

Parliament House
Macquarie St Sydney NSW 2000

22nd November 2024

Submission to Inquiry into the Management of cat populations in New South Wales

Thank you for providing this opportunity for the Central West Environment Council (CWEC) to make a submission to the above inquiry. CWEC is an umbrella group representing the environmental groups from centres throughout the Central West of New South Wales, all striving to improve the environment of the Central West region. Feral cats are a serious environmental problem in this region.

The federal government report on feral cat control (2020) provides much information, particularly on baiting techniques, that could be updated by this enquiry to ensure that baiting is effective on feral cats, but not used in such a way to be a threat to native animals such as goanna.

The most important impact that feral cats have in Australia is on native biodiversity. Efforts of control, in the short term, therefore, should focus on areas where it is known that feral cats are threatening populations of species vulnerable to extinction. An example of this in the Central West of NSW is areas of Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata* habitat as this threatened species frequently forages on the ground thus making it vulnerable to predation.

Methods of control should not be used at a broadscale unless carefully tested and should be tailored to each situation. The most effective technique needed will vary

according to the ecosystem concerned (CSIRO 2024) due to the patterns of vegetation etc.

In the long term, Australia should consider the introduction of an appropriate disease, virus, gene drive or immuno-contraception technique that could reduce the feral cat population to an acceptable level. Domestic cats could, of course, be kept safe from these measures through containment, vaccinations etc.

It is extremely important that monitoring methods are improved, particularly in relation to the species impacted, so that control methods may be assessed for their efficacy.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cilla Kinross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cilla Kinross
Central West Environment Council

REFERENCES

Parliament of Australia, 2020, Tackling the feral cat pandemic: a plan to save Australian wildlife. Available on line at: [Tackling the feral cat pandemic: a plan to save Australian wildlife – Parliament of Australia](#)

CSIRO, 2024, Current and emerging feral cat management practices in Australia, available on line at [Current and emerging feral cat management practices in Australia](#).