

**Submission
No 486**

INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I, like many others, are advocating for humane, science-based approaches to managing cat populations and protecting wildlife in New South Wales (NSW). I cannot stress the ineffectiveness of killing cats to protect wildlife, this has not worked in the past and will not solve the issue now. Instead, I support community-based programs focused on rehoming, desexing, and education, which have been proven to reduce stray cat populations and prevent wildlife predation.

The government needs to take a proactive approach in Large-scale desexing programs, funded by grants for councils and rescue organizations, these are recommended as a long-term, compassionate solution.

The Vacuum Effect, which shows that removing cats doesn't reduce the overall population, emphasizes the need for addressing root causes of overpopulation.

Evidence suggests that mandatory 24-hour cat curfews often backfire by increasing abandonment and cruelty toward cats, without reducing roaming or complaints.

Educating pet owners about responsible care, keeping cats indoors or in contained areas, and supporting rehoming programs is crucial for effective cat population management.

Human activities like habitat destruction, urban sprawl, and vehicle collisions are more significant threats to wildlife than cats. Conservation efforts should focus on restoring habitats and protecting wildlife from these human-driven issues.

This approach promotes a balance of compassion, evidence-based solutions, and focus on the root causes of both cat overpopulation and wildlife threats. Please make proper efforts to handle this issue with care and knowledge rather than using band aid, short term solutions. We should be on this planet to protect all animals, not torture and murder them.