



The Hon Tony Perrett MP
Minister for Primary Industries

Our ref: CTS 04004/25

17 MAR 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2025 regarding petition 4188-24 Cats - A Biosecurity Hazard received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 5 December 2024.

The Crisafulli Government takes Biosecurity seriously, that is why the Government is investing in an additional 100 Biosecurity officers to strengthen our biosecurity capability.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) provides for the management of invasive plants and animals in Queensland. Under the Act, landholders have a general biosecurity obligation in which they must take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk that invasive plants and animals pose, including by feral cats.

Cats (*Felis catus* and *Prionailurus bengalensis* x *Felis catus*), other than a domestic cat, are already restricted invasive animals Category 3, 4 and 6 under the Act. Under the Act a feral cat must not be moved, fed, given away, sold or released into the environment.

Category 5 restricted matter under the Act means the matter cannot be kept in the person's possession or under the person's control. In this way Category 5 restricted matter is not considered appropriate for feral cats because a cat under a person's control would be considered kept or a domestic cat. Please note the feral cat differs little in appearance from its domestic counterparts.

Further information on feral cats is available online at www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/animals/invasive/restricted/feral-cat.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely

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