



Birding NSW Inc

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The Hon Ms Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

24 October 2019.

Dear Minister,

RE: The law concerning feral and domestic Cats in NSW.

The central Coast Branch of Birding NSW has written, with great concern, of the continued sightings of roaming cats in bushland where critically endangered Regent Honeyeaters have been seen recently. On behalf of the entire membership of Birding NSW, I add our combined voice in asking for your intervention and a call for change.

As we understand it Councils do not have the power to insist that cats be restrained within the home. We do know, however, that some Councils in NSW have expressed a need for the law to be changed to make it illegal to allow a domestic cat to roam free.

The scientists of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and others, are now able to quantify the damage to wildlife done by cats, especially birds, and have stated that at least 1 million birds per DAY are taken across Australia by feral and roaming domestic cats. Those numbers are unsustainable and unless something is done to reduce or eliminate cats from the wild and urban habitats, we will see more and more species extinctions.

We fervently hope you can bring about this change. It is not too much to ask the owners of cats to keep them inside as we know many who do and all have contented animals in their care.

Please advise us if there is anything more we can do to strengthen your arguments for cats to be restrained.

Sincerely

Ian Bailey
Office of Conservation, Birding NSW.
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CC Mr Allan Benson Central Coast Branch, Birding NSW