

**Cat Submission:**

I am Mrs Barbara Fogarty. [REDACTED]

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\*I call for **stronger mandatory restrictions for cat owners to abide by**, that cat owners keep their cats in enclosed areas- day and night. **Cats are NOT a native animal in Australia, by nature they are a predatory animal. They openly hunt our native animals and birds.**

Our native animals need to nest and forage amongst the plants, trees and on the ground in Australian bushlands, and especially native planted gardens.

In our neighbourhood cats are allowed to roam at will, day and night.

This does NOT start to take account of the multitude of feral cats that are around this area- some of whom wander through our area at different times. In the past years after catching a cat in a trap (supplied by our local Council), when we took the cat to the pound we were told it had a ID and it was "allowed " to roam.

In our neighbourhood, native flowering plants have been planted, to encourage the birds.

People have observed the cats hunting and stalking the birds and lizards during the day.

After the aftermath of the horrendous bushfire season of 2019-20, the native birds and numerous animals of all sizes need to be able to nest/roost in the areas now available to them. In many areas that may be the ground because of the loss of above ground protection.

Please let's legislate for people to control the area cats wander in, by having special enclosed areas in their own homes and gardens.

If cats need to exercise outside, there is no reason why they can't be controlled by leads as in the case when exercising dogs.