

Introduction

This document is an update on an earlier version in May 2025 which provides the trail and network of relationships between Invasive Species Council and related organisations (cohorts) providing misleading information which influences cruelty to cats.

This document provides relevant information in sections:

FACTS & FACTORS FROM EXPERTS ON PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA INFLUENCING CRUELTY TO CATS page 6

SUMMARY OF EXAMPLES & ASSESSMENT OF MISLEADING TRADITIONAL & SOCIAL MEDIA page 16

EXAMPLES OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES ON CAT IMPACTS page 17

EXAMPLES OF INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIAL MEDIA ON CAT IMPACTS page 26

EXAMPLES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS TRADITIONAL & SOCIAL MEDIA RE CATS page 56

IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY RESCUERS & CARERS page 65

Integrating these sections involved applying the expert considerations with the trail from the traditional and social media overstated impacts etc to the public taking action into their own hands involving animal cruelty towards all cats.

The trail 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 (cat hate), also against their owners, rescuers and carers, and animal welfare groups by the public/ followers which are not moderated, including comments with explicit violent and cruel actions taken by the public.

Reviewing the examples and following the public social media comments of anger and cruelty towards all cats, and often cate rescuers / carers, is a form of secondary trauma for the volunteer car rescuers and carers.

The last section includes further information of the compassion fatigues and mental and emotional impacts that cat rescuers/ carers face every day in face to face and social media engagements.

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FACTS & FACTORS FROM EXPERTS ON PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA INFLUENCING CRUELTY TO CATS

Cat Hate in Media is another form of Hate Speech which leads to violence

Cat hate is another form of hate speech. Cat hate is obviously aimed at cats, all cats and their owners, rescuers and carers.

“While social media has contributed positively to society, it does have negative elements. It can provide a forum for those who seek to offend, harass and abuse individuals and groups, such as occurs through online hate speech...

...it refers to ‘aggressive, violent or offensive language, targeting a specific group of people sharing a common property, whether this property is their gender, their ethnic group or race, their beliefs and religion, or their political preferences’...

The online element does not diminish its significance. It has been linked to serious real-world events, such as the 2019 attack in Christchurch... as well as bombings, terrorist recruiting, and serious threats against public figures around the world.”

Online safety and social media regulation in Australia: eSafety Commissioner v X Corp
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10383441.2024.2405760#d1e165>

“Hate speech propagates through biased comments and perceptions, normalizing prejudice and causing harm to the groups targeted. It can also lead to violence, victimization, and the perpetuation of these discourses among other individuals.”

“...exposure to hate in online and in traditional media has a significant negative impact.”

“...This not only leads to violence, victimization, and perpetration of hate speech but also contributes to a broader climate of hostility.”

Exposure to hate in online and traditional media: A systematic review and meta-analysis of the impact of this exposure on individuals and communities

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11736891/>

Challenging the ISC and cohort cat impacts that include generalised overstated numbers of cat impacts to wildlife

Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) trusted analysis of the questioned studies on domestic cats includes flawed data collections, calculations, and the study designs (methods) which produce generalised overstated numbers

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 Australian Pet Welfare Foundation most recent submission to the NSW government.

“While the impact of feral cats on Australian native wildlife populations in natural environments is well-documented, there is no scientific evidence that domestic cats (cats that live in the vicinity of people), have any viability or conservation impacts at a population level on native wildlife.”

Refer APWF Inquiry into the Management of Cat Populations NSW
<https://petwelfare.org.au/government-submissions>

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)”

Refer APWF Issues to Consider About Cats and Urban Wildlife <https://petwelfare.org.au/position-statements/domestic-cats>

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. While feral cats are a contributing factor in arid areas this is not clearly nor often included in ISC views.

Blurring the lines between feral cats and domestic cats is a significant concern as it does not lead to effective strategies to be developed and applied in specific locations to provide the best outcomes for wildlife.

It is rare to see research which provides evidence on the impacts of domestic cats to population levels. Therefore, domestic cats appear to being blamed for considerably large estimates which have not been confirmed.

An AI search summarised following included the following.

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

“While the impact of feral cats on Australian native wildlife populations in natural environments is well-documented, there is no scientific evidence that domestic cats (cats that live in the vicinity of people), have any viability or conservation impacts at a population level on native wildlife. In fact, Australian population studies have not found a measurable effect of domestic cats on native wildlife (Barratt 1998, Grayson 2007, Lilith 2010, MacLagan 2018).”

“Despite the lack of scientific evidence, domestic cats in Australia still receive significant blame for negative impacts on native wildlife populations. False blame for wildlife impacts directed at domestic cats is harmful because it contributes to the implementation of ineffective domestic cat management strategies and can be used as a justification for lethal approaches to domestic cats...”

False blame can also promote the use of inhumane killing methods; be used as a justification for cruelty towards cats, increasing pain and suffering; and be used as an argument for mandatory cat containment which is not an effective strategy for reducing free-roaming cats or associated issues such as potential wildlife predation.”

<https://petwelfare.org.au/position-statements/domestic-cats>

Quite often the generalised views of cat impacts are repeated as “facts” rather than estimates.

It is of great concern that the Threatened Species Recovery Hub consultants who contributed to the questionable overstated figures of the impacts of cats, have been incorrectly blurring the two categories feral and stray cats for many years. One negative outcome is that this drives a false set of just two categories of cats, and implies stray cats (domestic semi owned and unowned) 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>

It is noted that the TAP 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.

“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>

Further questionable information is shown in the first example as provided by the first example Threatened Species Recovery Hub.

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 AJP

Animal Justice Party Australia includes “claim of 2 billion animals killed by cats is exaggerated as it is not based on sound counting methodologies” and recommends to:

“Develop more stringent and scientific methods for determining the impacts of cats on wildlife before developing plans based on guess-work and unscientifically derived data”

“Acknowledge the significant impact that land clearing, especially for grazing, has on compounding the effect that cats have on the environment by giving them an unfair advantage over native animals, who become much more vulnerable to threats such as predation.”

“Consider the full range of factors known to impact the survival of native species when developing management plans. Consider research in northern Australia that indicates that across most of these landscapes, managing herbivores and fire rather than culling cats, is likely a more effective way of protecting small mammals.”

“Prioritise maintaining habitat for native species by significantly reducing land clearing and re-wilding areas to convert previously-cleared land back into habitat.”

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/ajp/pages/1123/attachments/original/1705880836/Threat_abatement_plan_for_predation_by_feral_cats- AJP_Submission.pdf?

“RSPCA advocates that further research is undertaken to provide evidence of the positive and negative outcomes of cat containment before 24/7 containment can be adequately assessed.”

“Support for the introduction of mandatory 24/7 cat containment would need to be based on evidence that it can achieve the stated objectives for cats, wildlife, and the broader community, and that the potential negative consequences can be eliminated or effectively mitigated...”

If mandatory 24/7 cat containment is introduced, effective monitoring is needed that will provide evidence of outcomes (positive and negative) and inform a better understanding of potential negative consequences and strategies to eliminate or effectively mitigate these.”

<https://kb.rspca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/PP-A8-Cat-Containment-2024.pdf>

Refer to the NSW Inquiry Management of Cat Populations 16 December 2024 for further views on questionable impacts of cats on wildlife.

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/Pages/inquiryprofile/management-of-cat-populations-in-new-south-wales.aspx#tab-hearingsandtranscripts>

Lack of context with other more significant factors

The ISC and cohort cat impacts 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.

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.”

Different invasive species have different impacts in different Australian locations

Examples include the following. This is not an exhaustive list.

“The mystery of the Top End’s vanishing wildlife, and the unexpected culprits” includes it was “found that the collective influence of feral livestock — such as buffaloes, horses, cattle and donkeys — has been largely underestimated. Even at quite low numbers, feral livestock can have a big impact on our high-value conservation areas and the wildlife they support.”

“The isolated areas where mammals are persisting have retained good-quality habitat, with a greater variety of plant species and dense shrubs and grasses.”

“Frequent, intense fires also play a big role.”

The Conversation, Stobo-Wilson A., Murphy B., Gillespie G., Dielenberg J. and Woinarski J. (2020)
<https://theconversation.com/the-mystery-of-the-top-ends-vanishing-wildlife-and-the-unexpected-culprits-143268>

Researched across the very north of Australia where fires are seldom experienced and including in national parks, native animals such as tree dwelling creatures eg brushtail possums, plus bandicoots and native rodents and more, have dramatically diminished. While feral cats have had an impact, it is the buffalo, horses, etc who though in small numbers have had a much more significant impact on habitat and impacts to native species. Based on the same research as the point above, however highlights habitat loss where fires are not a contributing factor.

“Feral animals in NT putting native wildlife in peril”

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/am/feral-animals-in-nt-putting-native-wildlife-in-peril/12501774>

Further comments on this same piece of research include “Cats play a role in mammal declines, but the impact of cats is greatly magnified in areas where vegetation has been degraded by frequent fire and over grazing.”

"This research adds to a growing body of work from northern Australia that indicates that across most of these landscapes, managing herbivores and fire rather than culling cats, is likely a more effective way of protecting small mammals." <https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6857221/ferals-cats-not-the-menace-to-top-ends-native-mammals-as-once-thought/>

“Despite culling of cats over many years, there is no evidence that culling has reduced overall numbers of feral cats in Australia, which is difficult in vast, remote landscapes (Stobo-Wilson et al. 2020).” https://petwelfare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/APWF-Submission-to-Inquiry-of-Feral-Domestic-Cats-2020.22.jr_n-t.pdf

The choice and impact of demonising, significant negative words/ descriptions

The choice of words (language, terms, adverbs and adjectives) to describe cats for example words such as "alien", "invasive", “killer cats”, “cat catastrophe”, “carnage”, “preliferious predator”, has been found to contribute to fear and moral disengagement, leading to support for lethal control methods and reduced concern for animal welfare.

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

Failing to moderate content and follower/ member comments

It is recognised that our traditional forms and social media can 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.

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/>

Proliferation of similar articles – flooding internet and search engines for priority in listings

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.

Therefore, when a naïve public member completes an internet search the search engines will give priority to items which are more common / appear on a number of websites/ platforms.

“The quality of results between Google and other search engines used to be a real issue, but now you’d be hard-pressed to find much difference. The greatest contrast you’re likely to notice is the ranking of the top results.”

<https://au.pcmag.com/software-services/106682/go-beyond-google-the-best-alternative-search-engines-for-2024>

Cruelty to animals is rising

It appears cruelty to animals is on the rise, as confirmed by RSPCA NSW, and RSPCA United Kingdom (UK)

In Australia, RSPCA NSW inspectorate statistics show a steady increase in cat cruelty reports from 4255 in 2021-2022 to 6531 in 2023-2024.

Refer

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/19636/RSPCA%20NSW-Inspectorate-Annual-Report-2021-2022.pdf>

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/19637/RSPCA%20NSW-Inspectorate-Annual-Report-2022-2023.pdf>.

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>

The well-known cases include Phil Tripp from Coffs Harbour

Refer to a number of publications.

E.G. <https://www.newsofthearea.com.au/coffs-harbour-man-sentenced-after-cat-killing>

Which includes “Mr Tripp caused extreme stress, pain, suffering and anxiety to an animal in what can only be described as a horrific act of violence,” said Emma Hurst.

‘The justice system needs an urgent overhaul on how it deals with cases of animal cruelty.’”

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.

SUMMARY OF EXAMPLES & ASSESSMENT OF MISLEADING TRADITIONAL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Introduction

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.

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

Regular and accepted social media comments in relation to hurting and harming cats is common across Australia. 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 or not even accepted with standards falling back to the Facebook community standards which allow a wide range, perhaps as free speech in the USA?

Isn't condoning animal cruelty by not moderating angry and violent comments on social media being negligent?

EXAMPLES OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES ON CAT IMPACTS

This is a small sample ser of examples – limited by time available, and will continue to be updated with more examples.

Threatened Species Recovery Hub (TSRH) Factsheet (Current) misleading information re cats

Source

<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 11.2



Threatened
Species
Recovery
Hub
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.



Photo: Joanne Heathcote

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

Concerns

“There is no consistent figure on the number of feral cats in Australia, but estimates range from 5 to 23 million. Experts say the number is impossible to calculate because of density variation, and the way the population fluctuates with prey availability and climate.”

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-13/greg-hunt-feral-cat-native-animals-fact-check/5858282>

This view has not changed as the estimates fluctuate based on seasonal changes.

Concerns with the fact sheet include:

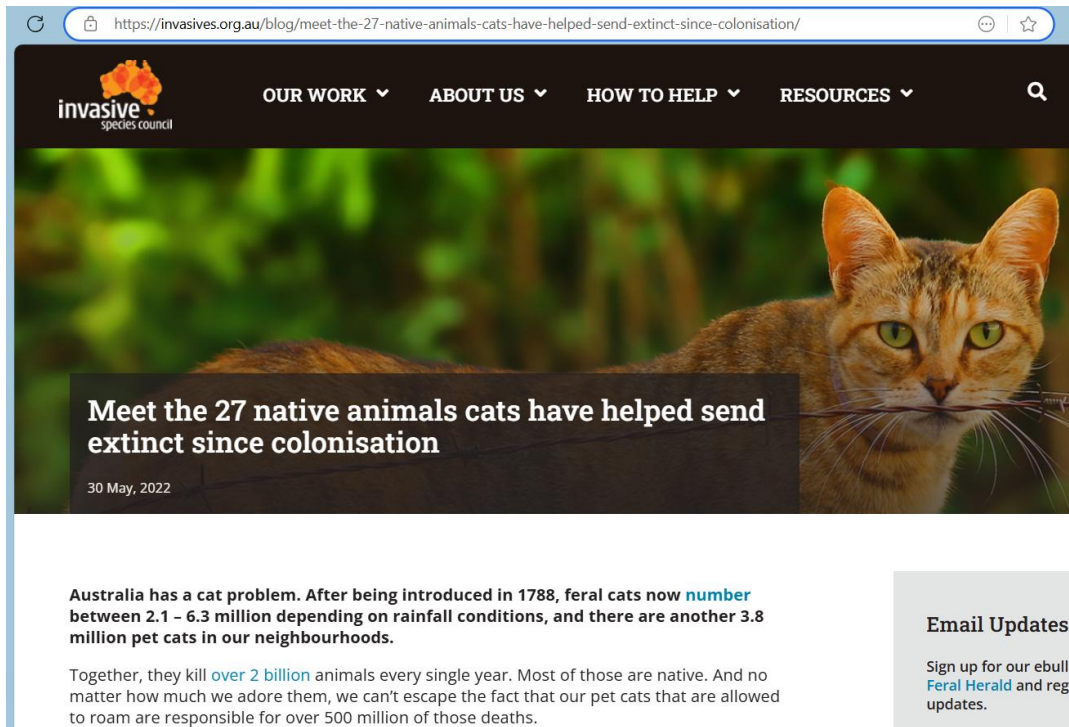
- presented as “science” and “factsheet”,
- statement that cats occur across 99.9% of Australia commences from an assumption of 100%, only the 0.1% of cat free areas is based on fact from measuring conservation areas and cat free islands,
- only two categories for cats does not align with 2018 RSPCA Australia terms being feral versus domestic owned, semi owned and unowned,
- only two categories of cats blur the line between feral and domestic cats, relating domestic abandoned cats (strays) incorrectly with feral cats,
- TSRH provide a large range for feral cats in non-urban areas numbers between 1.4 million through 5.6 million – and do not provide a current estimate,
- 0.7 million feral cats in urban areas is an estimate and incorrectly implies feral cats are cohabitating with people,
- generalised estimates with “every day cats kills” does not explain the number of cats used to generate these estimates (only a range of feral cats estimated numbers is provided), and often interpreted by others as all pets cats kill a subset of the numbers, rather than explaining clearly how many domestic cats have been estimated to be harming wildlife or introduced species daily.

Therefore, these numbers which are often used by other parties are misinterpreted and misrepresent fact from estimates.

Invasive Species Webpage (Current) Cats have helped (contributed to) extinctions of 27 native animals

Source

<https://invasives.org.au/blog/meet-the-27-native-animals-cats-have-helped-send-extinct-since-colonisation/>



This webpage includes:

“Australia has a cat problem. After being introduced in 1788, feral cats now number between 2.1 – 6.3 million depending on rainfall conditions, and there are another 3.8 million pet cats in our neighbourhoods.

Together, they kill over 2 billion animals every single year. Most of those are native. And no matter how much we adore them, we can’t escape the fact that our pet cats that are allowed to roam are responsible for over 500 million of those deaths.

The combined impacts of feral and roaming cats have already helped push 27 native animals into extinction, including a long-forgotten mainland parrot.”

Concerns

- while the term “helped” is used, is it often misinterpreted
- the range of feral cats does not include the average or explain how this number was incorporated in calculations to determine the total impacts of 2 billion animals each year
- the pet (just domestic owned cats) estimates is not explained and that this suggested figures from another source was made during the Covid height of adoptions
- other contributing factors are not clearly defined and most readers will not read further than the headline

The Guardian Nov 2023 re cats from Australian Wildlife Conservancy Trevor Bauer & Biodiversity Council ANU Sarah Legge media item

“From beloved pet to biodiversity villain: what now for Australia’s cats?”

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.

Source

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

Concerns

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.

This item includes the following:

- Titled “From beloved pet to biodiversity villain: what now for Australia’s cats?” – demonising term
- “Our feline friends 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 at war with cats” – violent term
- “To date, cats have caused the extinction of at least 20 native species 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 5 million pet cats are allowed to roam and, on average, each roaming pet cat kills 186 reptiles, birds and mammals a year.” – the numbers are challenged and not clarified
- “‘Of course it would be better if Australia didn’t have cats,’ 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

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

- ““And not just assuming that they’re low-maintenance pets – because they’re not actually low maintenance”” - contradicts the next statement/ view
- “Legge says, pet cats are, in theory at least, easy. ‘Just keep them indoors – that’s all you have to do’” – 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 dispelling the idea that cats need to be free to roam for their health and happiness – a misconception, 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 that they’re indoor cats. They’re not out there to roam around and do what a cat is designed to do.” – Baur is not a domestic cat expert and does not consider animal welfare issues nor the barriers for some pet owners

Smithsonian article Mar 2021 Australia’s Cats Kill Two Billion Animals Annually

Source

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/australias-cats-kill-two-billion-animals-annually-180977235/>



Concerns

- “In just over 230 years since their introduction to the continent, feral cats have wiped out more than a dozen species that lived alongside Ellis’s people for millennia and pushed others to the brink of extinction” - incorrectly blames the extinction of 12 species
- “cats now inhabit 99.9 percent of Australia’s total land area” – proliferates the assumption of 99.9%
- “removed feral cats—escaped pet cats or the descendants of cats that came to Australia aboard the convict transportation ships” – incorrectly classes roaming/ escaped pet cats (domestic cats) as feral cats (truly wild cats)
- “this February, Australia’s federal parliament released a report that confirmed that cats were the primary drivers of mammal extinctions in the country” – ignores other significant factors e.g. land clearing/ habitat loss, climate change impacts, and other invasive species
- “The final report found that every year, each individual feral cat in Australia kills 390 mammals, 225 reptiles and 130 birds. That adds up. Every year, feral cats kill 1.4 billion native Australian animals—around the same number that died in the catastrophic 2019-20 bushfires when more than 73,000 square miles burned.
- Feral cats are not the only problem: The parliamentary report also found that Australia’s almost 3.8 million pet cats kill up to 390 million animals every year.” - does not include these are estimates, and these are questionable /challenged for flaws, overstating impacts and generalised
- “Cat containment measures even have the support of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)” – RSPCA Australia recommends [WIP to include quote here]
- [WIP to conclude other statements]

Smithsonian article Mar 2022 Cats and Foxes Kill 2.6 Billion Animals per Year in Australia

Source

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/together-cats-and-foxes-kill-26-billion-animals-per-year-in-australia-180979760/>

× <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/together-cats-and-foxes-kill-26-billion-animals-per-year-in-australia-180979760/>

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Cats and Foxes Kill 2.6 Billion Animals Per Year in Australia

A new study is the first to quantify the impact the two non-native predators have on local wildlife in the country



Margaret Osborne - Daily Correspondent
March 18, 2022

Concerns

- the 2.6 billion figure is in relation to all animals: native and introduced, yet the first line indicates the article is focused on “local wildlife in the country”
- “Researchers found that cats and foxes wipe out 697 million reptiles, 510 million birds and 1.4 billion small animals annually in Australia” – grouping the numbers blurs the lines, and many reads will use the numbers to just apply to all cats
- the item does not clarify how the numbers are calculated and the level of estimates, and ignores other contributing factors
- “Management of domestic cats is a huge issue.. “Keeping cats contained helps prevent those environmental and health impacts and stops them getting out and breeding more feral cats.” – mistakenly attributes domestic cats being able to instantly breed feral cats wh is not the norm in reality as abandoned domestic cats rear kittens as to the mother cat’s conditioning os relying on humans and not becoming wild unless forced to in some way.

The Australian Geographic Jan 2025 re Killer Cat Stats

Source

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/blogs/dr-karl-need-to-know/2025/01/killer-cat-stats/>



Killer cat stats

Contributor
Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

Dr Karl is a prolific broadcaster, author and Julius Sumner Miller fellow in the School of Physics at the University of Sydney. His latest book, *Vital Science* is published by Pan MacMillan. Follow him on Twitter at @DoctorKarl

By Dr Karl Kruszelnicki • 8 January 2025

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THE AUS GEO ARCHIVES

OVER 70 BACK ISSUES TO ENJOY

Australian GEOGRAPHIC
Reconnects curious minds with nature

Concerns

The author is not a domestic cat expert, and has heavily relied on numbers from ISC and their consultants – which have been challenged/ questioned by the domestic cat experts.

“Every day, cats kill more than one million birds in Australia. This means that three to four per cent of our birds are killed by cats each year. About 99 per cent of these birds are native. In fact, cats impact 71 of the 117 threatened bird species here in Australia.”

- blurring of the lines between feral and domestic cats
- titled Killer-cat-stats is demonising
- “A crunching of the numbers reveals some extremely sobering facts about the carnage caused by feral cats in Australia” – the concern is which numbers have been used and that these are likely estimates (given the lack of domestic cat research), uses “carnage”
- “Secondly, there are an estimated 720,000 feral cats living across Australia’s ‘highly modified’ urban areas (about 57,000sq.km), including places such as rubbish dumps. This works out to about 12–13 feral cats in each square kilometre of highly modified landscape.” – incorrectly

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

assumes the number of stray cats can be extrapolated across other urban areas/ landscapes, as this item's estimates go on to estimate native animal impacts

- "The third case is that of the 3.88 million pet cats that also live in Australia's highly modified landscapes. That's nearly 70 cats in each square kilometre. " – numbers are estimates based on questionable data and assumptions

This is a short "2 minute" read, and does not take into account the other impacts to wildlife etc.

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

EXAMPLES OF INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIAL MEDIA ON CAT IMPACTS

Threatened Species Commissioner September 2022 FB Post selected cat hate comments

Source:

Was under the TSC, however the page was transformed to ISC over time.

it is not always instant like cutting off a cats head, tying it and cutting it with a knife just two examples of what has been occurring and there are other multiple examples. Not humane at all and encouraged by the war on feral cats. There are a lot of sadistic cat haters out there and I for one don't support the war as it is currently being waged.

With the enormous feral cat problem we have in Australia, any cat found outside should be treated as feral and dealt with accordingly.

TSC re post on feral cats:

I feed cats to my Lace Monitors. They come in my yard, They are fair game.

17

got a mate that does the same

1

My scrub pythons dont mind a cat hear and there ya just got to remember to take the bell off them 1st

Feral cat definition " cat is off the veranda ".

11

Any cat out of it's yard- feral!

20

dead right

6

TSC re poisoned bait traps for feral cats:

Great technology, I d like to see one in every street but only activated after dark. Sad for the cats but if owners can't be responsible we can't let wildlife suffer.

Can you also lay these baits in urban areas for #domesticferals as well?

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

If i seen a cat tussling with a snake i would stomp the cats head and crack its skull with my boots fuckem all get rid of them !! 🙄



4

They should be used in crayfish pots.



5

A complete cat kill is the only answer



6

A good cat is a dead cat ***



22

Any cat outside not on a lead, should be culled ***



3

We used to have a cat problem... Ran out of cats... *

Concerns:

- not moderated
- these followers of TSC will have been included with a page name change under ISC

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

ISC FB Post [date not recorded] on Cat Containment – animal cruelty comments from followers

Source

[Selection of comments on Invasive Species Council Facebook page](#)

Posts on mandatory cat confinement

Curfew or extermination. That's the only option that should be on the table.

Bring it on now ! Any cat caught out is fair game.

The only good cat is a dead cat... Just my opinion...

Cats that a left to roam at night should be Dispatched

Gut them and make slippers if you get a matching pair .

They make great Daniel Boon Cat Hats.

Concerns

- cruelty towards cats
- comments not moderated

CISS Mar 2023 FB post & current webpage re cat-driven extinction emergency

Source

<https://www.facebook.com/CentreInvasiveSpecies/posts/pfbid02eGPCj7xYYdoxGZqKEJ3ptETT5kgFKEuxxNfWZECbuBo85xQpAqafVAbyrvmWit8wl>

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats



Centre for Invasive Species Solutions · Follow

March 17, 2023 · 🌐

⚠️ Let's end Australia's cat-driven extinction emergency! ⚠️

Cats have already driven 27 native animals to extinction since colonisation and now threaten at least 124 more native species at risk of extinction.

Please show your support by taking the pledge today. Your pledge will be one of many that shows widespread support for action on cats to protect our wildlife.

Invasive Species Council



INVASIVES.ORG.AU

Pledge your support for ending Australia's cat-driven extinction emergency!

INVASIVES.ORG.AU

Pledge your support for ending Australia's cat-driven extinction emergency!

Cats have caused more environmental damage in Australia than any other country. Join thous...



Alex Gale

Councils Australia wide need to introduce cat registration and if it's out of your property it's feral. You want a cat, keep it inside or build a cat run or don't have a cat.



Richard Dobie

To be shot on sight !



Mick Peters

Well it's illegal now to ring a male cat or castrate it with the help of the old gumboot, its also highly expensive to desex a female cat, councils get bloody good money from rates and waste plenty of it on rubbish, they could subsidise desexing of cats if they really cared about natives.



James Moran

Kill em all

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats



James Moran
Steve Barallon Cut Nice



2y Like Reply



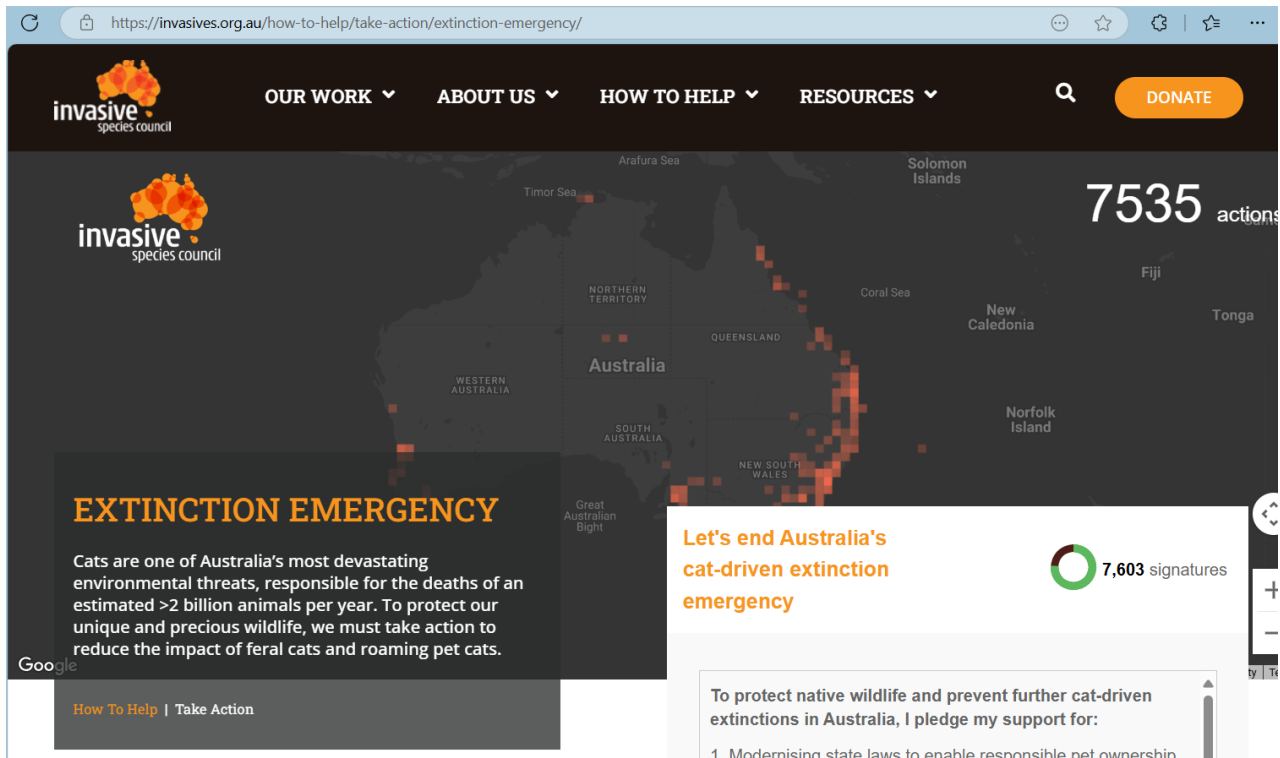
Leon Squires
Any cat off owner property it should be feral and put down

Concerns

- Title and leading words “cat-driven extinction emergency” is overstating threats
- “Cats have already driven 27 native animals to extinction since colonisation and now threaten at least 124 more native species at risk of extinction.” – incorrectly blaming cats for 27 extinctions {124?}
- Comment to “kill em all” is directly related/ influenced by the Smithsonian article “Australia’s Cats Kill Two Billion Animals Annually...” Mar 2021

Source ISC Webpage on Extinction Emergency

Post leads to webpage <https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/extinction-emergency/>



The Email / petition like text includes:

“To protect native wildlife and prevent further cat-driven extinctions in Australia, I pledge my support for:

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.”

Concerns re ISC webpage Extinction Emergency

- “Extinction Emergency” is used to garner support – this was two years ago, and there doesn’t appear to have been any new extinctions directly related and solely due to cats in this time, that is, significant population declines
- mandatory desexing has not been proven to be effective, while implemented in the ACT there has not been evidence-based research to suggest this is encouraging the usual segment of owners who do not desex their cats – punitive laws do not address the root causes
- mandatory containment has not been proven to be effective, while implemented Vic and SA, several councils in Vic have backed out from these obligations (eg Hume, Yarra, Hobsons Bay) there has not been evidence based research to suggest this is encouraging the usual segment of owners who do not contain their cats especially due to costs or restrictions on where they reside – punitive laws do not address the root causes
- misleading information

Jack Gough on greater bilby and pet cats May 2024 National ABC Television broadcast and radio stations

Source

<https://www.facebook.com/abcnews.au/videos/1776107772878901/>

Shown on ABC News in the morning, followed by a number of radio station segments



Concerns

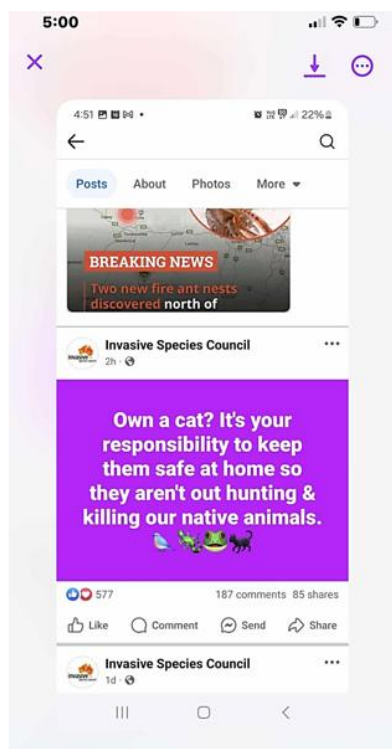
- May 2024 Jack went on a “mission” on TV and Radio stations nationally and in amongst it he claimed pet cats were threatening the greater bilby - but this poor animal is not in urban areas and it is the lesser bilby which is under most threat but not just from cats. “Around 1.30: “the greater bilby is directly under threat from pet cats” when greater bilbies reside in arid parts of northwestern and central Australia, not in the main cities where most domestic cats reside.
- Around 2.15: “and unfortunately about 70% of pets cats are allowed to roam... .. unfortunately every year in our suburbs a roaming pet cat kills around 110 native animals on top of a number of non native animals as well... they are incredible killers” - not based on strong evidence based research
- questionable fear mongering based on the supposed sighting of a “black panther” in Victoria

Re lesser bilby is threatened:

<https://invasives.org.au/blog/meet-the-27-native-animals-cats-have-helped-send-extinct-since-colonisation/>

ISC FB post Dec 2024 from Jack Gough following the 16 /12/2024 hearing

Source



Concerns

- short and blunt message, negative message, passive aggressive
- the main message is for the benefit of not hunting and killing native animals
- well known that dogs in backyards are very capable of harming and killing wildlife in their yards, or on walks off or on leashes

ISC Mar 2025 FB post re cats & NSW CA Act Review

Source



facebook

Log In

Invasive Species Council

Mar 22 · 🌐
Timeline photos

96 million native mammals, birds and reptiles are killed by roaming pet cats every year in NSW. 😞

We can't change the nature of cats. But we can change the law to make sure pet cats no longer roam, hunt and kill our unique wildlife. 🙏

The NSW government has just launched an inquiry into the laws that regulate pet cats across the state — the Companion Animals Act 1998. This is our chance to call for cat containment, a simple action that will have enormous benefits for our native wildlife. 🌿

This change would be a win for cat owners too. Evidence shows that pet cats that are responsibly kept at home can live up to 10 years longer than if they were free-roaming. 😊

If you're a resident of NSW, take action today!

🔗 <https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/cat-containment-nsw/>

Concerns

- “96 million native mammals, birds and reptiles are killed by roaming pet cats every year” – questionable number, and is an estimate, also misleading as there are likely to be more reptiles than mammals, and cats are likely to hunt small mammals, including rats and mice
- “can’t change the nature of cats” implies all cats are hunters which is often seen in social media comments
- “pet cats... can live up to ten years longer” is considered an extreme case not the average
- The FB post directs viewers to the

Source ISC Help Cat Containment Webpage

<https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/cat-containment-nsw-p/>

URGENT: OUR CHANCE TO STOP PET CATS KILLING WILDLIFE IN NSW

Around 96 million native mammals, birds and reptiles are killed by roaming pet cats every year in NSW. We can't change the nature of cats, but we have a huge opportunity to change the law to make sure pet cats no longer roam, hunt and kill our wildlife. Make a submission to the NSW Government review of the Companion Animals Act today!

[How to help](#) | [Take action](#)

Hundreds of thousands of roaming pet cats are sending our suburbs silent.

In 2023, damning research released by the Australian National University found that roaming pet cats kill around 66 million native animals each year in Sydney alone.

🔔 Time is running out to act! Make a submission to the NSW government today.

Includes:

“In 2023, damning research released by the Australian National University found that roaming pet cats kill around 66 million native animals each year in Sydney alone.

Sadly New South Wales has some of the most archaic cat management laws in the country. These laws not only allow pet cats to spend their time hunting and killing native animals, they actually prevent local councils from mandating that cats be contained!

This means communities are powerless to introduce one of the easiest and highest impact policies to protect local wildlife.

Now for the good news: the state government has just launched an inquiry into the law that regulates pet cats in New South Wales – the Companion Animals Act 1998. This is our opportunity to demand cat containment across the state — a simple action that will have enormous benefits for our native wildlife.

Cat containment would be a win for cat owners too. Evidence shows that pet cats that are responsibly kept at home can live up to 10 years longer than if they were free-roaming.

The only way we'll see change is to ensure there are thousands of submissions to the inquiry supporting pet cat containment.

You don't have to be an expert. We've made it easy to have your say and make a difference.

Together, we can ramp up pressure on the federal and state governments and make it clear that we want changes to the law for cat curfews, funding for responsible pet ownership initiatives like subsidised desexing and a streamlined pet identification and cat registration processes.

Help us make the call for laws that support responsible pet ownership so loud, it's impossible to ignore."

And the kit sent to one's email includes generated text:

You don't have to be an expert or have lots of time to do this - we just need as many people as possible to send a simple submission calling for local council's to be given the power to implement cat containment rules. We've pre-written a draft submission which you can just copy, paste and send or you can amend it to personalise the submission.

➡ **Step 1:** Create a new email and address it to ca_review@olg.nsw.gov.au

➡ **Step 2:** Add a subject line: Submission to Review of Companion Animals Act 1998

➡ **Step 3:** Copy and paste the suggested email text below into the body of your email.

➡ **Step 4:** Hit send and feel good about doing your bit!

Thank you!

Submission (COPY AND PASTE THIS INTO THE BODY OF YOUR EMAIL AND THEN MAKE CHANGES TO PERSONALISE IT)

Dear Office of Local Government,

Please accept this submission to the Companion Animals Act 1998 review.

As a resident of [REDACTED] and a cat owner, I am very concerned about the impact roaming pet cats are having on our native wildlife. I therefore support sensible amendments to the law to enable local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats, bringing NSW into line with almost every other state.

Cats are both valued companion animals and one of the world's most successful predators. In NSW, approximately 96 million native mammals, birds and reptiles are killed by roaming pet cats every year – with about 110 native animals killed by each roaming, hunting pet cat. Unfortunately about 70% of cat owners still allow their pets to roam.

We can't change the nature of cats, but we can change the culture that allows pet cats to roam and kill. We urgently need responsible pet ownership, and this starts with clear rules to ensure pet owners keep cats contained to their property to save our native wildlife.

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

We can't change the nature of cats, but we can change the culture that allows pet cats to roam and kill. We urgently need responsible pet ownership, and this starts with clear rules to ensure pet owners keep cats contained to their property to save our native wildlife.

This will also benefit pet cats. Cats that are kept at home are happy and can live up to 10 years longer than cats that roam which are often injured or killed through fighting, car accidents and disease.

This reform should be accompanied by funding for education, compliance and to make desexing and registration easier. We also need clear rules around desexing by 4 months of age to prevent unwanted breeding and requirements for all local governments to develop and implement companion animal management plans.

I am therefore calling on the NSW Government to support:

1. NSW Companion Animals Act to be amended to:

- allow councils to bring in and enforce cat containment rules.
- require councils to make a companion animals management plan every four years, as is required in Victoria.
- require all pet cats to be desexed by 4 months of age, with limited exceptions for licensed breeders.

2. Allocate funding of at least \$9 million to a statewide grant program to support councils in implementing and enforcing cat containment, desexing and registration.

3. Develop a state-wide education campaign and resources to increase cat containment, including extending the RSPCA Keeping Cats Safe at Home project.

Kind Regards,

Concerns re ISC Webpage Help Cat Containment Webpage

- similar concern that 66 million animals claimed for Sydney, when 96 million was previously estimated for the whole of NSW
- similar concerns re such a significant estimate considering Sydney is highly urbanised, most native animals will be in the NSW native bush parks
- the claim that "The only way we'll see change" is incorrect – there are evidence based research from other parties for domestic cats which should be considered by ISC, the public and the government
- it is considered that this is not fair nor reasonable that a well-funded organisation such as ISC can spend heavily on automated tools to "score" many submissions which are essentially similar to a petition based on misleading information
- similar concerns re the generated text sent in the kit as raised above

ISC April 2025 FB post re cats & NSW CA Act Review

Source

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1031768459153137&set=a.415950257401630>

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats



“Every year, roaming pet cats kill ~ 66 MILLION native animals just in Sydney!

We can't change the nature of cats, but we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the culture that allows them to roam, hunt and kill.

Right now, the NSW Government is reviewing the law which currently stops local councils from introducing responsible pet ownership laws.

We've made it easy for you to speak up for wildlife by making a submission in support of responsible pet ownership rules.

And it's not just great news for our native wildlife - pet cats that are responsibly kept at home can live up to 10 years longer than if they are allowed to roam.

Together let's create a safer environment for our native animals AND cats!”

<https://invasives.org.au/.../take.../cat-containment-nsw/>

FB Comments:

Daryl Sloan: Let's get real!

Cats should not be even allowed kept as pets in Australia. Cats are decimating incredibly vulnerable native animals in front of us today, tonight & tomorrow while authorities whistle in the wind.

Bring in a ten year private ownership ban & treat these animals as the introduced predatory invasive species they are.

Meanwhile we can focus on lowering feral numbers.

Wayne Walters: Put on a respectful bounty that's easy to collect and hunters will do the rest

Keith Dunn: Gippsland Lakes Recreational Fishing Alliance bullets are cheap

John Wood: Nil cats the best outcome !.

Lesley N Nye Keegan: Kerry Fagence When is the next cat shoot on?

Bruce Olsen: I like the way of eliminating these Feral or domesticated pests from Returning.....

Barbara Newman: All cats are tempted to dispose of Australian natives, therefore we must take action against the cats because the owners will not

Shannon Bartlett: Cats should be banned Australia wide and government should get behind a total and permanent eradication of them. Just like rabbits, cats need their own myxomatosis and the csiro should be fully funded to research such measures.

Concerns

- “66 MILLION native animals just in Sydney!” is questioned considering a the previous ISC post included 96 million across NSW, implying two thirds of the state total are in the largest metropolitan area which is highly urbanised,
- native habitat significantly restricted to NSW native parks and not where domestic pet cats reside
- lack of context with other significant threats such as foxes and dogs, and humans in cars
- intensive land clearing is constantly being carried out in the greater Sydney metropolitan area for huge housing estates and major infrastructure including new major roads and railway lines

ISC and Jack Gough Apr 27 2025 FB Post re Telegraph and NSW Councils support for mandatory containment

Source from Jack G FB post



Jack Gough • Following
CEO at Invasive Species Council
3h • Edited •

Important story about the need to keep cats at home to protect wildlife in today's [The Daily Telegraph](#).

15 local councils in NSW have joined the [Invasive Species Council](#) in calling on NSW Premier [Chris Minns](#) & Local Govt Minister [The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP](#) to change the law to allow councils to introduce rules to stop pet cats roaming and killing wildlife.

NSW and WA are the only states with laws that stop Local Councils bringing in cat containment rules for responsible pet ownership. It's time for change.

Here's an extract from [Emily Kowal](#)'s story:

Council's Blacktown Animal Rehoming Centre is inundated with cats and kittens all year round," a council spokesperson said. "We need to address the problem of cats breeding uncontrollably and filling up our shelters

"Council is asking for the Companion Animals Act to be updated to prevent cats from being allowed to roam outside their owner's property.

"We want to be on the right side of history to preserve Australia's wildlife and improve the welfare of all animals."

Invasive Species Council Advocacy Director Jack Gough said a "culture shift" needed to occur around how cats were treated.

"Cats are out killing millions of our native wildlife every day," Mr Gough said.

"Cats are out killing millions of our native wildlife every day," Mr Gough said.

"An amendment to the act would allow all councils to bring in and enforce cat containment laws and require all cats to be desexed by four months of age.

"This needs to be accompanied with support to enforce these changes.

"People want action, councils want action. Right now there are no rules about cat containment, it's a free for all, cats can roam and no one can do anything about it."

He said changes to the Companion Animal Act would be a "major success", and cats who were kept indoors lived about 10 years longer than those allowed to roam outside.

"(These changes to the act would be) a win-win for wildlife and pet owners."

Northern Beaches Council, Blacktown City Council, Willoughby City Council, Shoalhaven City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Wollongong City Council, Hornsby Shire Council, Narrabri Shire Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Local Government NSW

Lock up your cat at home 24/7
COUNCILS DEMAND TOUGH NEW PET LAWS

FAST FACTS THE FELINE TOLL

- 300m** native animals killed every year in Australia by roaming cats.
- 1.6m** pet cats live in NSW, and
- 4.9m** in Australia, according to Invasive Species Council.
- The council says on average, cats kill:
 - 2.92m** mammals
 - 1.67m** reptiles
 - 1.09m** birds
 - 2.97m** invertebrates in Australia every 24 hours.

Emily Kowal

Cats owners could soon be forced to lock up their kitties permanently, or face fines if their pets escape their home, with 15 NSW councils signalling their support for proposed changes to cat management laws.

The councils have made submissions to a NSW parliamentary inquiry into cat population management which is examining whether current containment policies for pets, desexing programs, and pound rescuing are effective in controlling breeding among feral cats and their toll on local wildlife.

Blacktown City Council wants the power to enact 24/7 cat curfews, as well as additional resources and funding to enforce rules.

"We also recommend providing funding to councils to give owners access to construct cat containment," the Council's submission reads.

Lake Macquarie council has pushed for cat curfews and desexing programs in their submission, while Narrabri council has advocated for the power to euthanise feral cats.

The Companion Animal Act under review currently prevents councils from implementing cat containment and curfews.

In submissions to the population management inquiry, the councils write that by amending the act it would allow them greater control over local cats, including implementing stronger containment measures like curfews, fines or indoor requirements.

Among the NSW councils which have signalled they will make changes to their cat ownership regulations if the act amendments happen are Northern Beaches Council, Willoughby City Council, Blacktown City Council, Shoalhaven City Council.

Blacktown City Council said it strongly supported the review and intends to tighten rules if the act is amended.

"Council's Blacktown Animal Rehoming Centre is inundated with cats and kittens all year round. We need to address the problem of cats breeding uncontrollably and filling up our shelters," a council spokesperson said.

"Council is asking for the Companion Animals Act to be updated to prevent cats from being allowed to roam outside their owner's property."

"We want to be on the right side of history to preserve Australia's wildlife and improve the welfare of all animals," Invasive Species Council Advocacy Director Jack Gough said a "culture shift" needed to occur around how cats are treated.

"Cats are out killing millions of our native wildlife every day," Mr Gough said.

An amendment to the act would allow all councils to bring in and enforce cat containment laws and require all cats to be desexed by four months of age. This needs to be accompanied with support to enforce these changes.

"People want action, councils want action. Right now there are no rules about cat containment, it's a free for all, cats can roam and no one can do anything about it."

He said changes to the Companion Animal Act would be a "major success". Cat owners who have their cat indoors live about ten years longer. This is a win-win for wildlife and pet owners.

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

Source from ISC FB post

Invasive Species Council 27 April at 13:47



Important story about the need to keep cats at home to protect wildlife in today's [Daily Telegraph](#).

15 local councils in NSW have joined the Invasive Species Council in calling on NSW Premier [Chris Minns](#) & Local Govt Minister [Ron Hoenig MP](#) to change the law to allow councils to introduce rules to stop pet cats roaming and killing wildlife.

NSW and WA are the only states with laws that stop Local Councils bringing in cat containment rules for responsible pet ownership. It's time for change.

There's still time to make a submission to the NSW Government inquiry into this issue - link in the comments.

Here's an extract from today's story:

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Concerns re post lead in:

- cat containment legislation does not address the root causes of roaming cats breeding
- mandatory cat containment does not address the number of cats roaming already and being abandoned by many
- removing roaming cats will not stop people from gaining free kittens and repeating the behaviour of allowing to roam and not desexing

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

Concerns re post comments from followers:



Daryl Sloan: Bonnie Wilson Yep, invasive, apex predatory animals they are.

If the cats not contained, it's a feral.

Wipe them out of Australia!

Kim Theurer: Sara White dont have a cat. Its pretty simple. Choose not to do whats required, no pet. So obnoxiously easy.

Julia Lee: Tori Welton what's disgusting is that you support BILLIONS of birds killed by invasives.

Adam Reddust: Were in the bush and Ive shot alot of cats. Caught cats taking down,bandicoots, baby possum's, kookaburras and stacks of lizards.. from cam fotage they appear to avoid the cane toads, so have either been taught, experienced sickness, or dont like the taste?

Christopher Nelson: Outlaw the bloody things shot plenty of the buggers

Deb Ashcroft: Christopher good on you!!

Peter Clark: unfortunately once you catch a cat in a trap and release it you will never trap it again and the cat will still return to hunt native fauna.... Contain your animal or lose it

Jamie Stokes: Just ban cats altogether

Andrew Lee: I remember in the 80s before the woke movement fox and cat skins were worth a lot of money. Bring in a bounty for cats fox's and dogs that will sort things out

Martin Richards: It's about time people's fluffy murdering balls of fluff,are contained 24 hours

Julia Lee: ... Why do you support the 30+ billion animals killed YEARLY directly by cats alone? Not including the millions killed by cat diseases and overfishing for the cat food industry.

If an animal were killing that many cats everywhere you'd be upset. Hypocrites.

Nic Vega: **Invasive Species Council we are STILL waiting on your response about why you silence those opposed to you and yet those who preach animal cruelty and confess to it are allowed to remain, unsilenced on the page?**

A Current Affair - perhaps this should be investigated.

Why are Government grants being used to fund an entity who supports animal cruelty and silences those who speak up against it?

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

I'd be checking that SGA and contract about the clauses surrounding this...

Are the board members and ambassadors aware of the stance this group is taking in vetting and silencing opposing opinions?

Is the Governmenr aware of their funds being used for poorly conducted, one sided studies?

Paul Collaros: This is far from correct and **sends out evil messages to Psychopaths!!**

It's humans that are and always have been the problem BUT we ALWAYS blame the poor old animals- Kangaroos,Koalas,Dingoes ,Foxes ,Pigs ,Brumbies etc etc

Land clearing,building,Logging,pollution,over population of humans ,huge mass fires are too blame !

This is barbarism,sadistic and incorrect!!

This page is evil !!

Nic Vega: [Tracey Slingerland](#) actually I have lived rural AND been bush - thanks for the assumption though.

You know what the BIGGEST damage makers are? Idiotic red necks with their guns.

The cats you speak of ARE feral, yes.

Is shooting them okay? Look unless you're a guaranteed 100% sharp shooter from 500m on a moving target - work with someone to trap them and humanely euthanise them.

It costs NOTHING to not be an a s s.

The issue is that most of the uneducated fools on here, along with owning guns and thinking they're John Wayne is that they DONT understand the difference between a cat roaming, a community cat maintained by colony feeders and feral cats.

Community cats, when maintained by colony feeders, have not been shown to kill native wildlife in the numbers and volume that this study claims.

I feel 2 colonies and over 25 cats and not ONCE have I found evidence at all of ANY avian or marsupial death over the last 18 months.

I also firmly believe in CONTAINING domesticated cats and I perform TNR on colonies to end the cycle and stop the ongoing breeding.

Sure, a cat will kill a bird or lizard from time to time - but show me a human who hasn't accidentally hit a bird, run over a snake or lizard etc.

Are we going out and shooting them?

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

Humans? The most destructive creatures?

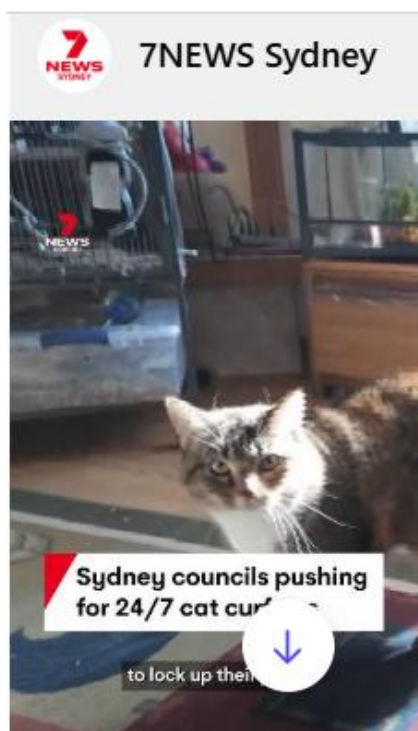
No!

Meow and Forever Cat Rescue: We would like to note that there are SEVERAL removed comments that combat and complain AGAINST the horrendous proposed acts of animal cruelty proposed by several members and posters on this group.

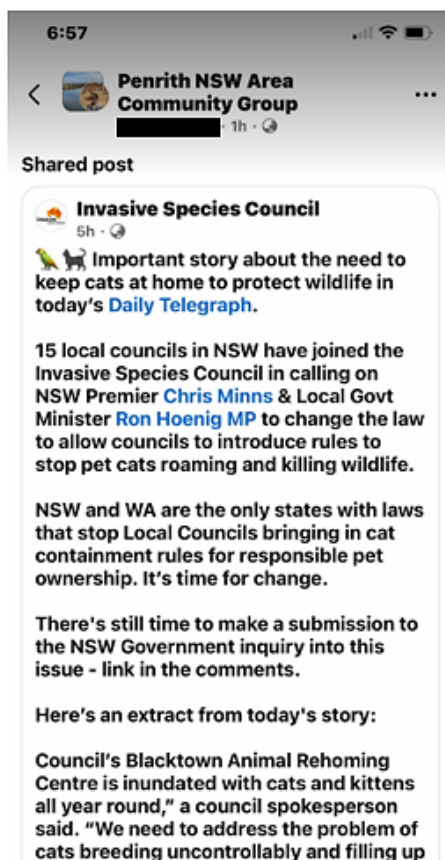
Yet the posts and comments of the proposed animal cruelty remain here.

Curious to know how your Government grant requirements align with this? Australian Government
Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Proliferated / shared by many other pages - example



Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats



CISS and Threatened Species Commissioner re Mandurah Fairy Terns March 2022 Facebook post

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

It appears the TSC Facebook page was transformed into the Invasive Species Solution Centre Facebook page. This not only implies a FB page name change, it also implies all the followers and members of the TSC group were inherited by the ISSC organisation.

ISC had a representative at a Hornsby Council Meeting June 2023 – where the Mandurah study was used to indicate the overstated impact of cats and claim that TNR as a practice does not work.

Source



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 (refer Hornsby Council Meeting as an example June 2023).

Concerns

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 Australian Geographic Aug 2019 re Mandurah Terns article also contains flaws

Source

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2019/08/a-single-cat-wiped-out-an-entire-colony-of-fairy-terns/>

Concerns

The link provided by the TSC, [fal.cn/3n7UU](https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2019/08/a-single-cat-wiped-out-an-entire-colony-of-fairy-terns/), is a related article by Australian Geographic (AG) “A single cat wiped out an entire colony of fairy terns” with a very questionable URL, 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.

Forbes article 26 April 2025 Mandurah Fairy Terns repeated & estimated numbers

Source

“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/>

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

Concerns

- repeating all the flaws as in the original articles

Centre for Invasive Species Solution Sep 2024 FB post re draft TAP

Source



Concerns

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:

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

N



Miran Hunziker
If its not microchipped it's feral:)

Like Reply 4w



2



Barry Sampson
If its not roams it's feral

Like Reply 4w



Michael Cherry
Mongrels, all cats ...

Like Reply 4w



David Henshall
Let's hope it succeeds.

Like Reply 3w



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

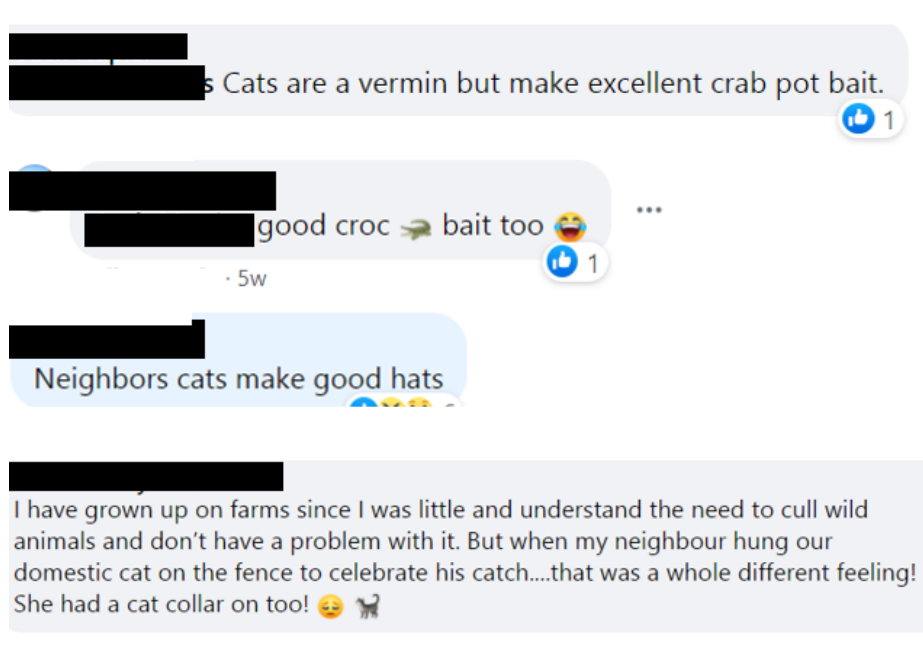
Like Reply 3w

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

EXAMPLES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS TRADITIONAL & SOCIAL MEDIA RE CATS

ABC Rural FB Page [date around or before Sept 2022]

Source



Concerns

- comments not moderated
- cruelty towards cats

ABC Radio National Feb 2025 Animals — Us and them? The cat catastrophe – pet or pest?

Source

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/bigideas/the-cat-catastrophe-pet-or-pest/104899540>

Mon 24 Feb 2025 at 12:31pm

Concerns

- the lead in includes: “Cherished companions, or cunning predators? Cats kill five million native animals in Australia every day — so how can we better manage our feline friends?”
- estimates not clarified

Phil Tripp Coffs Harbour NSW

Phil’s act of cruelty was first shown on social media on a Facebook post.

Source

The Daily Mail reported on the incident, unfortunately the Facebook group and post link is not available.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9816211/Man-70-charged-killing-stray-cat-online-post-showing-animal-drowning.html>



A social media post earlier this week showing a cat trapped in a cage led to a member of the public reporting the man to police

'The first feral cat of the season,' the text accompanying the post said.

warning cats.



One social media post appears to show a dead cat propped against a warning sign

The article includes:

"Filling the green wheelie bin with water so I can give it swimming lesson and mercifully euthanise it in 15 seconds in the sinking cat trap."

The man has since muted or deleted his numerous social media accounts.

Daily Mail Australia has seen earlier posts by the same person which displayed other instances of animal trapping."

"Earlier posts show another trapped feline and a dead cat propped on a sign"

Concerns

- The cat is obviously not feral, likely a roaming pet cat which may have not been microchipped, using the "feral" term was not appropriate
- drowning the cat was shared on Facebook
- the DM claimed they saw other instances of animal trapping
- the dead domestic cat was hung from a sign on his property

Darren April 2025 Guy who kills cats in SA

Source

Aussies Against Animal Abuse
April 23 at 12:40 PM · 🌐

DARREN KERRY - Kingscote, SA

Evil cat killer, came online to boast about the number of cats he has trapped, stolen and murdered.

Darren wrote: "I don't lobby waist of time I simply catch and kill cats in areas around towns and hang the collars on a tree. Use to send them in to council another waist of time."

In other conversations, he explained his hatred for cats and warned cat owners to keep their pets indoors, saying he's ready to hunt and kill them without mercy.

Darren James Kerry runs the business Kangaroo Island Mini Golf in Karatta, South Australia with 5 star reviews. He opened this business in 2024 with many unknowing customers, some who have cats spending money and time there.

Darren's profile: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1AK2fnES16/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Kangaroo Island Mini Golf
163 likes · 286 followers
18 hole mini golf course on Kangaroo Island's South Coast

Like WhatsApp

Posts About Photos Mentions

Author
Aussies Against Animal Abuse

Darren Kerry
I don't lobby waist of time I simply catch and kill cats in areas around towns and hang the collars on a tree. Use to send them in to council another waist of time 🇺🇸🇦🇺🐱

6d Like Reply 74 🗨️👍👎

Aussies Against Animal Abuse replied · 49 Replies

Author
Aussies Against Animal Abuse

Darren Kerry
AND Australian wild life rely on safe ground to live. If you're cats out at nights This big bad wolf is waiting. Lock cats in and make it your last cat, be a real Australian

1:27 4G

Aussies Against Animal Abuse
Business chat

reviews but FB is still up

<https://www.facebook.com/100077660521019/posts/pfbid06yXc8zqMJ11vfdmYzqYbZVpTUsfSn4u3LSge2RzXJtT7A6stqrHMwFnPP6FmLdzl/?>

\$25,000 to help save a species. Create a lasting impact for generations of Aussie devils.

Aussies spend millions on Easter chocolate... but what if some of that went t...

Facebook

Aussies Against Animal Abuse
Business chat

they're all anti cats

27 APR AT 16:35

Native animal annihilators

fucking cats (and I can't stress this enough) are an invasive species

Private group · 13.8K members

Join Group

About
An educational tag group and a place to rant about irresponsible cat ownership and strays etc.

Have you seen this group?

This is where the Darren Kerry post was shared

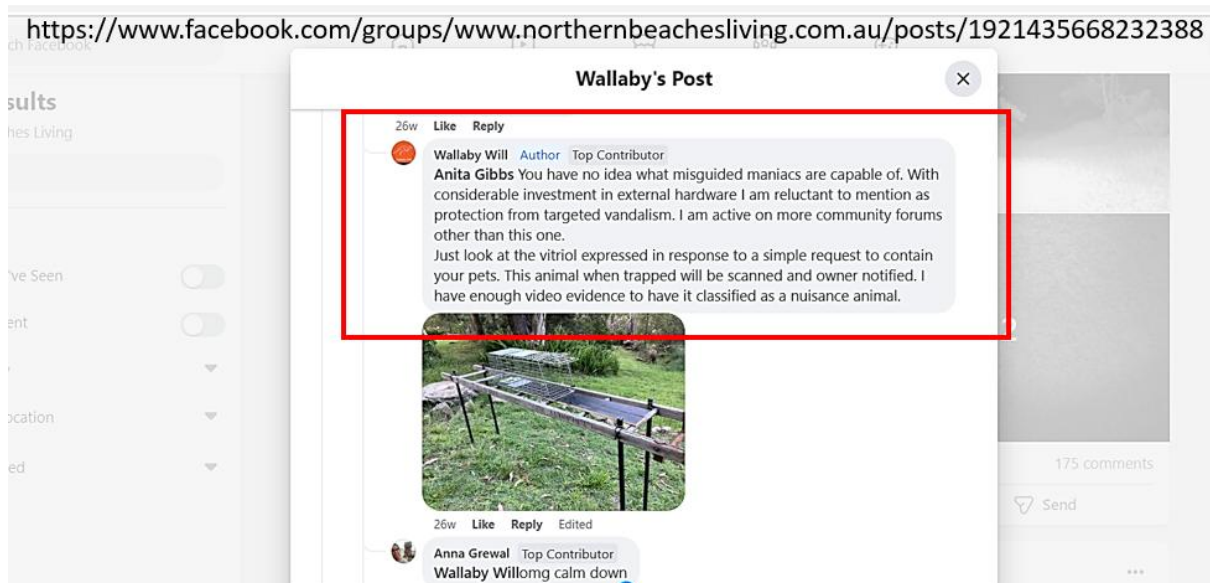
Concerns

- Obvious proud of killing cats even cats with collars ie pet cats
- Difficult to gain further evidence from the private/ secure page Native Animal Annihilators

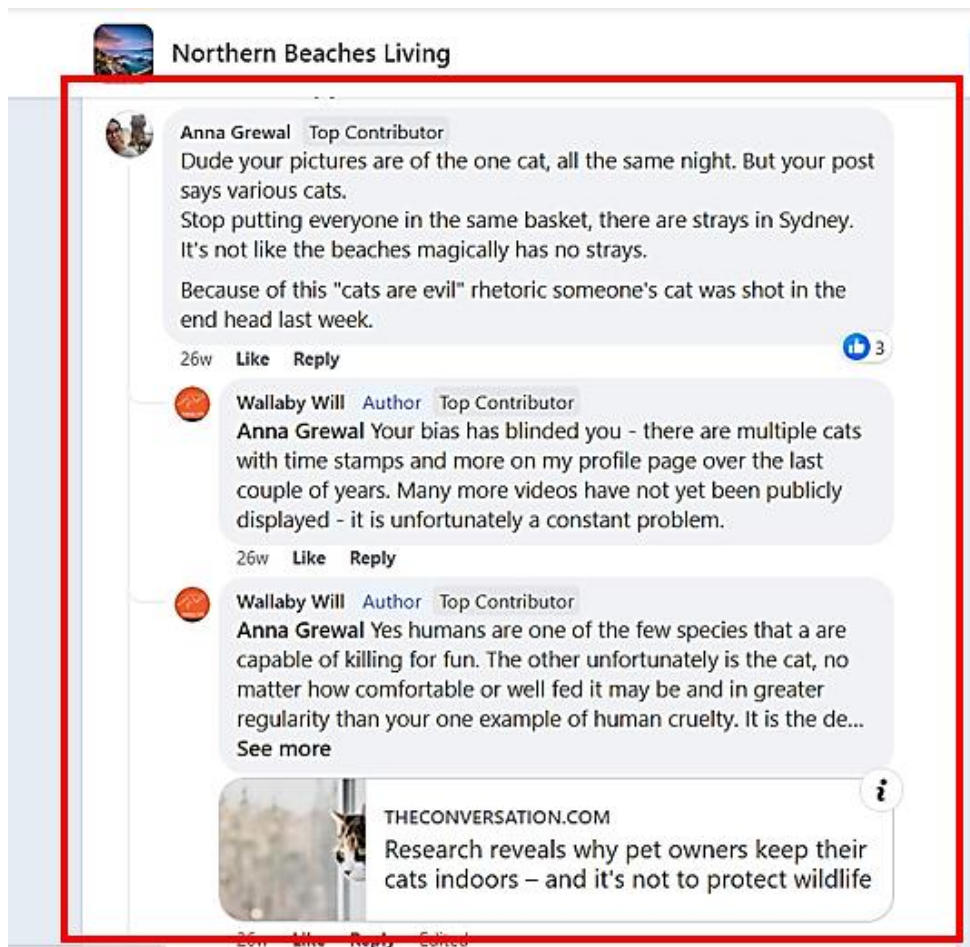
Wallaby Will Example

Source

Northern Beaches Living Facebook Group 30 May 2023



Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats



Concerns

- Wallaby Will (Ian Minus) blocks people who disagree with him, and offer Australia research that contradicts his view.
- from past posts, WW posts are influenced by Invasive Species information.

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats

- there is a noticeable level of anger in the comments directed towards all cats, cat rescuers/carers, and the Animal Justice Party, the latter two described as “the moggy lobby”.

Museums of Victoria 10 April 2025 FB post re Cats

Source

<https://www.facebook.com/museumvictoria>



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.

Summary of Concerns

Even a fairly “light” social post attracted anger and violence towards cats.

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



Ty-edward Devlin
They ALL need to die,,get rid of
them out of Australia

Invasive Species inspired misleading ways that influence cruelty to cats



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. [Link](#)

Damien Barber
Cat people are weird just like cats.

IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY RESCUERS & 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 and humanely minimise the impacts of cats, and reduce the impacts to wildlife.

“Rethinking Urban Cat Management—Limitations and Unintended Consequences of Traditional Cat Management” <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/15/7/1005>

“‘You can’t ban compassion’: helping stray cats is illegal in much of Australia – but for some, it’s worth the risk” <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2025/feb/23/you-cant-ban-compassion-helping-stray-cats-is-in-much-of-australia-but-for-some-its-worth-the-risk>

“The Impact of Lethal, Enforcement-Centred Cat Management on Human Wellbeing: Exploring Lived Experiences of Cat Carers Affected by Cat Culling at the Port of Newcastle”
<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/13/2/271>