

**Submission
No 384**

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

Name: Lan Nguyen
Date Received: 19 November 2024

Dear Members of the Parliament,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposals for lethal control measures and mandatory cat containment laws in New South Wales. While I acknowledge the challenges that a growing cat population can present, I firmly believe that these approaches are not only inhumane but also ineffective in the long term. Instead, I advocate for a humane and sustainable solution: the Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program.

Over the past four years, I have been actively involved in the care and management of two stray cats in my local area. Through the TNR method, I have been able to humanely trap, neuter, and return the cats to their environment, effectively controlling their population without resorting to lethal measures. In addition, I have successfully rehomed six kittens from these cats, giving them a chance at a happy life in loving homes.

The TNR approach has proven to be a highly effective method for reducing stray cat populations over time. By preventing further reproduction, TNR allows for the gradual decline of stray and feral cat numbers, while also addressing the issue of cat welfare. It is a compassionate, evidence-based solution that works with, rather than against, animal instincts. It also reduces the risk of euthanasia, which can be traumatic and unnecessary when alternative solutions exist.

I am deeply concerned that mandatory cat containment and lethal control measures would not only fail to address the root causes of overpopulation, but would also place a heavy burden on cat owners, particularly those who responsibly care for their animals and keep them indoors. Rather than enforcing blanket policies that may penalise responsible pet ownership, I urge the government to explore and invest in more effective, humane population control methods, such as TNR, which have been successfully implemented in communities worldwide.

I believe that the welfare of both people and animals is best served by a comprehensive approach that includes public education on responsible pet ownership, as well as the promotion of TNR programs and community-based initiatives. Supporting these efforts will lead to better outcomes for both domestic and stray cats, as well as the broader ecosystem.

Thank you for considering my submission on this important issue. I look forward to seeing more progressive and humane policies adopted to manage the cat population in New South Wales.

Sincerely, Lan