

S00137 – Kim 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. These serious (hobbyists) beginners will take that step. This should also help to avoid the problems of disposal able pets ie: dogs and cats

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. What is the most common animals being kept.

The AKL holders would benefit because at least when purchasing an animal. Licence details would have to be exchanged and they would less likely to be obtaining illegally caught animals. It would help to keep people honest.

I believe import and exports should remain but should not be at a cost like other states.

I was introduced to reptiles many, many years ago when my husband wanted a snake. I since then have gone on to appreciate these creatures and realize they are not this slimy animal I thought that they were. I have watched my husband and children achieve many successful breeding and have had great accomplishments in breeding species that have been known to be more difficult. As a parent is this day and age to watch the faces of your children so proud of what they have accomplished is the best. 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. As native animal keepers only had to pay some money and they 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 beginners get the right information have somewhere to go back to if there is a problem.

Let's face it not all keepers are ethical.

I believe the same condition that apply to shops should apply to all AKL holders.

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 and Pet Shops are also

a place for keepers to move on excess stock with the assurance that suitable homes will be found.