



Cayman Islands
Government

Ministerial Statement

By

Hon. KATHERINE EBANKS-WILKS, MP

Minister for Health,
Environment & Sustainability

September 2026

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to rise to read statement which I make in the spirit of parliamentary collaboration that we are here to address issues, balance competing interests, for the people of these Islands.

The Honourable Member for Bodden Town West has introduced a Private Member's Bill to amend the National Conservation Act.

After informal member to member consultation this week, I now have a greater understanding of the Member's main concern (which is reflective of representations made to him by concerned members of the public) regarding the present predominant method of trapping feral cats and euthanising them by administering a gunshot at the point of capture.

In view of the Member's concerns, we have agreed to work collaboratively across the aisles: with the Member agreeing to defer his Bill entitled: *THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION ACT (2013 REVISION)*, while we work together to find a suitable balance that will hopefully result in quelling the harm feral cats pose to our precious biodiversity and natural environment in a mutually agreed manner.

To that end, I hereby publicly give an undertaking to the Member that in the meantime the Government shall direct Department of Environment to

discontinue the current practice of shooting trapped feral cats at the site of capture in Little Cayman and other environmentally sensitive areas on Cayman Brac.

I believe, and I think the Member agrees, this is a more proportionate and effective manner of working in this Honourable House to serve all of our people.

Thank you, Mister Speaker.