

S00032 – Casey Poolman

The following are my thoughts after reading through the discussion paper.

I am someone who has worked with wildlife rescue, rehab and education for over 5 years and has worked with captive wildlife for over 2 years.

Under 4.3 Possum capture and removal>

-Yes it should still be licensed a regulated. I do wildlife rescue, and unless you know what you are doing with a possum there is high chance of injury to you or the animal.

-I don't think the landholder should need a licence to harm as long as they use a licensed removal service and that the removal service keeps records and has landholders consent.

4.4.2 licenses for catch and release of reptiles.

- Licences should definitely be retained.

- to ensure competency have those who wish to obtain a license do a course done by approved organisations where there are people who have experience catching and releasing wild reptiles.

I did my snake course through WIRES, it was VERY thorough and made me feel confident going on my first snake capture. They are also the people who train NPWS rangers so must be good.

I am worried as I am aware of a movement to make it possible to keep more native mammals as pets.

I would love to myself have native mammals as pets but I don't like the risk involved to native mammals.

Through my work with wildlife I understand how hard they are to look after and how much it wouldn't really work for a lot of people. It wouldn't be what they were expecting.

I 100% agree with everything you have on your "why you can't keep native mammals as pets' page.

Also in the report the section that talks of abandoned or seized native animal pets doubling between 2014 and 2016 concerns me.

So many native mammals people would have as pets that would either surrender them, sell them to unlicensed people to get rid of them, or just let them loose on the environment.

Sadly I have come across adds for animals that require licenses and the add is on an unsuitable platform, such as gumtree.com, and they don't mention at all that the person who buys would need a license.

I have also seen many abandoned native animals and some that were taken off people who didn't look after them right, or didn't have the right license.

I think allowing there to be more native mammal species allowed as pets would be a slippery slope and not at all good for the animals in question.

It would have to be very restricted, with people having to prove knowledge or do a course. Then there would need to be more people with the RSPCA to check up on them and on breeds.

I know Sugar Gliders are a popular pet in America and there are some places there are now wild populations because people released them when they no longer wanted them. That could be a big issue with any native animal.

For instance, Sugar Gliders were introduced to Tasmania, people assume because they are an Australian animal that's fine, but they aren't endemic to Tasmania and are now threatening a species of parrot due to fighting for tree hollows.