

1. Accreditation of wildlife rescue and care associations

I believe there needs to be both accreditation for the wildlife rescue & Care groups with carefully set out the standards which need to be met for accreditation. If the groups meet the standards and accredited then they should also operate under government licensing. This would ensure that groups which do not meet the standards cannot continue to operate without a license.

2. One peak body to represent the wildlife sector

At present the Wildlife Council of NSW is a poorly structured organisation which is run by volunteers in a somewhat haphazard fashion, which most of the members of the wildlife rescue groups have little idea as to their purpose. Their purpose and role needs to be better outlined and there needs to be properly organised management structure with paid personnel.

If the Council is to continue to represent wildlife rescuers & carers, it needs to have clear goals which give governments understanding of what the needs of carers are, especially those who are outside of the large cities, with no government support or recognition, relying on donations to survive, often travelling large distances to rescue wildlife, using their own vehicles and buying food, which in time of drought has been hard for these to maintain adequate care for their animals. If wildlife groups are to be recognised and valued, there needs to be better representation by a peak body, which ever is considered most suitable.

3. Single Wildlife Phone number

I believe that would be a good solution to the current 5 or 6 contact numbers of rescue groups in NSW. The actual method as to how it would be put into operation would need a lot of cooperation between rescue groups.

A single phone number would be easier for members of public to remember in time of emergency when an animal requires rescue eg on roads or outside of the cities

4. More funding is required for the protection of our wildlife especially the koalas of northern NSW, which with their Qld cousins, are being systematically driven from their habitats by logging and over development. So far neither state governments appear to have any strategies in place to save this iconic animal from extinction. More fauna overpasses and underpasses need to be built along major roads in koala habitat to stop ongoing roadkill. The only disease free koala colony in NSW in SW Sydney is under constant attack from development of their habitat and roadkill.

Unfortunately with the amalgamation of OEH into Dept of Primary Industries, it may mean the environment and wildlife will be considered second or third best to major planning where large scale developments will not have environmental protection.

Regards

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