

**Submission
No 507**

INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Elke Taylor
Date Received: 21 November 2024

11 November 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Enquiry into the Management of cat populations in NSW

Australian pet cats kill over 240 million native animals yearly. Comprising of an estimated 80 million birds, 76 million mammals, 83 million reptiles, at least 1 million frogs, and an unknown number of invertebrates.¹

Surely these numbers are enough for the NSW government to take effective action. Scientifically supported measures to mitigate the devastating impact cats are having on our unique wildlife include:²

1. Mandating 24-hour containment.
2. Changes to the Local Government Act to allow by-laws for cat containment and enforcement.
3. Prohibiting pet shops from selling cats. Breeding only with registered breeders.
4. Monitor the outcomes of changes this inquiry implements.
5. Further to point 4, there is no data on the effectiveness of Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) programmes. Putting a neutered cat back on the street CANNOT protect native wildlife which has evolved with no natural predator. Trap, Neuter, Re-home, is a better practice.
6. Support mixed lethal control measures for cats that are trapped and neutered, but cannot be re-homed. As upsetting as this is, my degrees are in economics and environmental science, both economically and ecologically, this measure must be included to protect our wildlife from domestic cats.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Elke Taylor
Environmental Scientist

References

1. Science for Saving Species. Research findings factsheet Project 7.4. Threatened Species Recovery Hub. National Environmental Science Programme.
2. RSPCA: Identifying Best Practice Domestic Cat Management in Australia. May 2018.