

S00161 – Martyn Robinson

To whom it may concern. I have just read the summary of the proposed changes and the relevant parts of the full document. I think the reforms are generally well thought out and - if I understand them correctly - might make my own situation easier. I have an amphibian keepers license for *Litoria caerulea*. The animals I keep are all old or 'unwanted' if that is the right term, pets or retired display animals, or else origin unknown fruit shop animals.

My main problem with the current system hasn't necessarily been dealt with and that is the online record keeping system. I have always had great difficulty getting it to work or accept my lodgements resulting in last year's records seemingly not recorded by the system, and that affects my ability to lodge this year's one or make any changes at all. If I understand the reforms I may now be on a code of practice system rather than licensing anyway - but for those still on the licensing system and record lodgements, I think that electronic system itself needs a reform to make it less problematic and more user friendly.

I would also like to address another operational problem which is currently occurring. At present many of the wildlife rescue groups operating around Sydney, if they find a python in suburbia they release it into local bushland. The most commonly encountered escaped pet python is the Carpet Python, not the local Diamond Python, but they get released just the same resulting in ever increasing crossbred variants occurring all over Sydney and the original form of the Diamond Python (ie olive green with diamond shaped cream spots) being now quite rare to see. I know this is not a new problem and escaped Carpet Pythons have been wandering around Sydney since I was a child but it is far more common nowadays. If Carpet Pythons or obvious cross bred pythons are rescued by these groups then these should be held until they can be rehomed by some reptile keeper groups. This would also reduce the need for large numbers of animals to be bred for the pet trade.

Lastly I am a little surprised that native mammal keeping is still so restricted. This won't affect me as I don't keep mammals nor do I plan to, although I did as a child I know that most of the welfare groups seem mainly concerned with mammals welfare but there is really no valid reason why for some groups of native animals, eg. birds, reptiles, frogs, fish, there is a reasonable sliding scale of what can be kept with enough variety to cater for enthusiasts and plain pet owners alike. For mammals it seems that only two species of rodent are allowed. The mammals kept in other states are captive bred and this results in both lower risk of poaching from the wild and a better tamer disease free pet.

I really don't see a need for this discrimination towards those that want to keep mammals.

Anyway those are my concerns and comments. I look forward to seeing if these reforms really do make my life easier. Thank you for allowing the opportunity to comment.