

S00090 – Joseph Schmitzer

To whom it may concern,

I am an AKL holder, with Advanced Bird and Reptile Licenses and the standard Mammal License.

Over approximately 50 years I have kept birds, reptiles for approximately 15 years and spinifex hopping mice for about two years.

I am happy to respond to the Review questions that concern me, but first I want to make it very clear that the Licensing Section and the attitude of the many staff that have been employed is appalling. They treat you as if you're an imbecile, and the current electronic aspects perform as if the coding was written by a 90 year old.

If improvements are the main aim of this review then sack the bloody licensing section and start again – you truly could not get any worse!

Now for the Review:

I do support the proposed Risk-based Approach to regulating animal keeping I just hope that this time around the dinosaurs that seem to be the decision makers within OEH – or should I correctly state the NON-decision makers as they seem to be so stuck back in the 70's with their justifications on licensing and the keeping of native animals – actually are made either get out of the way of this approach or get right behind it and actually implement it properly.

As for the Species List – there are a few points I'd like to make:

- Your reasons for not allowing Mammals on the license are again SO out of touch it is ridiculous! Or is it that the decision makers here are receiving handouts from WIRES and the RSPCA – two organisations so corrupted that it is unbelievable how they manage to blindside the general public so well
- If an animal – bird, reptile or mammal is legally available anywhere in the Country it should already be on the Species list. You want people to use a licensing system and then you create half a list – leaving many animals off – which then only encourages the underground importing and non-compliance. It's like no one in OEH has a bloody clue or an ounce of common sense.

On the subject of the variety of animals – why do we need to have a bird, a reptile, a mammal, and a frog license all separately? The thing is called an AKL – Animal Keeping License. This just reeks of money grabbing. Typical Govt wanting to fill its coffers any way it can. And on that subject we should not be paying for a permit to import and export animals when other States aren't doing it. In fact we shouldn't need to have to apply at all. It's a simple case of 'where did you get that animal from?' answered in our annual returns. The animal is legal because we get it from a licensed keeper so what is the issue?

I fully agree with a Code of Practice. I think people should be made keep animals with minimum standards set down for their well-being, as long as those standards are reasonable and practicable.

The annual records thing is a pain and so I love the idea of having to just submit simple numbers as return. I always keep my own records of who I buy & sell to anyone for my own peace of mind and to refer to in the future, so this is a great proposal.

I don't think pet shops should be allowed to sell reptiles or frogs at all. Hell most of them can't even keep their birds healthy long enough. If I had my way selling through private breeders would be the ONLY way I'd want to see it happening. Pet shops are all about money. The number of times a dealer has tried to sell me stuff I don't need and worse still tried to tell me my dragon or gecko needs it when I know damn well it doesn't or it would actually kill my lizard – it's bloody ridiculous. I go to Kellyville Pets and am so disgusted at the quality of birds in that shop. If I didn't loathe the RSPCA so much I would have them visiting that pet shop every couple of months.

A few months ago the DPI tried to stop people selling animals from their backyards – boy did they have that the wrong way around. They should be shutting the pet shops down where animal sales are concerned. A pet shop should only be there for products and feeds.

Nothing should be done that stops the Expos. You meet so many new people and species, and you get to learn about them. This is because its private breeders selling to you. They are happy to explain things because they want their animals going to someone who will look after them.

Online selling being licensed? Are you joking? How the hell are people supposed to sell if they can't do it online without paying an extra fee to you lot? Just another money grabbing exercise! If you want to clamp down on people start doing your job and go after the idiots who promote selling exotics or openly state the animal doesn't have a license. Go after those doing the wrong thing and leave the rest of us alone.

My main objection in this Review is the fact you are still refusing to let us keep more native mammals. People in other States have been keeping them for decades. This cannot be to the detriment of the animals or it would have been stopped. NPWS just seem to be listening to too many tree-huggers – people who are so warped with their ideas they don't have a clue.

Society is wiping out habitat after habitat and in the process we are massively reducing all of our wonderful wild life.

The feral cat infestation is slaughtering our wildlife – something that wouldn't happen if Govt's stopped listening to the animal rights nutters. And also, if a possum or glider was living in an open flight aviary the damn cats couldn't get it either.

As a bird keeper I have seen the merits of allowing people to keep birds in private collections. Because of this we still have the Golden-shouldered Parrot, the Gouldian and the Black-throated Grassfinch – a finch that is extinct in the wild in NSW and the only populations are in backyard aviaries. Surely as the governing body of protecting

our native animals in NSW you can see by actually allowing native mammals to be kept in backyards you would be protecting them!

That's it from me. It'll interesting to see if you actually listen!