

Supplementary
Submission
No 1222a

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

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2.1 billion native animals are killed each year by uncontained pet and feral cats. Yet Emma Hurst who is chairing the inquiry management of cat populations in NSW posted 22nd August 2022 5.15pm that she is against pet cat containment 24 7 laws in NSW. Also 12th September 2024 Emma Hurst posted against killing feral cats. Also Emma Hurst posted 3rd May 2024 to ban felixer grooming devices and Sodium Fluoroacetate.

A study by the Australian National University found that uncontained pet cats kill 546 million animals of which 323 million are native animals a year.

The Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP) found that each roaming pet cat in Australia kills about 110 native animals per year

According to CSIRO, feral cats in Australia kill about 1.8 billion native animals each year, which is around 2,000 animals every minute. This includes birds, reptiles, frogs, and mammals.

Also two in three pet cats uncontained die average 10 years earlier than contained cats. One in three uncontained pet cats are run over. Others die from dog attacks, diseases, cruel humans, become feral and are killed in cat fights.

University of Adelaide study found uncontained pet cats kill 550 Australians, 8,500 hospitalisations and 125,000 cases a year via toxoplasmosis. Also cat scratch disease and cat round worms. Estimated costs to health 6 billion a year.

CSIRO We estimated the costs of two cat-dependent diseases (toxoplasmosis, cat scratch disease) in people at AU\$6.06 billion (plausible range AU\$2.11–10.7 billion) CSIRO needs to release gene drive technology where cats have male only kittens passed on from one generation to the next

PETA does not support trap-neuter-release (TNR) programs for feral cats. PETA believes that TNR programs are not in the cats' best interest and can be dangerous to humans and wildlife.

Currently in NSW the Animal companion act NSW 1998 allows pet cats to free roam preventing multiple councils from implementing cat containment laws 24 7 and other actions.

Felixers only target feral cats and can not harm other species. They are needed in feral free conservation areas and on islands. This demonstrates that Emma Hurst is only concerned about cats and not native wildlife such as saving the reintroduced greater bilbies from extinction in feral free enclosures in NSW.

Also 40x plants produce Sodium Fluoroacetate which our native wildlife has developed immunity as evolved tens of millions of years with. As such a third a 6mg Sodium Fluoroacetate dose will kill a cat and a quarter a fox or wild dog. Yet a native emu would need 1622 baits. Goanna would

need 72x 6mg baits and could only eat a maximum of 6 x baits aerial dispersed at 500m intervals in a straight line and simply can not die.

Research from Sydney University and Invasive Species Council show uncontained pet cats kill 65 million native animals each year in Greater Sydney Region alone. Pet cats kill 30 to 50 times more native animals per square kilometer in suburbs than feral cats kill in the bush. This is because there are more pet cats in suburbs, and they are more densely concentrated.

On 8th January 2024 Emma Hurst posted killing introduced animals is cruel and doesn't actually help. This demonstrates that Emma Hurst has no understanding how killing introduced animals definitely does help save native animals. Such as if fire ants are not eradicated and continue their spread its estimated 40% livestock, 30% plant food production and half all native wildlife will die the most horrendous deaths imaginable. Also 650,000 human hospitalisations and many Australians would be killed each year by fire ants. Our native wildlife already killed in the many billions a year by invasives would be decimated if measures against invasive species were removed.

What's needed is for cats is the animal companion act NSW 1998 needs to be changed to allow councils to implement cat containment laws 24 7.

1. Modernising state laws to enable responsible pet ownership, including:

mandatory microchipping,

mandatory desexing for all pet cats by 4 months of age, and

24/7 pet cat containment.

2. Councils being required to produce companion animal management plans that include pet cats.

3. Stronger action on feral cats, including targeted on-ground control and allowing land managers to use the full suite of control tools.

Only NSW and WA don't have pet cat containment laws.

Next hearing date before NSW parliament is 1st April 2025.

I am glad two NSW Greens MLC Abigail Boyd on 11th October 2024 and Sue Higginson on 30th October 2024 have joined the inquiry, until its completion. Both Abigail Boyd and Sue Higginson support pet cat containment 24 7 laws and protecting native wildlife from feral cats, also other invasives such as fire ants and foxes.

Hoping that combined the other political parties also such as Labor, National, Liberals, Shooters Fishers and Farmers in the committee as well as Greens can over ride Emma Hurst to have cat containment laws introduced and other actions in NSW.

Glad to see NSW Labor State Government and local government having a review into changing the Animal Companion Act NSW 1998.