

S00002 – Clare Rickell

I am a native animal rescuer and carer and I have seen animals and birds that unqualified people have tried keeping only to fail, we as rescuers then have to try and get that animal well again from improper food or even worse euthanise it as it is too far gone to survive. Example, I did a rescue of a Lewins honeyeater, the person kept the bird for 4 days feeding it milk and mince beef, he knew it was some kind of honeyeater, the bird had crusted food all over its feathers that it was unable to get off itself.

It scares me that people will think they can go out and bring home animals to keep because they are told they now no longer need a licence to do so for the "low risk" animals, amphibians and birds, then discover they can't look after them so either call us or try and release it back into the wild when they have failed.

By this sort or act you are putting the burden on native (volunteer) rescue animal organisations.

The act for killing flying foxes, which in my mind is barbaric and dreadful, should be changed that if people really have to do it and have a shooting licence to do so then there should be people on hand collecting the animals that have not being killed, these animals will be in pain and most likely have been grounded, they will suffer terribly and most probably be left to die a very slow and painful death. If businesses with orchards can't put up the wildlife friendly netting that is subsidised by the government then they shouldn't be growing fruit at all. These are a beautiful creature that 200 years ago was prolific in pollinating our trees, now, in little time we have destroyed them down to be on a threatened species list.