

## Richard Woodman - Submission

Draft NSW Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy: Public consultation  
19/04/2019 10:06:06 PM

### Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy

Single Telephone for Reporting Native Wildlife in Need.

This has been a long-held objective but always a difficult one to make any progress with. The core focus here should be when a member of the public reports a native wildlife animal in need, it is done so expeditiously and competently. The public are not interested in the politics behind the scenes or which Rehab. Group attends, just that it is attended to. If a member of the public has taken the concern and time to report the animals in need, they are entitled to feedback on the outcome.

For this to work effectively, it should be technologically feasible to have the incoming call routed to the 24/7 Rehab. Group number covering the area.

A problem occurs when there are more than one group covering the area, either shared by NWC Member Groups and/or overlaid by WIRES. Once again, the primary concern is the animal in need is attended to expeditiously and competently.

The calls can be allocated several ways; first in first served, rotation through the eligible groups, allocation in the size of the various groups. There would have to be a time limit on the response time by the group before moving onto the next option.

A sophisticated but most effective option would be to have all the Rehab. Group's members entered into a data base where their location is shown on a iMap or similar. The rescuer's location would show as a balloon and the details (no street address) viewed when the mouse is hovered over the balloon. A further enhancement could include a filter to only show those qualified for a particular species; Flying Foxes, Venomous Reptiles, Raptors and Koalas. This would assist in determining who was the closest available rescuer.

Once again, this will raise feisty issues of local politics and turf warfare.

The universal number would need to NPWS branded and possibly, existing Group signs replaced/removed.

Of course there will be the usual teething problems but once implemented it will be a better system for the public, the animals and the Rehab. Groups.

Opportunities such as this don't come around very often and every effort should be put into achieving the best outcome for the animal in need of rescue, ahead of the aspirations of the various Groups.

Licensed Rehabilitation Groups to Harvest up to 20% of their Membership from outside their Licensed Area.

The existing system of containing the Rehab. Groups' membership base within its licensed boundaries has, in general served the sector well but it does have limitations that can be addressed by increasing its membership base by 20% comprised of those "out of area".

I envisage the harvesting of additional members would only be from those residing in the areas of neighbouring Groups.

Such a provision will address the needs, those who for whatever reason, work better with the adjacent group. In some cases, they can also be in a position to provide much needed support for carers/coordinators in the Group they wish to join.

Some other aspects that would need addressing are;

The recruiting Group will need to show they can supervise and mentor if needed, the prospective new member. This would not be a problem if the recruit was an "Experienced Carer" (NPWS definition).

Can the new member rescue, rehabilitate and release in the area of the Group they currently reside? If not, then it is not a very effective arrangement.

There is also the existing Memorandum Of Understanding mechanism which is underutilised and in many ways misunderstood.