

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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Ms Tabatha Badger MP
Member for Lyons

13 NOV 2025

C/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Badger

In Parliament on 6 November 2025, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituents:

My question is from constituents who are dealing with feral cats. They're a serious issue in the state as a public health risk and to primary industries with the spread of toxoplasmosis and hunting of birds and other native animals as well. In the government's response to the 2024 State of the Environment Report's section on invasive species and feral animals, the government responded that everything was cool and fine because they were going to have the 2024-2029 Cat Management Plan. It's 2025 and that report does not exist. It has not yet been put out for public consultation. Minister, when is the 2024- 2029 Cat Management Plan going to be publicised for public comment? Are you going to have it done before 2029?

Firstly, thank you for the question of behalf of your constituents. I share their concerns in relation to the impacts of feral cats on the environment and agriculture.

This Government has been taking a targeted approach to the management of feral cats and focusing activity in areas where feral cat control can be most effective and where local eradication may be possible in the future.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania has been working in partnership with the Australian Government and Natural Resource Management groups on several significant feral cat control projects on Tasmanian islands. These include:

- a program of tracking, trapping and poisoning feral cats that are impacting shorebirds on Three Hummock Island since 2018;
- removal of feral cats through the use of Felixer grooming traps in the Neck Game Reserve on Bruny Island;
- a four-year \$1.5 million project (2021-2024) that tracked and trapped feral cats on Bruny Island;
- and a project on Maria Island to develop and train a new Tasmanian-specific algorithm for the Felixer grooming trap to avoid non-target species. If successful, this could potentially allow for the future use of Felixer grooming traps on mainland Tasmania for the control of feral cats.

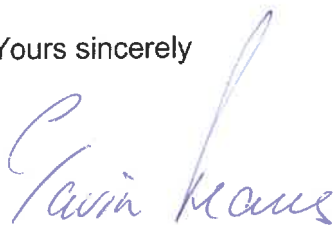
These large island projects are not only leading to a reduction in the number of feral cats impacting native fauna on these islands, they are also providing important information about the ecology and behaviours of feral cats that may allow for better cat control and reduced cat impacts elsewhere.

I would like to reassure your constituent that the Government takes this matter very seriously and we know there is more work to do. We have commenced the development of a new Tasmanian Cat Management Plan and we will shortly be releasing a discussion paper for public consultation as the first stage in the development of the new plan. I would encourage your constituents to participate in the consultation process.

The new Plan will provide a revised framework for cat management, including feral cats in Tasmania and will build on the achievements of the Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017 – 2022.

Thank you again for raising this matter on behalf of your constituents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gavin Pearce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending upwards from the end of the name.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Water