

S00035 – Jayden Streatfeild

I think that the proposed bird list and conditions are good and the code of practice for birds looks good. I am however concerned at the lack of consideration of native mammal ownership. In this regard, NSW is behind Victoria and South Australia which both have viable and thriving native mammal keeping communities. Just like native reptiles, mammals have special needs; they also will not be 'domestic pets' just like native reptiles their husbandry demands that they be treated more like a kept animal. I understand this. What I do not understand is why it should be illegal to keep a wider array of native mammals than two types of hopping mice. As for the threat of illegal take from the wild, there is already a thriving hobbyist community in the other states of Australia to be a source of animals and there are plenty of 'rescue animals' that cannot be rehabilitated and reintroduced to the wild that could act as genetic input to the hobby. As for enjoyment, I would contend that for a hobbyist the enjoyment comes from the work of keeping the animal and seeing it thrive. As for the question of husbandry knowledge, not only is there a thriving body of knowledge among wildlife rehabilitators and hobbyists both in NSW and interstate but there are books and websites dedicated to their care. Lack of knowledge is not a stumbling block to an increased native mammal list for NSW. I would suggest all native rodents, possums and gliders to go on a class 1 license and quolls, antechinus and other dasyurids on a higher license or licenses. Or just follow Victoria or South Australia on the species list.