



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**13 November 2018**

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Asked by CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA:

In relation to: EPSDD offered to provide documents on cat containment policy

**MS LE COUTEUR:** Thank you. I was wondering what work was being done on looking at the effectiveness of the cat containment policy. Things like impact on wildlife? What deaths are reported? How many cats have been contained by ACT government? Yes, et cetera.

**Mr Tomlinson:** Heather Tomlinson, Senior Manager, Nature Conservation Policy. On cat containment, the TCCS, Transport Canberra and City Services, thank you, has portfolio responsibility for that. In terms of specific research it is very, very, difficult because there is cat containment policy, which makes—is in certain suburbs, so it is in about eight to 10 per cent of our current suburbs. But there is also a lot of voluntary cat containment. It is increasing all the time. With an understanding within the community about the importance of the safety and the health and wellbeing of the cat is often occurs when it is cat contained.

We—so we have done any specific research within the ACT. However, I am also a participant on cross jurisdictional task force that—it is called the Feral Cat Taskforce and it is chaired by the Australian Species Commissioner. But more and more they are looking at cat management holistically. But there is jurisdictional representatives on that as well as representatives from the research field and land management. So it is quite a good cross pollination of policy land management practices, as well as a lot of the new research in terms of feral cat control.

And there, there is a lot of sharing, from other jurisdictions in particular, about impact of cats on threatened species or wildlife. So we are drawing on that knowledge. And there has been published research papers about the impacts. So we could provide those, some of those documents.

**MINISTER GENTLEMAN:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The following is some research undertaken on impact, management and ecology associated with cats *Felis catus* in Australia, including one research paper on predation by house cats in Canberra:

Published 20 June 2018

**How many reptiles are killed by cats in Australia?**

J. C. Z. Woinarski, B. P. Murphy, R. Palmer, S. M. Legge, C. R. Dickman, T. S. Doherty, G. Edwards, A. Nankivell, J. L. Read and D. Stokeld

Wildlife Research 45(3) 247 - 266

Published 16 March 2017

**Habitat preference for fire scars by feral cats in Cape York Peninsula, Australia**

Hugh W. McGregor, Hannah B. Cliff and John Kanowski

Wildlife Research 43(8) 623 - 633

Published 30 March 2016

**Predation by feral cats key to the failure of a long-term reintroduction of the western barred bandicoot (*Perameles bougainville*)**

Jeff Short

Wildlife Research 43(1) 38 - 50

Published 23 May 2000

**The impact of cats and foxes on the small vertebrate fauna of Heirisson Prong, Western Australia. II. A field experiment**

Danielle A. Risbey, Michael C. Calver, Jeff Short, J. Stuart Bradley and Ian W. Wright

Wildlife Research 27(3) 223 - 235

Published 17 February 2016

**Amplified predation after fire suppresses rodent populations in Australia's tropical savannas**

Lily Leahy, Sarah M. Legge, Katherine Tuft, Hugh W. McGregor, Leon A. Barmuta, Menna E. Jones and Christopher N. Johnson

Wildlife Research 42(8) 705 - 716

Published 20 February 2015

**Effects of low-level culling of feral cats in open populations: a case study from the forests of southern Tasmania**

Billie T. Lazenby, Nicholas J. Mooney and Christopher R. Dickman

Wildlife Research 41(5) 407 - 420

Published 14 December 2011

**Estimating and indexing feral cat population abundances using camera traps**

Andrew Bengsen, John Butler and Pip Masters

Wildlife Research 38(8) 732 - 739

Published 11 May 2016

**Fire and grass cover influence occupancy patterns of rare rodents and feral cats in a mountain refuge: implications for management**

Peter J. McDonald, Alistair Stewart, Andrew T. Schubert, Catherine E. M. Nano, Chris R. Dickman and Gary W. Luck

Wildlife Research 43(2) 121 - 129

Published 17 February 2016

**Toxic Trojans: can feral cat predation be mitigated by making their prey poisonous?**

J. L. Read, D. Peacock, A. F. Wayne and K. E. Moseby

Wildlife Research 42(8) 689 - 696

Published 24 May 2001

**Population dynamics, diet and aspects of the biology of feral cats and foxes in arid South Australia**

John Read and Zoë Bowen

Wildlife Research 28(2) 195 - 203

Published 30 December 2002

**Impact of rabbit haemorrhagic disease on introduced predators in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia**

C. Holden and G. Mutze

Wildlife Research 29(6) 615 - 626

Published 21 July 2009

**Movement patterns of feral predators in an arid environment – implications for control through poison baiting**

K. E. Moseby, J. Stott and H. Crisp

Wildlife Research 36(5) 422 - 435

**Havens for threatened Australian mammals: the contributions of fenced areas and offshore islands to the protection of mammal species susceptible to introduced predators**

Sarah Legge, John C. Z. Woinarski, Andrew A. Burbidge, Russell Palmer, Jeremy Ringma, James Q. Radford, Nicola Mitchell, Michael Bode, Brendan Wintle, Marcus Baseler, Joss Bentley, Peter Copley, Nicholas Dexter, Chris R. Dickman, Graeme R. Gillespie, Brydie Hill, Chris N. Johnson, Peter Latch, Mike Letnic, Adrian Manning, Erin E. McCreless, Peter Menkhorst, Keith Morris, Katherine Moseby, Manda Page, David Pannell and Katherine Tuft

Wildlife Research (Online Early)

Published 19 May 1997

**Predation by House Cats, *Felis catus* (L.), in Canberra, Australia. I. Prey Composition and Preference**

D. G. Barratt

Wildlife Research 24(3) 263 - 277

Published 29 November 2002

**Social and genetic analysis of a population of free-living cats (*Felis catus* L.) exploiting a resource-rich habitat**

Elizabeth Denny, Paul Yakovlevich, Mark D. B. Eldridge and Chris Dickman

Wildlife Research 29(4) 405 - 413

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date: 26/4/18

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA

