



# Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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**Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow**

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10 July 2025

Dear Dr Dillon

## **BMCC Draft Companion Animals Management Plan 2025-2029.**

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (the Society) is a community-based, volunteer organisation with over 900 members. Our mission is to help protect, conserve and advocate for the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

The Society strongly supports the Wildlife Protection Key Actions in the BMCC Draft Companion Animals Management Plan 2025-2029. We particularly support:

*Action 4.3: Promote cat containment as best practice cat management, and*

*Action 4.5: Advocate for strengthening of cat management regulations in the Companion Animals Act 1998, particularly as it relates to restricting roaming cats and the requirement for cat containment on the owner's property.*

The Society also requests a commitment from BMCC to amend the Plan if changes are made to NSW legislation to allow council to enforce containment of cats (as in Action 4.5). Any amendments should occur as soon as the legislative changes are made and not wait until the review in 2029.

One aspect of concern is the limited availability for surrendered animals at the Blue Mountains Animal Care Centre. The draft Plan states that “*BMACC only*

*accepts surrendered animals in exceptional circumstances. Two spaces are allocated with a waiting list in place.* The Society understands that the primary purpose of the Centre is to operate as a pound for stray cats and dogs. However, the Society believes there should be greater capacity for surrendered animals within the LGA and this should be prioritised over accepting dogs from other pounds or animal facilities beyond the LGA. A lack of available placements for surrendered dogs and cats increases the likelihood that unwanted pets will be dumped into bushland areas, increasing the risk of these animals becoming feral pests and impacting on wildlife.

The Society has been approached by several members concerned about the 28-day exhibition period for the draft Plan. The management of companion animals has been a key issue for the local community. Many community members actively campaigned to ensure that the BMACC was established. The Society has been actively advocating during past Council elections for improved management of domestic cats including the adoption of containment policies and amendments to State legislation. Given the strong community interest in the issues raised in the draft Plan, the Society requests that the exhibition period is extended to 3 months.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan.

If you have any queries regarding this submission, please contact me on [president@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:president@bluemountains.org.au) .

Yours sincerely



Annette Cam  
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Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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