

<p>a. funding free desexing programs and education programs for pet owners, especially in areas with high dumping rates, and</p> <p>b. supporting more “pet-friendly” rental accommodation.</p>		
<p>140 Liverpool City Council - Stray cats in urban areas</p> <p>That Local Government NSW advocates for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tighter restrictions on cat owners (including that all cats to be microchipped and desexed) to be included in the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998; 2. Council to be funded to provide services that identify stray cats that are not microchipped, nor desexed and found on the streets, to be microchipped, desexed and housed until rehomed; and 3. Changes to be made to Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW) to permit the release of cats under a Trap Neuter Return Program. <p><i>This issue was also raised by Hornsby Shire and Central Coast Councils.</i></p>	<p>Letter to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP 	<p>In June 2021 LGNSW received a response from the Minister for Local Government, advising that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NSW Government is strongly committed to promoting responsible pet ownership and early age desexing is central to its approach in ensuring the welfare of cats. • To this end, last year annual permits were introduced for non-desexed cats. All cats not desexed by 4-months of age now require a permit at a cost of \$80 each year until the cat is desexed. This initiative will help to increase desexing rates and as a result prevent unwanted litters, ease the burden on pounds and shelters, reduce euthanasia rates, and address concerns about feral and stray cats and their effect on native wildlife. • Councils receive significant ongoing revenue from the Companion Animals Fund (Fund) to undertake companion animals’ functions, drawing on local registration fees and annual permit fees for this purpose. Any money paid to a council from the Fund can only be used by the council for the management and control of companion animals in its area. • With the support of a NSW Environmental Trust grant, RSPCA NSW is leading a four year behaviour change project which aims to reduce the devastating impact of pet cats on wildlife by promoting best practice methods of containing cats to the owner’s property.