



Mr Ted O'Brien MP

Chair

Inquiry into the problem of feral and domestic cats in Australia

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

On 26 August 2020, I appeared as a witness before the Inquiry into the problem of feral and domestic cats in Australia.

I provided an opening statement and said

*"Cats have been the primary contributors to more than 20 mammal extinctions since European settlement."*

I wish to clarify and amend the statement to "Cats have been implicated in more than 20 mammal extinctions since European settlement". The remainder of my opening statement, given at the Hearing, is correct.

During the hearing, Ms Zali Steggall OAM MP said in relation to the hunting instincts of cats

*"I imagine they've really honed their hunting instincts—that everything's gone back to primary instincts."*

As part of my response I said

*"As soon as a human's supplies of food are removed, that feral cat will look to other sources of food and other sources of live prey."*

I wish to correct this answer to "As soon as a human's supplies of food are removed, that domestic or stray cat will look to other sources of food and other sources of live prey". The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

I apologise for the error in my answer and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sally Box

Threatened Species Commissioner

Biodiversity Conservation Division

11 September 2020