



## Australian Government

### Department of the Environment

Pest Animal Review  
Natural Resources Commission  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

RE: Shared Problems, Shared Solutions; Pest Animal Management Review

Dear Commissioner

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report *Shared Problems, Shared Solutions; Pest Animal Management Review*. Particularly, I support Recommendation 17 to improve the legislative recognition and management of feral and domestic cats.

Feral cats are the number one threat to our threatened small mammals. They are directly implicated in the extinction of more than 20 mammals and are a key extinction threat for another 124 threatened species. Tackling the threat of feral cats is critical for the protection of our threatened species, as identified in the *Predation by feral cats (felis catus) Threat Abatement Plan* and the *Threatened Species Strategy*.

In recognition of this threat, the Meeting of Environment Ministers in July 2015 agreed to the revision of arrangements within respective jurisdictions and, based on these reviews, remove any unnecessary legal impediments to land managers undertaking feral cat control and management within a 12 month period, where possible. Recommendation 17 in the *Shared Problems Shared Solutions* review supports this declaration by Ministers and I agree with this recommendation. The changes will empower and support on-ground action by landholders and conservation groups to reduce the impact of feral cats and create safer environments in which our threatened species can not only survive but thrive.

Responsible pet ownership and reducing the unintentional transition of domestic cats into the feral cat population is also critical, and I am pleased to be supporting the suggested changes to the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Both my Office and I would be available to further discuss this or any other component of the review paper with you and provide additional information as necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact my Senior Adviser Sam Dutton on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Andrews', written in a cursive style.

Gregory Andrews  
Threatened Species Commissioner

26 May 2016