

Sydney Olympic Park Authority Policy

Policy Name	Environmental Management: Cat Management Policy
Policy No.	POL14/3
Department File No.	F14/929
Business Unit	Asset Management & Environmental Services
Officer Responsible	Senior Manager Environment & Ecology
Approving Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date of Approval	October 2015

Version	Review	Date	Approved by:
1		October 2015	CEO
	Reviewed	February 2016	
	Reviewed	June 2018	Director Environment & Planning
	Reviewed SM Environment & Ecology	August 2019	ED Asset Management & Environmental Services

CAT MANAGEMENT POLICY

Introduction

This policy sets Sydney Olympic Park Authority's approach to managing cats within the precinct.

Sydney Olympic Park supports over 200 species of native birds, frogs, bats, possums and lizards, and contains over 300 hectares of threatened species habitat. Predation by feral and domestic cats presents a threat to the Park's native wildlife.

The Authority's policy aims to:

- Protect native wildlife
- Prevent development of feral cat populations within the Park
- Protect welfare of cats
- Support responsible pet ownership

Policy Position

Sydney Olympic Park Authority supports management of domestic and feral cats in accordance with legislative provisions of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 (CAA)*:

1. Cats are prohibited from the following public places (CAA s30(1)):
 - a. Within 10 metres of apparatus provided at food preparation or consumption areas, including picnic tables, barbecues, and outdoor dining areas (excluding public pathways and roadways).
 - b. Declared Wildlife Protection Areas. Map 1 identifies declared Wildlife Protection Areas at Sydney Olympic Park.
2. Notification of Wildlife Protection Areas
 - a. Wildlife Protection Areas will be signposted.
 - b. Adjoining residents will be informed of wildlife protection areas through a targeted community awareness program
3. Within prohibited public places (CAA s30(1),(3)):
 - a. All cats are prohibited.
 - b. Any person (including Sydney Olympic Park Authority staff or agents) may catch and impound cats found within these areas.
 - c. Sydney Olympic Park Authority may set cage traps within such areas to humanely capture cats.

- d. Where the owner of a cat is present, an authorised officer of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority may seize and impound a cat if the owner fails to remove it after being directed by the officer to do so.
 - e. Cats found attacking or harassing an animal (other than vermin) within a wildlife protection area may be seized or destroyed by Authority staff or agents if there is no other reasonably practical way of protecting the animal (CAA s32(4)).
4. Handling of impounded animals (CAAs62, s63, s63(A),s64, s65)
- a. Impounded cats will be transported to an approved premise (a local veterinary hospital), where they will be checked for identification.
 - i. Where an animal has identification, the owner will be contacted and may collect the animal from the veterinary hospital. The owner is responsible for meeting costs charged by the facility for caring for the animal. Any unregistered cat must be microchipped and registered prior to its release.
 - ii. Where the owner does not collect the animal within 24 hours following delivery of the animal, it will be transferred to an impounding facility, the owner formally notified, and the animal held for the prescribed period.
 - b. Cats without identification but assessed as being domestic will be transported to an impounding facility and held for the prescribed period.
 - c. Cats assessed by a veterinarian to be feral (due to absence of identification and behavior) or dependent young, may be euthanised (CAA s64(2))
5. The Authority may issue fines to owners of cats found within Wildlife Protection Areas (CAA s30(2)). Fines will be considered where a cat is found within a Wildlife Protection Area on more than one occasion.

Policy Basis

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* and *Companion Animals Regulation 2008* provide the legislative framework for protecting pets, owners, wildlife and the wider community. These outline the duties and responsibilities of owners and others in charge of domestic cats, and the actions and penalties that can be enforced if owners do not comply with these requirements.

Irresponsible cat ownership has a large impact on the wider community. However, there is no legal requirement for a cat to be secured inside a private property. This allows cats to wander or roam onto neighboring lands, where they may hunt and kill native wildlife. Roaming domestic cats, particularly if not wearing a collar, may be difficult to distinguish from feral or dumped cats, which are wholly dependent

upon predation to survive.

Sydney Olympic Park contains a rich biodiversity, supporting over 200 species of native birds, frogs, bats, possums and lizards, and contains over 300 hectares of threatened species habitats. The Park's wildlife is at risk of predation from feral and domestic cats. Increasing levels of residential development within and adjacent to the Park is linked to increased sightings of cats within the Park's habitats.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority has a number of duties and obligations for Park management as the owner and manager of the place, and has developed this Policy in response thereto.

The following key statutory sources and practice standards are driving this Policy:

- Obligation to protect the environment within the parklands (s28 of the *Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001*)
- Predation by feral cats is listed as a 'key threatening process' under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and also under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.
- SOPA is a 'local authority' within the meaning of the *NSW Companion Animals Regulation 2008* (cl 29(1)(b)) for lands within Sydney Olympic Park.
- Provisions of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998* relating to registration and identification of cats, and to the management of cats in public places.

Contact Officer

Senior Manager Environment & Ecology
Sydney Olympic Park Authority
5 Olympic Boulevard
Sydney Olympic Park 2127
9714 7300
enquiries@sopa.nsw.gov.au

DECLARATION UNDER NSW COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998

The land shaded in green on drawing 001-GG-0283, titled 'Wildlife Protection Areas' is declared a prohibited public place under section 30(1)(b) of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998*.

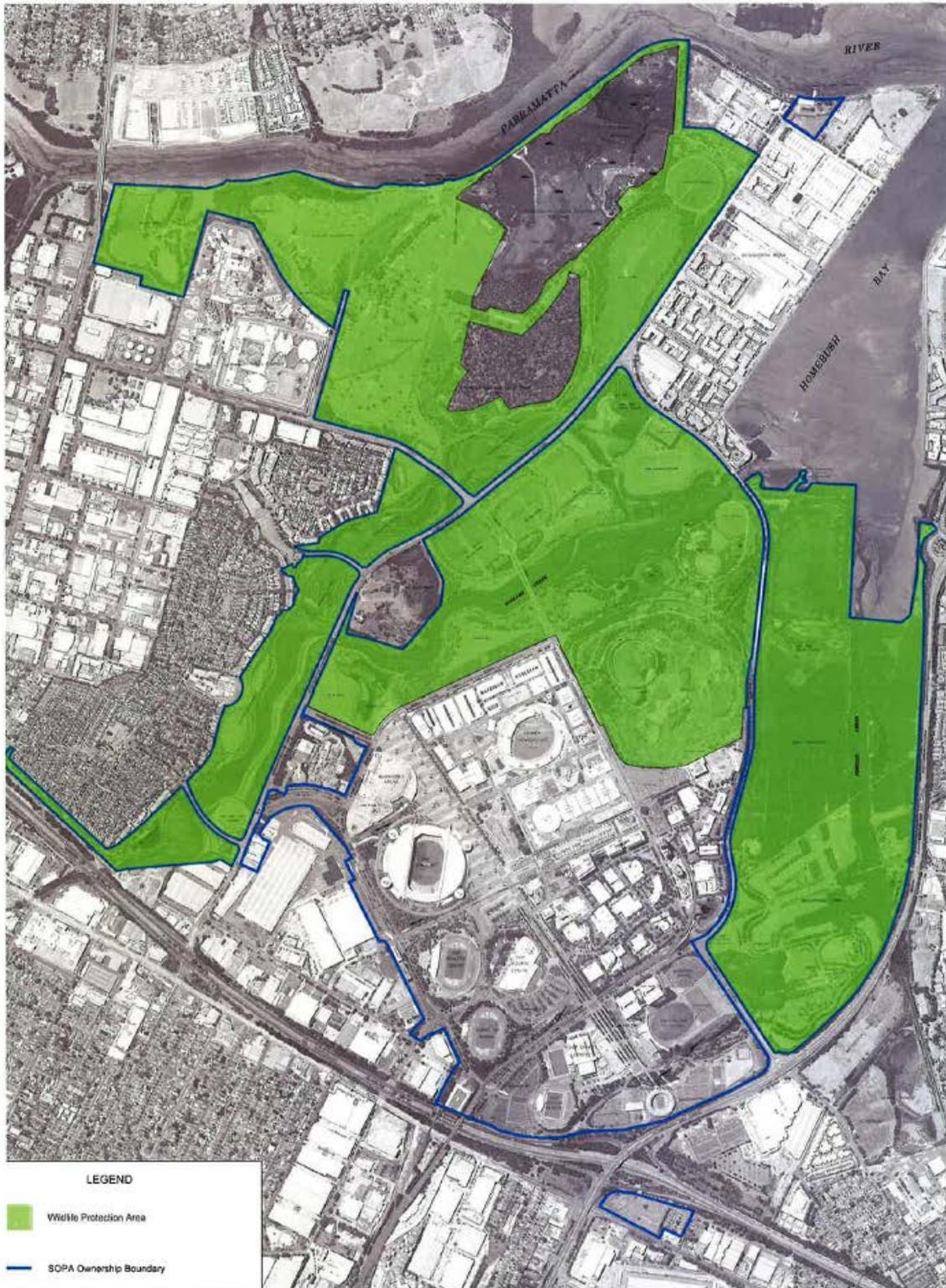
Cats are prohibited from this land for the protection of wildlife.



Alan Marsh
Chief Executive Officer
Date

Map 1

Wildlife protection areas declared under s 30(1) of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1999*



SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK AUTHORITY
8 AUSTRALIAN AVENUE SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 1507
PH: 02 951 1000 FAX: 02 951 1001

DISTRIBUTION CONTROL
THIS DRAWING REMAINS THE PROPERTY OF THE SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK AUTHORITY EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THE CONDITIONS OF SALE. IT SHALL NOT BE LOANED, REPRODUCED OR IN ANY MANNER DISCLOSED.

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK
WILDLIFE PROTECTION AREAS**
Declared under Section 30(1)(b)
of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998*

 SydneyOlympicPark 

DRG. NO.: 001-B-D-0283 REV A
SCALE: AS PER SCALE BAR

