society from progressing and changing to stop the real cause of species collapse and 3) unfairly demonizes one species (cats) for the destruction caused by another (us). I hope NSW will take actual science and compassion into its decision and stop the needless killing of cats in favor of real solutions so that we can save species from extinction.

Thank you, Jamila Viandier