



19 July 2023

**Submission: Introduction of Wildlife Protection Areas
Record No: SU4914 - 29648/23, Council Meeting 20 July 2023**

Lane Cove Council,
The GM, Mayor and Councillors,

The Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society has for a very long-time supported the introduction of Wildlife Protection Areas (WPA) to better protect native species in our bushland reserves and urban areas from free-roaming predators (domestic and feral cats).

The Society writes to encourage you to support the motion for the Introduction of WPA under the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 without delay, to manage the impact of introduced predators on native wildlife. Lane Cove LGA is linked on all sides by bush corridors to Councils that introduced this measure over a decade ago, in fact North Sydney Council introduced WPA in 2008.

The educational components for pet owners that flow from the declaration of WPA for our reserves has the greatest impact on reversing local species decline and protecting not only our vulnerable little natives but are also shown to prolong the lives of pet cats.

Do read the link below: (shocking) research by Aust National Uni.

A recent Sydney Morning Herald article, based on research at ANU, estimates **pet cats kill “546 million animals a year in Australia, 323 million of which are native animals.”**

Of these, pet cats kill over 60 million native animals in each of Sydney and Melbourne urban areas. See link: [Domestic cat wildlife killings to surge unless tougher regulation introduced: ANU study \(smh.com.au\)](https://www.smh.com.au/national/domestic-cat-wildlife-killings-to-surge-unless-tougher-regulation-introduced-anu-study-20230714-p5c98g.html)

The article also talks about regulation of cats by local governments.

The LCBCS recommends that:

- 1. Councillors support the motion for the Introduction of WPA tonight. There is a clear moral imperative to introduce WPA at the meeting without a consultation period as the scientific research is so damning.** More native animals die while we sleep on it. Lane Cove may have lost countless (hundreds of thousands of?) of native birds and animals over the time it has delayed introducing WPA.
2. If the 6-week consultation period is upheld, measures must be in place to educate the residential population on the types & vulnerability of native species in bushland reserves and facts about WPA before a Survey begins: in letterbox drops, local media such as ‘the Village Observer’, ‘In the Cove’ website & Council publications, so that the aspects of WPA are well understood.
3. Methods are in place to confirm that only residents of Lane Cove are allowed to complete the Survey.
4. Supporting scientific research papers must accompany any further WPA Motions to Council
5. Lane Cove Council approach neighbouring Councils before the next 5 yearly revision of **the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998** to jointly petition NSW state government to implement

changes to the Act, already enacted in many Australian states (cat curfew laws on council land) - *See benefits listed below.*

Finally, the lack of WPA in Lane Cove Reserves allows Lane Coves free-ranging, non-native predatory pet and feral species to cross into neighbouring WPA bushland. LCC's studies show Wallabies in Lane Cove's Ventemans Reach, these have most likely hopped in from areas of National Park protection, Mowbray Park, the Lane Cove National Park, and both connected to Ferndale Park WPA. **Our international obligations also demand protection for migratory species.**

TOP BENEFITS OF KEEPING YOUR CATS INDOORS

<https://www.coopsandcages.com.au/blog/cat-curfew/>

- Protect cats from traffic.
- Stop your cat from running away, getting lost or being stolen.
- Protects wildlife. It's not just stray cats or feral cats that cause havoc! Domestic cats commonly hunt and injure local wildlife and native animals including birds and reptiles.
- Cats roaming are at higher risk of being exposed to fleas, ticks and diseases from other cats. This saves money on vet bills and helps pets live longer.
- Keeping cats safe from predators and stopping cat fights.
- Encourages responsible pet ownership by giving owners total control over where their cat is and what it eats.
- Allows owners to spend more time with their fur babies. Cats raised in containment are typically a lot calmer and a lot gentler.
- Keeps nuisance cats out of neighbours yards – digging up gardens and bothering other pets.

best wishes,
Shauna Forrest, President
on behalf of Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society