

S00009 – Matt Hayward

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on your proposed licencing. My main objective is to address the listed priority in your Save Our Species program of improved monitoring of threatened species. Globally, national and in NSW, there is insufficient monitoring of threatened species conducted in robust ways. Conservation related academics offer an option to assist with this monitoring. Like you, they are starved of funding, however this is exacerbated by your licencing requirements where a separate scientific licence is required for each individual study. The finances and bureacracy associated with this limits the will to assist you in conducting robust monitoring and scientific studies. I would love to see you offer a blanket scientific licence where select academics can conduct monitoring activities throughout your estate in NSW, rather than the current individual licencing system. This would also assist you given your lack of staff in the licencing section (as my current application has taken months).

On a separate note, i support the retention of licencing for all activities that will harm threatened or protected species. I don't think this is necessary for catch and release of common mammals or reptiles.

I think native mammals should be allowed to be kept as pets - our society is so disengaged with our native wildlife that many would rather see a feral cat protected than killed. This is appalling. Enabling pet ownership would reengage our society with our wildlife and offer societal goodwill towards their conservation. There is no companion animal (pet) that is threatened with extinction in Australia, as far as I'm aware.

I hope this is helpful.

Sincerely

Matt