

Please return by 5 pm Friday 2 May 2025:

- any transcript corrections
- answers to questions on notice directed to you
- any additional information you wish to provide to the committee.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Can I ask one last thing on notice? Ms Bates,

—I think you referred to it as propaganda—

. If you could provide the Committee e STEPHANIE BATES: I will provide social media records that I've taken, for example. I can provide copies of that on notice. Ms SUE HIGGINSON:

STEPHANIE BATES: There is also, if I may, the public perception issue. Certainly, particular lobby groups, like the Invasive Species Council, are very official, such as

With the mandatory

containment, people think they've got a right, "Oh, this cat's not on their property. They're not contained. Good. I'm going to trap this cat and then I'm going to do what I like with this cat. I'm going to dump them in a suburb that's 10 suburbs away. I'm going to kills them, or I'm going to take them to the pound, or I'm going to ring the ranger and they're going to be taken to the pound"—in some sort of utopic nirvana of what needs to be done.

The problem with that is most of them don't even contact the council rangers or the pounds about these cats. It would be interesting to correlate statistics of cat cruelty with what was going on in those councils—for example, the Yarra council. Having said that, there is a lot of animal cruelty that the RSPCA or the AWL inspectorate will not investigate, whether it's about resource allocation or the probability of being able to prosecute. I'm not sure, but I'd be very interested to see.

STEPHANIE BATES: There is also, if I may, the public perception issue. Certainly, particular lobby groups, like the Invasive Species Council, are very official, such as the Threatened Species Commissioner, have been heavily involved in lobbying, propagandising and, especially the Invasive Special Council, seeking funding. A lot of their propagandising is done on social media and a lot of it, I think, is having an actual negative impact on the safety of cats. I think there's definitely an increase in demonisation. With the mandatory containment, people think they've got a right, "Oh, this cat's not on their property. They're not contained. Good. I'm going to trap this cat and then I'm going to do what I like with this cat. I'm going to dump them in a suburb that's 10 suburbs away. I'm going to kills them, or I'm going to take them to the pound, or I'm going to ring the ranger and they're going to be taken to the pound"—in some sort of utopic nirvana of what needs to be done.

The problem with that is most of them don't even contact the council rangers or the pounds about these cats. It would be interesting to correlate statistics of cat cruelty with what was going on in those councils—for example, the Yarra council. Having said that, there is a lot of animal cruelty that the RSPCA or the AWL inspectorate will not investigate, whether it's about resource allocation or the probability of being able to prosecute. I'm not sure, but I'd be very interested to see. Certainly anecdotally, and from TNRers' and rescuers' experiences on the ground, the amount of cat abuse has increased in the last two to three years in what we're seeing on the streets and on private properties.



propa·ganda

[.prəpeˈɡandə]

noun

1. information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a particular cause, doctrine, or point of view:

"he was charged with distributing enemy propaganda" · "a propaganda campaign"

Similar: [information](#) [promotion](#) [advertising](#) [advertisement](#) [▼](#)

- the dissemination of propaganda as a political strategy:
"the party's leaders believed that a long period of education and propaganda would be necessary"

NSW Inquiry Management of Cat Populations

Response: Answer to Question from Ms Sue Higginson & Additional Information

In response to Ms Sue Higginson's question, I provide the following facts and factors, and examples as evidence of the links between Invasive Species Council (ISC) activities, specifically social media posts and website information, that appear as misleading information that overstates the impacts of cats. As a cat rescuer I believe this is fostering cruelty towards cats.

Publishing flawed views is ethically dubious and may breach social licensing obligations for organisations that are often assisted with funding by our governments (taxpayers) and donations from citizens/ community members. The impacts of flaws in overstated impacts and significant negative terms become highlighted in the unmoderated comments against cats which include forms of violence towards cats.

Assessed examples as evidence

A small range of the examples from traditional and social media is provided where includes:

- overstated impacts and misleading information is provided by ISC and others,
- estimates are interpreted/ presented as "facts",
- the use of demonising language is used to leverage negative emotions,
- the same original misleading item is reproduced by others, often where no improvements are included with evidence/ proof nor context,
- the "flooding" of media/ websites with the same or similar misleading items,
- angry and violent social media comments against cats by the public/ followers which are not moderated, including actions taken by the public.

Summary of facts and factors from experts for consideration in assessing the traditional and social media examples

1. The ISC and related organisations (cohorts) cat impacts that include generalised extreme numbers of cat predation on wildlife in urban areas by domestic cats (owned, semi-owned and unowned) impacts to wildlife, I believe are validly open to challenges and questions.
 - Refer Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) trusted analysis, which identifies flaws in data collections, calculations, and the study designs (methods) which produce generalised overstated numbers.
 - The attribution of all cats being responsible for the extinction of many species is incorrect, feral cats have caused the extinction of only one species,
 - Quite often the generalised views of cat impacts are repeated as "facts" not as estimates, lack context, and blur the lines between feral and domestic cats.
 - The need for further research has been raised by a number of experts including Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Australia, APWF, Cat Protection Society (CPS) NSW and the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA).
2. The ISC and cohort cat impact articles are seldom in context of other significant factors. It appears national generalisations are preferred to present a dramatic view that does not match evidence in separate locations across our nation. These items do not include: land clearing (habitat loss), climate change impacts (bushfires, floods, droughts), and impacts from other invasive species.

NSW Inquiry Management of Cat Populations

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3. The choice of words (language, terms, adverbs and adjectives) to describe all cats for example "alien", "villains" and "invasive", and "cat catastrophe", has been found to contribute to fear and moral disengagement, leading to support for lethal control methods and reduced concern for animal welfare for feral and domestic cats.
4. It is recognised that traditional forms and social media may be biased for organisational or personal agendas. Many organisations as owners of social media platforms (websites, Meta Facebook and Instagram) are failing to moderate their own content and the comments by followers/ members. Often, inflammatory comments and arguments equal engagement on social media – often seen as "click bait". However, biased misinformation may result in forms of animal cruelty being promoted and shown that normally violates community standards, regulations and our laws/ legislation.
5. These ISC and cohort studies, articles and social media posts are proliferated across articles. This floods the internet and influences the AI/search algorithms to prioritise listing these inaccurate misleading items to be listed before other items which better qualify cat impacts.
6. It appears cruelty to animals is on the rise, reported by RSPCA NSW and RSPCA United Kingdom.

Impacts to community rescuers and carers

Community cat rescuers and carers are volunteers from a range of career backgrounds. The flawed views are a form of secondary trauma that rescuers experience alongside the cases of physical cruelty to cats. I strongly recommended that a relationship is established between the NSW state government, councils and community cat rescuers/ carers, with One Welfare solutions to proactively minimise the impacts of cats, and reduce the impacts to wildlife.

Please refer to the attachment which provides further information, examples, and impacts of cruelty towards cats and the rescuers/carers.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this question to clarify the relationships between ISC activities and animal cruelty. I have provided this information hoping for understanding and assistance from our governments in improving sound and ethical cat management across our state,

Stephane Bates

Westie Cat Support Services

Facts and Factors from Experts Related to Cats in Australia

Habitat loss and climate change has immense impacts to wildlife

2021 State of the Environment Report

https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/6.%20DCCEEW-SOE_factsheet_Habitat%20and%20Natural%20Capital.pdf


“Habitat loss and degradation is the main threat to species in Australia, with nearly 70% of Australian threatened taxa impacted and 60% of listed threatened species seriously affected.”

“Habitat loss and clearing has caused the extinction of 62 Australian terrestrial species since European colonization. Since 2000, 1390 (85%) of terrestrial threatened species have experienced some habitat loss.”

“Only 15% of remnant native vegetation in New South Wales was in near-natural condition in 2018, and drought and bushfires have since caused further loss and degradation.”

“The massive scale of impacts, for example from the 2019-20 bushfires that burnt more than 8 million hectares of native vegetation, may leave ecosystems susceptible to collapse. We can expect many ecosystems to undergo sudden, unpredictable and often irreversible transitions to new states leading to biodiversity decline, erosion, loss of soil fertility and an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.”

Few researched confirmed facts on Aussie cat impacts & the need for further research

 Scientific Review of Evidence		
Study / Author	Key Findings	Conclusion Regarding Direct Extinction
Woinarski et al. (2015, PNAS)	Cats implicated in 27 mammal extinctions; review of literature and IUCN listings	Cats identified as a <i>contributing factor</i> , not sole cause
Doherty et al. (2016, Biological Conservation)	Global review of cat impacts; highlights predation pressure in Australia	Notes high impact but does not attribute direct, solitary extinction
Legge et al. (2017, Conservation Letters)	Quantifies cat predation rates on mammals, birds, reptiles	Describes current threats, not historical direct extinctions
Short (2016)	Cats caused failure of <i>reintroduction</i> of western barred bandicoot	Local project failure, not national extinction
IUCN Red List Assessments	Species like the lesser bilby and desert bandicoot list “invasive predators (cats)” as threats	Causality is multi-factorial, cats not listed as sole driver

! Terminology Caution: “Direct Cause” vs “Contributing Factor”

- **Direct cause** implies **exclusive responsibility**—that no other ecological, environmental, or anthropogenic factor contributed.
- The **scientific literature overwhelmingly uses terms** like “*implicated*,” “*associated with declines*,” or “*contributing factor*”.
- No published peer-reviewed paper claims feral cats were *independently sufficient* to cause a national extinction event in Australia.

📌 Recommended Language

“While feral cats have played a significant role in the decline of many native species, claims that they are directly and solely responsible for extinctions in Australia are not supported by the current peer-reviewed scientific evidence. Rather, extinctions are typically the result of a combination of threats, including habitat loss, altered fire regimes, invasive herbivores, and multiple predators.”

Domestic Cat Impacts to Wildlife Numbers are Questionable / Challenged

Challenging the publicised domestic cat impacts to wildlife has been raised for a number of years. The most trusted source on questioning the methods and calculations is well documented in the APWF most recent submission to the NSW government.

Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF)

In summary, the high domestic cat impacts are being challenged based on:

- flawed data collection due to limited studies on domestic cats with reliance on feral cat studies,
- flawed calculations due to generalised assumptions e.g. based on all cats predating exactly the same, and compounding data to an overall population effect without considering overlapping factors in terms of differentiations for assessing specific impacts from cats versus many other factors,
- flaws in the design of studies determining the implied population effects (e.g. “biases, inaccuracies, and limitations”), and
- estimates and extrapolated estimates are not proof and should be cautiously considered (“Predation estimates alone do not prove that prey populations are detrimentally affected, especially in highly disturbed and modified environments such as urban areas”).

APWF Position Statement: Issues to Consider About Cats and Urban Wildlife includes:

- “impacts of feral cats on wildlife are often wrongly attributed to domestic cats, even though they are two distinct and geographically separate populations with different behaviour and ecology”
- “impacts (if any) of domestic cats on native wildlife populations is largely unknown ...there is actually no definitive scientific evidence demonstrating viability or conservation impacts at a population level on Australian native wildlife by domestic cats living around people”
- “Australian studies were unable to detect a measurable impact in urban areas of domestic cats on native mammals (MacLagan 2018, Lilith 2010), or birds (Barratt

1998, Grayson 2007), but found that vegetation quality, housing density, distance from bushland and size of bushland were significant factors”

- “studies demonstrate the positive impact cat predation has by reducing the numbers of rats that predate bird nests (Matthews 1999)”
- “domestic cats that are obtaining food intentionally or unintentionally from humans predate significantly fewer animals than feral cats, which have to hunt to supply all their nutritional needs (Murphy 2019, Woinarski 2017)”

Impact of language (adverbs and adjectives) to describe cats as an invasive species

In 2017 a study was completed on the impact of language used to describe invasive species. This found that terms like "alien" and "invasive" contribute to fear and moral disengagement, leading to support for lethal control methods and reduced concern for animal welfare.

Crowley, Hinchliffe, McDonald “Conflict in invasive species management”

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315045722_Conflict_in_invasive_species_management

Social Media (an extended form of traditional forms)

“Social media can be helpful... but its impact should not be overestimated... some of these seemingly harmless videos and pictures promote animal abuse, and viewers may unintentionally support harmful and illegal practices.”

“...various groups have different agendas, goals, and philosophies toward animal rights and welfare”

“...social media platforms themselves are not doing enough to prevent and monitor posts that violate their own regulations and national laws. Allowing these kinds of posts and videos to operate on platforms enables animal cruelty and escalates harmful and illegal activities.”

Animal Welfare and Social Media – Is the Internet an Ally of Animals?

<https://cjdproject.web.nycu.edu.tw/2021/08/30/animal-welfare-and-social-media-is-the-internet-an-ally-of-animals/>

RSPCA UK & RSPCA NSW on increased animal cruelty

RSPCA NSW Inspectorate Annual Reports – complaints alleging cruelty towards cats: 2021-2022 total cat cases – 4255; 2022-2023 total cat cases 4385; 2023-2024 total cat cases 6531.

RSPCA UK produced this information in 2023:

“In 2022, there were 9,776 reports made to the RSPCA about intentional harm to dogs, compared with 8,176 in 2021 and 7,691 in 2020. That's a rise of 27% in just three years.”

“Dermot Murphy, RSPCA inspectorate commissioner, said: ‘Right now, animal cruelty is happening in England and Wales on a massive scale and rising...

‘While we don't know for certain why there has been an increase, the cost-of-living crisis and the post-pandemic world we live in has created an animal welfare crisis.’”

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/-/news-one-dog-abused-every-hour>

“Figures released today show, in 2022, the number of reports made to the charity about intentional harm to cats was 1,726 - around five a day. This is up from 1,387 in 2021, an increase of 25%.”

“...cats are also more vulnerable as they tend to be out and about on their own which can leave them vulnerable to airgun attacks and other forms of cruelty by complete strangers”

“In 2022 the charity saw a 22% increase in reports of beatings... The number of beatings reported to the RSPCA in 2022 peaked in August, when 1,081 reports were received - a staggering 35 a day”

The number of animals killed in ‘suspicious circumstances’ increased in 2022 by 15% from by 2021 (891 in 2022, compared to 775 in 2021)

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/-/news-cruelty-to-cats-increased-last-year>

Anecdotally, the community cat rescuers and carers in the Sydney metropolitan area experience a range of cruelty cases on a regular basis. There have been other incidents of cats being stolen and disappearing, and cats being “butchered” and kittens being killed in various inhumane ways as often seen by cat rescuers and carers. These are usually not documented due to the secondary trauma involved, local community bullying, and lack of action from authorities most likely due to lack on certainty of perpetrators, and also most likely their own constrained funds. Further, if information is shared then this may incite the cat haters and more perpetrators.

Examples & Assessment of Misleading Articles and Social Media Posts

Introduction

These articles and social media posts likely encourage:

- emotions in a form of marketing to attract support for the efforts of the ISC and cohorts, and
- emotions to foster indiscriminate cruelty toward all cats (feral; and domestic owned, semi owned, and unowned).

Providing assumption-based views without evidence based substantiated numbers is considered biased and misleading information.

This often appears for Australian invasive species or pest animals who do not warrant the humane treatment under out POCTA NSW.

Threatened Species Recovery Hub Consultants Example Blurring Cat Classes

It is of great concern that an underlying issue is that the Threatened Species Recovery Hub consultants who develop the questionable overestimated figures of the impacts of cats, have been incorrectly blurring the two categories feral and domestic cats for many years. One negative outcome is that this drives a false set of just two categories of cats, and implies domestic cats behave and should be managed in the same way as feral cats. This is an incorrect appreciation of domestic cats who were owned/ pets, and may easily be a generation or three or more of a once owned cat and are usually very comfortable with being provided food at least from people (semi owners).

The Threatened Species Recovery Hub promoting themselves as part of the National Environment Science Programs includes in a “Research findings factsheet” on “The impact of cats in Australia”:

“...the simplest categorisation is ‘pet cat’ for cats that live in a household and are owned and cared for by people and ‘feral cat’ for everything else”.

<https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/eeufmpqx/112-the-impact-of-cats-in-australia-findings-factsheetweb.pdf>

Science for Saving Species

Research findings factsheet

Project 1.1.2



National Environmental Science Programme

The impact of cats in Australia

Cat origins

Domestic cats are descended from the African wildcat *Felis lybica*. They were domesticated in Egypt and the Middle East around 4000 years ago, and have since been extensively moved around the world by people. They now occur on all continents except Antarctica, and on many of the world's islands.

The domestic cat's scientific name is *Felis catus*. There have been many categorisations for domestic

cats, relating to their lifestyle, or the extent to which they are socialised, owned and cared for. However, the simplest categorisation is 'pet cat' for cats that live in a household and are owned and cared for by people and 'feral cat' for everything else. Feral cats can live in our towns and cities as well as in remote areas of the Australian bush. Feral cats and pet cats are exactly the same species.



Quick Facts

National cat population:

- Pet cats – 3.8 million pet cats
- Feral cats in urban areas – 0.7 million
- Feral cats in the bush – 1.4 million in dry conditions, and 5.6 after widespread rain

Cat occurrence in Australia:

- 99.9% of total land area
- 92% of total island area
- Average density of feral cats in the bush, on the mainland, is 1 cat per 3–4 km² but cats reach appreciably higher densities in arid areas and on small islands
- Densities (of feral cats and pet cats) are much higher in urban areas

In Australia every day cats kill:

- Mammals – 3.2 million (mostly native species in the bush; mostly introduced species in towns)
- Birds – 1.2 million (almost all native species)
- Reptiles – 1.9 million (almost all native species)
- Frogs – 0.25 million (all native species)
- Invertebrates – 3 million

Annual toll of cats:

- A feral cat in the bush – 791 mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs/year and 371 invertebrates/year
- A feral cat in urban area – 449 mammals, reptiles and birds/year
- A pet cat that can roam and hunt – 186 mammals, reptiles and birds/year

It is of concern that the statement that cats occur across 99.9% of Australia is often and widely published. Yet this percentage has not been scientifically proven based on evidence with measurements across the nation, having starting with an assumption of 100%. In my view starting at 100% is considered an opinion as cats residing fully across Australia has not been scientifically proven.

It is noted that the Background document includes an explanation that feral cats occur in 99.9% of Australia was calculated by subtracting the percentage of the limited known areas of cat free locations from 100% for the whole nation. That feral cats are prevalent is agreed, however, it is highly questionable that without evidence-based proof, why is this misinformation spread?

“Based on the total areas of enclosures and the maximum number of islands without cats, the total extent of areas in Australia without feral cats is less than 8681 km², meaning that feral cats occur in 99.9% of Australia”

[<https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/draft-updated-threat-abatement-plan-for-predation-by-feral-cats>]

Australian Wildlife Conservancy Trevor Bauer & Biodiversity Council ANU Sarah Legge media item

In the lead up to the end of consultation of the draft Threat Abatement Plan we saw several articles in media, published it appears to promote all cats as “villains” and which proposed just two categories being pet (owned) and feral cats,

This example published by The Guardian:

- commences with feral cats and their impacts,
- then switches to pet cats setting concepts that containing pet cats is easy to do, and just to keep them indoors is the solution, and
- completes that cats should be indoors only.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/nov/12/from-beloved-pet-to-biodiversity-villain-what-now-for-australias-cats>

This item includes the following:

Titled “From beloved pet to biodiversity what now for Australia’s cats?” – demonising term

“Our [redacted] kill more than 300 million native animals a year.” – which is an estimate rather than a fact, and refers to ALL forms of cats including pet cats when the item is about feral cats

“Trevor Bauer is **T** with cats” – violent term

“To date, [redacted] and are estimated to kill more than 300 million animals each year” – to date I believe only one species has been contributed to cats which was on an island, otherwise cats are a contributing factor with other significant factors such as land clearing of native habitat being the worst.

“But the majority of Australia’s _____ are allowed to roam and, on average, _____” – the numbers are challenged and not clarified.

“Of course it would be better if _____,” says Sarah Legge, a Biodiversity Council member from the Australian National University” – encouragement that we should not have any cats including pet cats.

“Even when allowed in back yards, cats can still kill birds, skinks and other reptiles” - undermines the need for cat containment, condemning any cat who is outdoors

“And not just assuming that they’re low-maintenance pets – because _____” - contradicts the next statement/ view

“Legge says, _____” – fails to mention or address the animal welfare considerations nor that there are barriers for some cat owners to achieve containment, i.e. it is not easy for every cat nor owner.

“The bigger job is _____, Legge says.” – Legge is not considered a domestic cat expert and undermines advice from the experts.

“There is a social expectation that dogs should be kept under control, kept on your property or, if they’re off the property, they should be on a leash,” Legge says. “Whereas we don’t have that same social expectation when it comes to cats.” – sets expectations that owning and containing cats is similar to dogs, which is not valid in a number of ways.

Bauer’s personal view finishes the item with “The clear difference is that the way we look after our cats is _____

– Baur is not a domestic cat expert and does not consider animal welfare issues nor the barriers for some pet owners.

ISC Mandurah Terns

1. Mandurah Tern Facebook post 2022.

The Mandurah Fairy Tern study which is often quoted for the potential impact of cats on wildlife and the appropriateness of TNR approaches, neither which were part of the original research study.

Jack Gough on greater bilby May 2024 National Television broad cast and radio stations

In May 2024, Mr Gough spoke on TV and radio stations nationally and in amongst it he claimed pet cats were threatening the greater bilby – an animal that is not in urban areas.

Regular and accepted social media comments in relation to hurting and harming cats is common across Australia. There are many comments on these posts promoting cruelty to cats, a small number of examples are included in this section. It appears that social media administrators and moderators allow these comments (i.e. it passes their standards) as reports by concerned citizens to Administrators are ignored.

Centre for Invasive Species Solution social media post example

This photo, is of a cat eating an already dead wallaby/roo rather than the cat killed the animal. It still attracted cat hater comments. It was not clarified in the CISS lead in text that the native animal was already dead, obviously not killed by the cat.



Comments for that post include:

If its not microchipped it's feral:)

Like Reply 4w



If its not roams it's feral

Like Reply 4w

Mongrels, all cats ***

Like Reply 4w

Let's hope it succeeds.

Like Reply 3w

There are many calibres that can help solve this environmental disaster.

Like Reply 3w

Mandurah Fairy Terns often used by Threatened Species Commissioner and ISC



Threatened Species Commissioner · Follow

March 22, 2022 · 🌐

A stark reminder of the impact of cats on our native wildlife.

In 2018, ecologist Claire Greenwell was studying a nesting population of vulnerable Australian Fairy Terns who had chosen Mandurah in south-western Australia as their breeding site. At the peak of the breeding season, Claire observed 111 nests, which consisted of one to three eggs per nest.

A single white cat was observed near the sanctuary on multiple different nights and was actively preying on the colony. It was eventually trapped and euthanised. The cat was found to be desexed, but was not microchipped or collared.

The result was the death of six adults, 40 chicks and the complete failure of 111 nests – the entire colony.

This incident is happening across Australia and is not singular or unusual. Across Australia, feral cats alone take an estimated 596 million reptiles, 92 million frogs, 316 million birds and 964 million mammals every year.

You can do your bit to reduce impact of cats on our precious wildlife by being a responsible cat owner and practicing cat containment 24/7.

Read the full story here: <https://fal.cn/3n7UU>

📷: Claire Greenwell

The study titled Cat Gets Its Tern: A Case Study of Predation on a Threatened Coastal Seabird [<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/9/7/445>] has been often cited for the impacts of cats on wildlife, by

- the Threatened Species Commissioner (for one example refer Facebook post March 22 2022, and
- Invasive Species representatives.

Some of the aspects not mentioned by the TSC that are included in the study that amount to many contributing factors to the failure of the nesting sites:

- The study admits “evidence of the impact of pet and semi-feral (stray) cats on wildlife is somewhat limited”. It is recognised in the study that the findings on the impact of two cats was not the primary focus of the original work “the aim of the study was to encourage breeding by Fairy Terns and not on the potential impacts of domestic cats”.

- The urban area involved a number of significant threats to both of the two nesting sites in the largest regional city in Western Australia, described as being similar in an urban environment like the Gold Coast in south east Queensland, it appears that a native animal at high risk has been surrounded by medium density urban development and the impacts of this, including
 - "...the development of the Mandurah Ocean Marina (Stage 1 completed in 2001) has eliminated former nesting locations and the low elevation of other potential sites on the estuary has, in recent times, resulted in persistent breeding failure due to colony inundation during storm surge events".
 - "Perhaps the most significant threat faced by the terns was erosion of the beach due to the cessation of the annual sand by-passing scheme in early November. Beach erosion forced several Fairy Terns to abandon their nests."
- A grey cat was recorded at the sanctuary site which appeared on at least two nights and did not appear to prey on the terns.
- For the sanctuary nesting site, a 1.2m high fence was erected, and its side was covered in shade cloth. Were the choices for this 1.2m fence questionable as: Was it a contributing negative factor "for such a rapid effect" by a cat as it enclosed the new borns for the cat to prey upon? Further, the decision to use shade cloth at the sanctuary is questioned, as it appears that "the chicks were silhouetted against the shade-cloth fencing, enabling the kestrel to locate its prey more efficiently" and would this have not also been the case with the chicks inside the sanctuary for all predators?
- The only viewed kill was by a kestrel, and there were other predators such as gulls.
- At the second site, there was also a significant loss of nesting/breeding, yet no cats were sighted nor evidence provided, however humans and their unleashed dogs in a nesting area were sighted.

The study did not include research on Trap Neuter Return (TNR) programs yet is cited by many as if it was

One of the conclusions of the study "Trap-neuter-release programs should be strongly contested" is questionable given that the two nesting sites were at significant risk from multiple threats, one of the nesting sites was unsuccessful due to all other threats as a cat was not present, and one of the cats visiting the sanctuary did not appear to hunt.

- The study has classed the white cat as "semi-feral", and has assumed the white cat was previously owned but not currently owned. However, it appears this has not been verified and is based on assumptions. It is possible that cat owners do desex their cats but choose not to microchip and therefore be held to other government obligations and financial penalties.
- This questions for the white cat on ownership and being classed semi-feral without determining the cat's past or current ownership, then questions the use of this example for the success or not of TNR programs.
- The study does not explore where TNR occurs in dense urban areas and Mandurah is rated as the largest regional city in Western Australia.
- The study also relies on overseas studies which involve situations on islands. Islands with cat management issues have very specific conditions and attributes, and do not

suffer from the “vacuum effect” where TNR programs are effective as a solution disabling the vacuum effect.

The associated Australian Geographic article also contains flaws

The link provided by the TSC, fal.cn/3n7UU, is a related article by Australian Geographic (AG) “A single cat wiped out an entire colony of fairy terns” with a very questionable title and contents, including:

- The whole failure is attributed to a cat, and does not reflect the other contributing factors included in the study by Claire Greenwell, as explained above.
- The article claims the grey cat was “was trapped immediately”, yet the grey cat who did not hunt was recorded for two nights in the study.
- A statement on the effectiveness of TNR is included though the study did not include any scope of the Trap Neuter Release method, nor could confirm the white cat was a cat who had been TNRed: yet includes “The biggest takeaway for Claire of this unique opportunity for scientific study was that the trap-neuter-release method doesn’t work here in Australia”.
- Further this AG article includes statements from John Woinarski, including:
 - “the incident ...is emblematic of what occurs across Australia and shouldn’t be treated as a singular or unusual case”, yet the study did not research “the potential impacts of domestic cats” for which the evidence was “somewhat limited”, nor the effectiveness of TNR techniques.
 - “...it’s wonderful that you can have such biodiversity spectacles like the fairy tern colonies of Mandurah” yet he does not recognise the emblematic problems and threats from a native animal being next to a dense urban environment and the impacts humans have had, and that a number of other nesting sites had been degenerating over time due to the marina development.
 - A link to Woinarski’s book for sale is included – this may be seen as a motivating factor for his choice of selected statements.

Recent article repeating Mandurah Fairy Terns & extreme estimated numbers

Apr 26, 2025, 09:17am EDT

[Share](#) [Save](#) [Comment](#) 0



From island extinctions to nationwide losses, feral and domestic cats have been reshaping ... [More](#)
GETTY

“First Introduced To Australia In 1788, This Invasive Species Now Kills Over A Million Birds A Day”<https://www.forbes.com/sites/scotttravers/2025/04/26/first-introduced-to-australia-in-1788-this-invasive-species-now-kills-over-a-million-birds-a-day/>

Museums of Victoria FB Post 10 April 2025

Museums Victoria's Post

 **Museums Victoria** 
April 10 at 11:18 AM · 

Have you ever wondered if your cat sees differently? Learn about their amazing adaptations in Season 2 of Science is a Superpower. Out now!

A photograph of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a light-colored jacket, holding a small, light-colored cat. The image is slightly blurred and has a vintage feel.

Near the very end of the video (around 30 secs mark) the representative includes “This helps cats to be natural hunters, and it is a good reason to keep your cat inside, to protect our precious wildlife”, and then ends with a cat screeching.


Comments (not moderated by page Admins/Moderators) include:

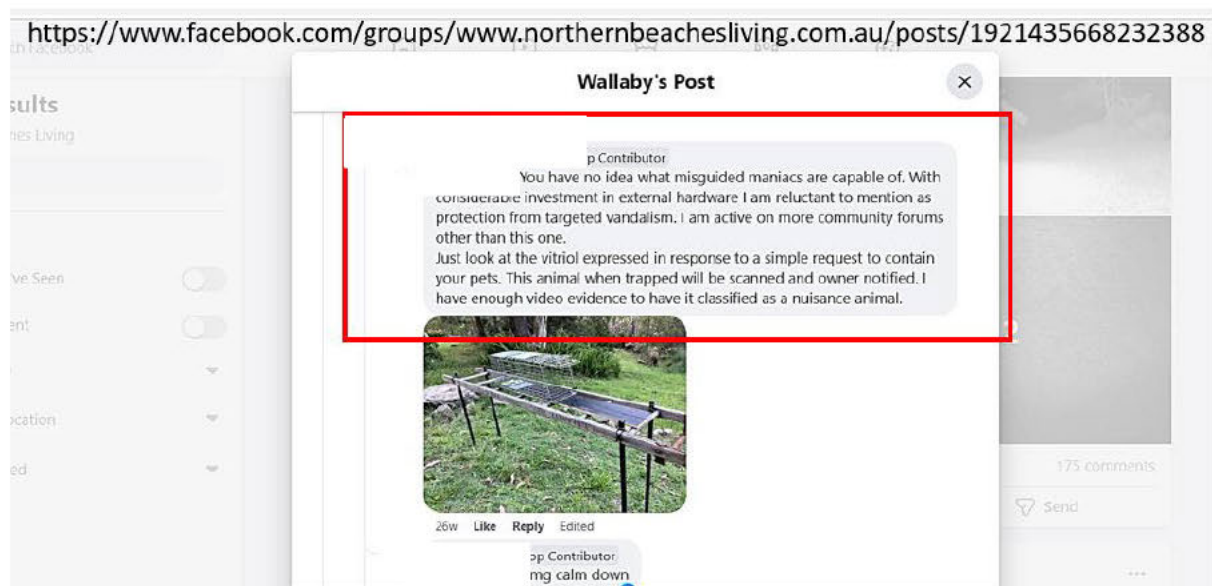


In Australia, cats kill an estimated **377 million birds annually**, which translates to over 1 million birds per day. This includes 272 million birds killed by feral cats and 61 million by pet cats. The vast majority, 99%, of these casualties are native Australian bird species. 

Example

Northern Beaches Living Facebook Group 30 May 2023

Please note, dated items as  blocks people who disagree with him, and offer Australia research that contradicts his view.





Northern Beaches Living

Top Contributor

Dude your pictures are of the one cat, all the same night. But your post says various cats.

Stop putting everyone in the same basket, there are strays in Sydney. It's not like the beaches magically has no strays.

Because of this "cats are evil" rhetoric someone's cat was shot in the end head last week.

26w Like Reply



Author Top Contributor

Your bias has blinded you - there are multiple cats with time stamps and more on my profile page over the last couple of years. Many more videos have not yet been publicly displayed - it is unfortunately a constant problem.

26w Like Reply

Author Top Contributor

Yes humans are one of the few species that are capable of killing for fun. The other unfortunately is the cat, no matter how comfortable or well fed it may be and in greater regularity than your one example of human cruelty. It is the de...
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THECONVERSATION.COM

Research reveals why pet owners keep their cats indoors – and it's not to protect wildlife



26w Like Reply Edited

Reply to Aurian Breakspea...

Author Top Contributor

Unfortunately through concerted efforts of the moggy lobby and complicit admins I have been blocked and banned from a number of social media community sites simply for copying the relevant council info articles on responsible pet ownership. The misguided cat adoption people want nothing to interfere with their efforts to place unwanted cats from other areas of Sydney into our naturally endowed environment.

26w Like Reply Edited



Louise Rose

Impacts to community rescuers and carers

Community cat rescuers and carers are volunteers from a range of career backgrounds. The misleading information that is frequently circulated to garner ISC members is a form of secondary trauma that cat rescuers suffer alongside the cases of physical cruelty to cats.

We are generally self-funded and do not have the resources, capability or available time to respond to all the forms and instances of misleading information, nor threats or acts of violence to cats.

It is strongly recommended that the research into the Australian Newcastle breakwater cats culling is taken into consideration as to the cruelty to cats that was witnessed, the impacts on the volunteer cat rescuers/carers, and community angst that highlighted the support for the cats and carers. This will provide insights to the experiences of most cat rescuers/ carers that occur frequently in their roles.

The research includes:

- the extremely strong bond between volunteer carers and rescuers with colony cats “known by authorities for at least five years, and included using a RTF/TNR program to reduce numbers from 100 to about 40” with rehoming many cats abandoned by others,
- the advice “...the severity of the adverse psychological impacts, and the morbidity rate amongst the cat caregivers... was far greater than would be expected as a risk to the community if the cats had remained at the site. We therefore suggest that potential legal ramifications should be considered before authorities intentionally choose a method of management that is likely to inflict substantial harm on community members.”

I strongly recommended that a relationship is established between the NSW state government, councils and community cat rescuers/ carers, with One Welfare solutions to proactively minimise the impacts of cats, and reduce the impacts to wildlife.