

S00003 – Caitlin Sallway

Hello,

I was very concerned when I first heard about the new licence changes. I have a number of rescued reptiles, and I know how lucky NSW is to have such a great licencing system. Victoria, for example, has common species exempt from licencing (as per the proposed changes), and there are a large number of animals suffering from MBD and other common ailments. The lack of a licencing system is the direct cause of this. Because citizens can simply go out and buy a lizard on impulse, often for a begging child or to impress friends, they will very often not have done any research into the specialized care of reptiles and amphibians. The same problems are also seen in USA, New Zealand and the UK, places with very low levels of regulation around the industry.

I am forever grateful for the licencing system, and feel it has protected many thousands of reptiles and amphibians from poor husbandry. Taking common species, such as Bearded Dragons and Blue-Tongues off this system leaves them vulnerable to the already growing market of people that have not done their research. All of the rescues I have already taken in, were all given up because their owners were not informed about their care, and eventually they lost interest. Cases such as these will increase exponentially if these licencing changes are to go ahead. To find some examples of reptiles being given away, you only need to look at websites such as Gumtree, as there are no dedicated reptile rescue organisations in NSW.

By signing up to this agreement, the government will be losing money. The vast majority of licence owners are people on Class 1 licences (such as myself) keeping common species such as the ones that are to be removed from the licence system. Now that citizens can go out and purchase reptiles on impulse without a licence, you will lose many thousands of dollars in licence fees, from these keepers.

My personal recommendation would be simple. Do not take any of the Reptiles or Amphibians off of the licence system. Although I cannot directly speak for the Avian community, I think it may be a good idea to also not remove any of the birds off the licencing system. NSW is known for its exceptional licencing standards, and I would hate for such a great system to be altered in a way that could impact negatively on both the animals involved and the Government.