

18 July 2008

Director
Exotic Species Regulation Section
Wildlife Branch
Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Director

Draft Environmental Assessment of the Suitability of the Import of the Savannah Cat into Australia

Bird Observation and Conservation Australia (BOCA) is a national non-government organisation with more than 3,000 members throughout Australia. BOCA's objectives may be summarised as appreciation, education and conservation relating to Australian birds and their habitat.

BOCA objects in the strongest possible terms to the importation of the Savannah Cat because it is such a formidable potential predator of our native wildlife.

Cats, both domestic and feral, take a very heavy toll on Australia's wildlife. To allow the introduction of a much larger feline with different hunting skills would be totally irresponsible in the context of maintaining Australia's biodiversity.

Of course, those in favour of introduction of the Savannah Cat will argue that these expensive pets will not be allowed out to hunt wildlife and will not become feral. History shows that this will not be the case – there are many cat owners who do not prevent their cats from killing wildlife and the dumping of cats in the bush by people who no longer want them is all too prevalent.

BOCA requests that the proposal to import Savannah Cats to Australia be totally rejected.

Yours faithfully

Richard Hunter
Chief Executive Officer