



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)
PO Box 90,
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Email: council@qprc.nsw.gov.au
29 August 2024

Dear Councillors,

RE: QPRC's Draft Cat Containment Policy — LGA-wide

Congratulations to the Queanbeyan-Palerang Region Council for its past steps in implementing cat containment. The Conservation Council ACT Region welcomes the QPRC's new measure to extend its Cat Containment Policy to apply to all cats across the whole local government area (LGA).

As recognised in the policy material on your website and in our previous letter to you (dated 1 May 2023), cats hunt and kill native wildlife¹ and are a prime cause of the biodiversity extinction crisis². Containing cats is a positive step towards reducing their negative impact on wildlife and the associated financial costs of controlling invasive feral animals³.

The Conservation Council wholeheartedly supports the QPRC's proposal that:

"From 1 July 2026 all cats in the Local Government Area need to be contained".

This super-simple blanket approach to all cats and all residences will eliminate confusion and perceived unfairness. It will make compliance and enforcement straightforward. And, most importantly, it should have a real and measurable impact in reducing roaming and stray cat numbers, feral populations and their impact on local wildlife.

Cat containment is a cost-effective measure where the costs of containing animals are largely borne by the people choosing to own them. However, the QPRC should consider offering financial and/or

¹ Invasive Species Council, n.d., 'Cats in Australia', <https://invasives.org.au/our-work/feral-animals/cats-in-australia/>

² Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2021, 'Case Study: Cats are a major threat to Australia's biodiversity', Australia State of the Environment 2021, <https://soe.dcceew.gov.au/biodiversity/pressures/invasive-species-problematic-native-species-and-diseases#cats-are-a-major-threat-to-australias-biodiversity>

³ Bradshaw, CJA, & Hoskins, A, 2021, 'Pest plants and animals cost Australia around \$25 billion a year – and it will get worse', CSIRO, <https://blog.csiro.au/pest-plants-and-animals-cost-australia-around-25-billion-a-year/>

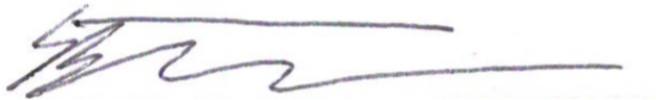
The Conservation Council ACT Region is the peak non-government environment organisation for the ACT region. Since 1981, we have spoken up for a healthy environment and a sustainable future for our region. We harness the collective energy, expertise and experience of our more than 40 member groups to promote sound policy and action on the environment. We campaign for a safe climate, to protect biodiversity in our urban and natural areas, to protect and enhance our waterways, reduce waste, and promote sustainable transport and planning for our city.

practical support to low-income households to build necessary structures to ensure pet cats are safely, hygienically and healthily contained.

To support implementing the LGA-wide cat containment policy, the Conservation Council recommends that the QPRC educate the community about responsible cat ownership including how to contain, register and desex pet cats, and what to do if cats are seen roaming the neighbourhood.

The Conservation Council congratulates the QPRC for showing leadership in implementing such a clear cat containment policy and suggests that the QPRC show the ACT and other local government councils how it should be done!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Copland', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Simon Copland
Executive Director