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25 May, 2016

NSW Natural Resources Commission

GPO Box 5341

Sydney NSW 2001

[nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir / Madam

Submission: NSW NRC State-wide review of NSW pest animal management

There is currently a lot of widespread community concern regarding the irresponsible breeding and proliferation of dogs and cats in NSW. As a result there is a diaspora of domestic pets into the natural environment.

The result is needless suffering of domestic animals and a significant impact upon the ecological environment through predation upon native animals. Consequently large numbers of pets that are abandoned or unwanted need to be euthanised or turn feral resulting in a major decline in the numbers of native animals found in New South Wales and Australia.

Not only does this problem impact on our natural environment but also economically. The Natural Resources Commission estimates pest animals are causing at least \$170 million in economic damage a year in NSW alone. They also affect 40 per cent of all listed threatened species.

All native animals in Australia are protected. We have National Parks that have been established for the preservation of native wildlife. Nonetheless exotic animals continue to put pressure on native wildlife through competition for food and as predators. Feral animals constitute a key threatening process to our ecological environment.

Many native animals have already suffered to the point of no return. "35 per cent of all global mammal extinctions since 1500 have been Australian (30 out of 84 world-wide extinctions)". "Australia has lost 29 mammals since European colonisation, and feral predators are implicated in 28 of these extinctions". It makes sense to demand change.

- There is a call for the government to require compulsory desexing of dogs and cats across the state and the registering of breeders.
- There is a call for the government to introduce new legislation to allow local governments the right to declare and enforce confinement areas to limit the risk of dogs and cats straying into bushland and killing indigenous species or becoming feral.
- There a call for all dogs and cats be compulsorily registered and that any unregistered animals found in environmental sensitive areas be euthanised. Registered animals found in environmental sensitive areas would mean that their owner would be subject to a substantial mandatory fine.

There is much community support for these proposed reforms. See our petition, Reining in the cat empire: compulsory desexing of pets: <https://www.change.org/p/reining-in-the-cat-empire-compulsory-desexing-of-pets-in-nsw-australia/c>

Yours faithfully,

Annette Comerford & Victoria Watson