



Striking the balance — WPAs and your cat

Council uses remote night-vision-enabled cameras to help monitor wildlife diversity in bushland.

These cameras have recorded numerous native animals, including rare and recently returned species such as the Superb Lyre Bird, however they have also captured regular presence of feral and domestic cats in these reserves.

To address this issue, Council undertakes trapping programs to remove these cats from WPA designated bushland reserves.

Owners of pet cats living near a WPA need to ensure their pets don't enter these special bushland areas.

Council's bushland WPAs and community education programs aim to strike a balance between responsible cat ownership and the protection of our local native wildlife – helping to ensure healthy populations of native fauna for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Reduce the pet threat! What can you do to help?

Follow these easy steps to help balance the needs and rights of wildlife, cats, cat owners and their neighbours:

- If you live near a WPA ensure your cat doesn't enter the bushland area
- Consider installing a cat enclosure*
- Keep your cat under effective care and control at all times, especially at night
- Provide a stimulating indoor environment for your cat
- Have your cat/s de-sexed
- Never dump unwanted kittens
- Don't feed stray cats—report strays to Council
- Attach a minimum of two bells to your cat's collar
- If your cat brings home injured wildlife, contact:
 - Wildlife Information & Rescue Service (WIRES) on 1300 094 737
 - Sydney Metro Wildlife Services (SMWS) on 9413 4300 for assistance

*Note you may need approval from Council to build fence extensions or cat enclosures.

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

200 Miller St, North Sydney NSW 2060
Ph 02 9936 8100
www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au



Did you know you are a Wildlife Protection Area neighbour?



Protect your cat Protect our wildlife Information for cat owners





Birds like the beautiful Spotted Pardalote are vulnerable to cat predation (Photo courtesy of Peter Smith)

Long-nosed Bandicoots, possums and other nocturnal species fall prey to cats roaming at night (Photo courtesy of Warringah Council)

Where is your cat right now?

Around one-third of all residences adjoining urban bushland own a cat. Although destruction of wildlife is largely blamed on feral cats, it is important to realise that even well fed pets are instinctive hunters and will attack, kill or injure wildlife.

If you own a cat, then you're already an animal lover. Help protect our local wildlife whilst keeping your cat safe and happy!

North Sydney's bushland

North Sydney Council's bushland reserve system covers around 49Ha spread across 14 reserves.

Our bushland reserves support an amazing diversity of species including

- 12 different vegetation communities
- over 347 native plant species
- more than 190 different species of native wildlife.

Why do we need Wildlife Protection Areas?

North Sydney has small and fragmented bushland areas. Located within urban environments these bushland reserves are constantly exposed to damaging impacts including:

- dumping of green waste, soil & rubbish
- tree vandalism
- hunting by introduced pests such as foxes and feral cats.

Hunting by introduced pests has the greatest impact and feral cats have been shown to prey on between 700 –1,000 native animals every year.

Stray cats, such as dumped and lost domestic cats add to feral cat numbers causing additional harm to wildlife.

Wildlife Protection Areas (WPAs) provide a refuge for our native wildlife where the impacts of these threats can be managed.



Councils designate bushland as a WPA so as to enable a greater level of protection to native wildlife from the adverse impacts of cat predation.

Blue-tongues and other lizards often fall prey to cats roaming during the day

Wildlife Protection Areas in North Sydney

North Sydney Council has designated 5 bushland reserves as Wildlife Protection Areas. These include:

1. **Tunks Park, Cammeray**
2. **Primrose Park, Cremorne**
3. **Balls Head Reserve, Waverton**
4. **Badangi Reserve, Wollstonecraft**
5. **Gore Cove Reserve/ Smoothey Park, Wollstonecraft**



WPA reserve signage

Keep your cat safe and help protect our native wildlife by keeping your cat out of these areas.

North Sydney Council conducts regular monitoring of WPA reserves. If your cat is found in a WPA, it will be impounded and you may be fined.