

S00139 – Damian Garcia

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a submission to the OEH reform.

- Do you support the proposed staged approach to implementing a risk based approach to regulating native animal keeping?

In my opinion I believe there should be a once off fee ie: \$57.00 for a native animal keepers licence.

I believe that this would benefit all parties concerned, for example for the welfare agencies it will still make serious keepers willing to go to the process of obtaining a licence to purchase an animal.

I believe it would benefit OEH because it is revenue, plus give them an idea of who is keeping native animals, and whether they are becoming endangered.

The AKL holders would benefit because at least when purchasing an animal. licence details would have to be exchanged and they would be less likely to obtaining illegally caught animals.

I was introduced to reptiles many, many years ago by my dad as I was very young and loved lizards my dad bought me my first animal. I since then have gone on to achieve many successful breeding under my dad's supervision and have found great accomplishment in breeding species that have been known to be more difficult. My family along the way have all gotten involved in this passion for Reptiles. As a family it is one of the things that helps keep the family together. We as a family are very passionate about reptiles and are always happy to help new hobbyist in their journey into reptiles and the joy that they can bring.

- Can you suggest any changes or improvements to the licensed dealers and expos?

In my opinion I believe that dealers should be able to sell any or all R1 licenced animals. We as keepers only had to pay some money and we can keep any R1 species without showing competence. But dealers must show competence. Therefore, I believe if the dealer has shown competence then they should be allowed to sell any and all R1 and some R2 animals. This would benefit the new hobbyist as some keepers either don't give licence details, sell beginners species that are either hard to begin with, sometimes even telling them it's a children's python and selling them a carpet python instead. This would help beginner get the right information have somewhere to go back to if there is a problem.

Let's face it not all keepers are ethical.

So in conclusion my beliefs are Pet shops are a great place for new hobbyists to find the animals that they are looking for with experience people there to guide and help with animals and products. Pet Shops are also a place for keepers to move on excess stock with the assurance that suitable homes will be found. I do believe that Pet shops should be allowed to sell All Class 1 animals :ie reptiles, mammals and frogs.