



RACHEL NOLAN MP

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NOLAN CALLS FOR CAT RESTRICTIONS TO PROTECT NATIVE ANIMALS

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Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan today called on Ipswich and other councils to follow the Toowoomba City Council's lead by protecting native animals through restrictions on domestic cats.

Her call follows Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke's announcement on Channel 7 news last night that the Gold Coast is considering a system whereby cat owners, like dog owners before them, will have to register their animals as well as having them de-sexed and keeping them inside at night.

"Cats make great pets but left free to roam they're killing machines for native animals," Ms Nolan said.

"Cats are known to kill possums, wallabies, gliders, bilbies and ground dwelling birds."

"And if they're not de-sexed a single female cat can produce up to 41 kittens in a year."

"While studies of domestic cats have differed in just how much impact the average cat has, there is no doubt that most cats kill wildlife and that wildlife is always reduced in suburbs and bushland near suburbs because of the impact of cats."

"Since White Settlement Australia has lost dozens of species of native animals and in many cases scientists have proven cats are to blame."

"As South East Queensland grows there will be many more suburbs bordering bushland. If we're going to give future generations a chance to know and love Australian animals the way we do, we need to get serious about protecting the bush and the animals in it."

"I'm sure people will say that their cat's harmless and that this is government regulation gone mad but no-one blinks at having to register a dog and the protection of the environment achieved by this change would be great."

"Just because you don't see the inside of your cat's stomach doesn't mean it's not killing native animals at night."

Ms Nolan made her call after discussions with Ipswich's famous "bilby man" Frank Manthey who, in his efforts to protect Australia's endangered bilbies, has become more aware than anyone of the devastating impact cats have on native wildlife.

"Frank showed me a picture of a dead cat which had 14 bilbies in its stomach."

“When you’ve seen that you just can’t ignore this problem. You can’t say on one hand that you care about Australian animals and on the other that cats should be allowed to roam free.”

“Australia is a beautiful country with unique wildlife. Placing reasonable limits on our own pets is not too much to ask to protect that wildlife for the future.”

NB : specific details about cat impacts are from

<http://www.biodiversity.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/cat-impacts/domestic-stray.html>