



# WAFCWG

WA Feral Cat Working Group

*Protecting WA's Biodiversity*

## Meeting 14 Communiqué

*A Working Group to improve native fauna conservation trajectories with a focus on effective and humane management of feral cats.*

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Working Group's meeting as well as other important information.

**Date:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Location:** all on-line, via Teams

**Organisations represented:** WAFCWG, Natural Resource Management WA, National Feral Cat Taskforce, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Bush Heritage Australia, and Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and WA Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI). Invited guests from Cat Laws and Wildlife Survival (sponsored by Oyster Harbour Catchment Council).

The December WA Feral Cat Working Group Meeting (#14) received information from our Executive Officer on workshops and presentations delivered. There was an update on our funding status and an update on the research pillar. There was guest presentation from [Cat Laws and Wildlife Survival](#) for their "Perils of Ferals" project. There were also updates from Working Group members.

### Summary of Matters for Discussion:

1. Research projects have been presented to some interested funding partners. Further conversations are still required. This is progressing.
2. Funding for the Working Group ceases 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. It remains a priority to source longer term funding to enable the coordination of information, research and feral cat program activity in WA.
3. There are several local governments that have expressed a commitment to better manage cats in their jurisdictions. Working Group members continue to provide advice and to deliver presentations to local government and to stakeholders responsible in this area.

### Summary of Matters for Noting:

- Cat Laws and Wildlife Survival (CLAWS), Project Officer, Cassie Dressler, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc. presented on their project funded under their Round 1, State Feral Cat Management Grant; "Perils of Ferals" – Feral Cat Control Education. The project has had several community outreach events including a dedicated art exhibition showcasing artists' visions of a landscape free from feral cats, school incursions and other local workshops and forums. A commissioned artwork will be converted into signs and posters for use in the community to help provide education on the impacts of feral cats on native species.
- The Working Group's interactive website has been made more prominent on our [webpage](#). We ask that any new projects underway on feral cat management as well as related research are added, so the broader community can see the action taking place in WA. Site-locations can be made broad in-case of confidentiality concerns.

## Highlights of working group activities:

### **WAF CWG**

- Helped deliver “train-the-trainer” workshops in Albany and Coolup in September 2024 in collaboration with Gillian Basnett, [The National Feral Cat and Fox Coordinator program](#).
- Delivered a presentation to the [South Coast Threatened Species Forum](#) in collaboration with Gillian Basnett; “Increasing community capacity to effectively manage cat impacts across Australia and WA through collaborative coordination and communication”.
- Attended the [Australasian Wildlife Management Society Conference](#) in Fremantle, WA and delivered a talk in the symposium session “Desperate Measures”, with a talk titled “Fifty Shades of Stray: Are we desperate enough to allow cat management in WA?”

### **Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

- State Feral Cat Coordinator has had meetings both online and face-to-face with ranger groups to discuss Traditional Owner intent, planning and barriers.
- Planning feral cat control in the regions with more Eradicat® treatment rounds and conversing with proponents that are showing an appetite in Northern WA for feral cat control.

### **Australian Wildlife Conservancy**

- Felixer traps have been deployed in feral cat activity hotspots at Paruna and Mt Gibson wildlife sanctuaries in WA to determine their efficacy as a tool for feral cat control. A trial program into feral cat control at Mt Gibson comparing Felixers and traditional methods, resulted in a confirmed 23 cats removed from the greater sanctuary; 11 via Felixer, 11 via cage trapping, and one via aerial baiting.

### **National Feral Cat Task Force**

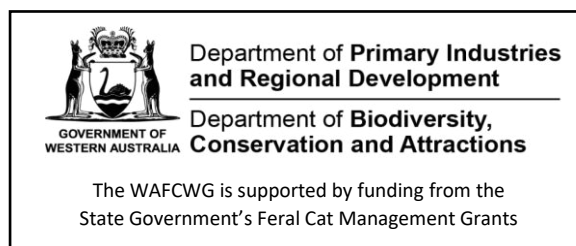
- Represented WAF CWG at the National Feral Cat Task Force in October in Canberra and distributed the Meeting 16 [Communiqué](#) to our Working Group.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at WABSI

## Note

This communiqué presents a synthesis of the meeting and should not be taken to represent the position of any individual Feral Cat Working Group member.



Susan Hunt AM PSM

Chair, WAF CWG