

S00102 – Lucy Maguire

Good Morning,

I am making a submission in relation to the proposed wildlife licensing changes, specifically keeping native reptiles.

While I understand and agree that resourcing to maintain licencing is limited and higher risk activities should take priority for more strict regulation I am wary of removing a “licence” system whereby people feel a more legally obligated to maintain a standard level of conditions for their animals. I think that the cost and “legality” of keeping an animal on a licence pushes people to do more investigation into keeping the species and is an indication of the potential complexities of keeping reptiles as pets.

I do think that it is important to make these species more accessible for people to keep as they offer a low maintenance alternative for pets.

However, I think that without formalising and making people more accountable under a licencing system it will allow for people to easily obtain species that will be inadequately cared for.

I only keep a small number of species that would now be classed under a code of conduct and while this is appropriate for me as I have an animal husbandry background I believe it opens up opportunity for the inappropriate keeping of species that do have specific needs.

I would like to comment that I believe the code of practice for reptile keeping itself is a very well written, thorough document that highlights all the intricacies that come with keeping reptiles. It is exhaustive in its content and I think it is a brilliant standard document that should be read by all (new and experienced) reptile keepers.

It in itself however it is an indicator for the requirement of licencing reptiles as their husbandry requirements are difficult to understand, substantially different to mammal species (which most people are used to) and highly species dependant.

I believe that the code of practice could work as a system for some species and I understand the objective of the proposed changes. However, I do think that this

needs to be in some way enforceable and monitored and I don't understand how this is obtainable without a licencing system or how the proposed changes will reduce cost/resources. I would be very interested in obtaining more information about the changes and how this would be enforced.

On a brief review of the bird species list I would like to comment that I am supportive of large cockatoo species being more strictly regulated due to their high level of needs and threatened species status. I do not believe that anyone outside of people with high level experience with bird keeping and excellent husbandry conditions should be keeping these species.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this subject, I hope this assists.