

NATIONAL DECLARATION: FERAL CATS AS PESTS

Melbourne, Victoria

16 July 2015

Feral cats are a nationally significant pest that threaten our unique native fauna. While recognising the important role of domestic cats as companion animals, domestic and stray cats may also threaten native fauna.

Ministers agreed that where effective and humane techniques to control feral cats are available, that do not pose an unacceptable threat to the survivability and ecological function of non-target protected species in the treatment area, they should be pursued in coordination with other pest control activities to benefit threatened species.

Ministers committed to reviewing their jurisdictional arrangements including consultation with key stakeholders and interested community members and, based on this review, remove any unnecessary legal impediments to land managers undertaking feral cat control and management within a 12 month timeframe, where possible.

Ministers also agreed that the management of feral cats will be considered a priority in threatened species recovery programs.

Ministers supported community efforts to undertake and promote responsible pet ownership, and agreed to pursue the development of a national best practice approach to the keeping of domestic cats.