

Submission
No 485

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

1 / 2

Cats are being demonised and targeted by baiting, trapping and other inhumane methods, methods that are both cruel and ineffective.

The Invasive Species Council is intensifying its attacks on cats, rallying supporters to make submissions that promote lethal controls and call for mandatory cat containment, despite lacking evidence that these measures work.

If the Invasive Species Council win, this will lead to:

- Extermination and mass killings.
- Increased suffering for cats in the streets.
- Forced mandatory confinement.
- More strain on rescue and animal shelters.

We cannot let this happen, be a voice for cats.

Here is the link to submit your views:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3011#tab-submissions>

Select "to lodge a submission click here"

Follow prompts until you get to the page where you enter your submission.

Cut and paste the following (feel free to add your own opinion and wording if preferred):

I strongly oppose the proposed killing of cats.

We must prioritise cat welfare and support humane management practices, including desexing and education.

I am urging policymakers to bear in mind that the proliferation of homeless and unsocialised animals is the result of human failures.

It is humans who continue to breed, buy, and sell cats and kittens; humans who abandon their animal companions; and humans who fail to desex, contain, and supervise them. To then allow humans to shoot or poison the resulting animals (and any other unlucky enough to become an unintended victim) is inhumane and illogical.

Cat management strategies must be focused on humane ways of addressing the root cause of overpopulation, not employing cruel, dangerous lethal measures.

2 / 2

Poisoning as a cat control measure, for example, is counterintuitive to protecting wildlife. Sodium fluoroacetate (colloquially 1080), which is commonly used in cat baits, is an environmental disaster.

It is easily ingested by companion animals as well as native species, and its victims endure a slow, agonising death.

Similarly, shooting cats is cruel. Shooting moving targets, which is usually done at night, can result in inaccurate shots and cause prolonged, painful death.

In regard to tackling the root causes of overpopulation, it is not appropriate to rely on reactionary control methods, such as the impounding of animals identified as having homes and the killing of homeless animals. I urge the New South Wales government to consider the following preventive measures to reduce cat populations:

- A ban on the sale of animals by breeders: in pet stores, and online
- A ban on kitten farms
- Continuation of mandatory microchipping

-Increased public education about the importance of cat desexing, at-home confinement (including environmental enrichment), fostering, and adoption of homeless and abandoned cats

-Increased state government funding of adoption groups and shelters to better house impounded animals and enhance rehoming efforts

-Government funding of desexing programmes and financial incentive and support for individuals and community groups who Trap and desex stray cats