

Submission
No 473

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

I would like to ask why Australian politicians think it is '*electorally popular*' to kill more urban cats?

Why is scientific evidence from the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation, and peer-reviewed international reports, not being followed?

Community Cat Programs save both cats and wildlife, and rescuers, and at much lower cost. Scientific evidence from The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation shows that cat curfews 'mandated containment' costs All residents about six times more, fails to save wildlife, farms kittens to kill, and rises the suicide-risk in shelter-workers higher than for Australian police and firefighters. 90percent of impounded cats have no owners, are homeless, and cat curfews are costly and ineffective.

CCP's '**One Welfare**' approach saves many lives. '*One Welfare recognises the interconnectedness of people and pets, which in turn benefits the environment*'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQbK3R36Xjg> <https://petwelfare.org.au/2022/08/31/australian-pet-welfare-foundation-position-statement-on-cat-containment/>

Impacts of a Local Government Funded Free Cat Sterilization Program for Owned and Semi-owned Cats: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/14/11/1615>

Cats and Wildlife. Flawed Data and Figures in Australian media: <https://petwelfare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Data-to-Support-Position-Statement-on-Domestic-cats-and-native-wildlife.10jn.n-t.pdf>

Domestic urban cats are not 'feral': <https://petwelfare.org.au/2023/07/17/australian-pet-welfare-foundation-position-statement-on-cat-definitions/>

No 'feral' cats enter Australian Council pounds.

24-hr cat curfews have failed in Victoria's Casey and Yarra Ranges: <https://petwelfare.org.au/2022/09/02/key-issues-to-consider-related-to-mandated-24-7-cat-containment/>

Way to Prevent killing and Lower pound intake. *The Conversation: 'Australian shelters and pounds kill 50,000 mostly healthy cats and kittens in a year. There's a way to prevent this pointless killing':* <https://theconversation.com/australian-shelters-and-pounds-kill-50-000-mostly-healthy-cats-and-kittens-in-a-year-theres-a-way-to-prevent-this-pointless-killing-201947> Scientific article in Animals: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/13/11/1771>

Where are Australian Tax Office tax deductions for farmers' essential working cats?

Dogs and lethal poisons get tax deductions. Some dairy farmers said their cats work harder than the dogs. The cats '*prevent costly and disruptive rodent damage to electrical wiring.*'

Also, where is recognition for therapy cats? A carer recommended the cats these Knox special needs children have: <https://www.facebook.com/100002117379683/posts/4654233111323889/?d=n>
<https://petwelfare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Aust-Community-Cat-Program-2024-Report.pdf>

Why does media misinformation on cats not incur fines?

Why are no there no effective integrity watchdogs over Local Councils?

I write as an Australian, having experienced rape, child-abuse, and domestic violence. Also four years of fighting for community consultation adhering to the Local Government Act.

Local Councils '*recommend 24-hr cat curfews*', without statistics, not informing in any media, refusing to consult residents, completely regardless of community health and wellbeing.

Local Councillors, as residential landlords, make 24-hr cat curfews - which particularly hurt renters, the elderly, the disabled, and divide communities. As a Councillor stated, *'It is no conflict unless I decide that it is'*.

The Victorian Ombudsman altered fact, figure and date, for Council, and has hidden the case of 143 residents - who applied for adherence to Local Government law.

I waited for hours to see Nina Taylor, only to be told that *'Cats kill wildlife'* repeatedly. This exact refrain was also echoed by other politicians approached.

Tanya Plibersek pushes Felixer 1080 poisoning of cats, and native wildlife, to die in excruciating agony.

Does this 'War on Cats' rise violence towards felines, and females?

The Invasive Species Council, whose ambassador is Christine Milne, incites hate towards felines, by hawking unscientific figures, and falsely name-calling urban cats 'feral'. Killing more animals, including dingo pups, eagles, small native animals, and pet dogs, in torturous agony with 1080 poison and the mis-targeting 'Felixer'.

At Melbourne's Cat Lovers Festival, Oct 2024, the Animal Justice Party Victoria had a stall only in the Dog Lovers pavilion. AJP stall staff repeatedly called urban cats 'feral' even after I told them that *'There are no feral cats in Melbourne. No feral cats enter Council pounds. 90percent of impounded cats are homeless, many are kittens.'*

Some Local Councils *'proudly'* state canines as *'the right pet'* and *'real dog lovers'*, while attacking minority cat carers.

Cat registrations pay for evermore dog parks and some annual *'Pets in the Park'* dog parties. Cat carers, and cat owner registrations, have never received any benefits, and no inclusion, or equality.

Local Councils, without 'education' without 'responsibility', lower ownership, overburden rescuers to closure and futility, and rise the deaths of kittens and wildlife.

Why is 'mandated containment' of felines, which rises hate-speech, hides visibility and cruel acts, not seen as also impacting females?

Why are the lives of cat rescuers, carers, and Australian native wildlife, unimportant?

Australia could save wildlife, felines, and carers, by implementing Community Cat Programs, with free intensive desexing.

Fines on media could prevent misinformation, particularly of feral cat predation and unscientific figures being attributed to urban domestic cats.

If politicians cared about females, then they could show it by implementing low-cost effective Community Cat Programs, which also keep dogs out of pounds, and bring communities together.

How will future historians remember killers?

Are there any politicians who actually care about the lives of Australians, animals, and habitat?

With Respect, that I so wish was accorded to those who cannot speak.

Community Cat Programs - Save Cats, Save Wildlife, Save Carers

<https://www.change.org/p/knox-advocats>

<https://www.change.org/p/knox-council-review-knox-council-s-plans-for-24hr-cat-curfew>

https://www.academia.edu/79098963/Knox_AdvoCats_Victorian_Ombudsman_Outcomes