

S00034 – Nicholas Campbell

There's a couple of issues I have that really need to be addressed:

1: the species list for mammals has stayed at just 2 a hopping mouse and plains rat. I think it needs to be extended and a lot more species added to this class. One argument for why is obvious which is why is it ok for people living in Queensland and Victoria have the opportunity to keep a wider range of Australian mammals where NSW is stuck in the middle with only 2 very small options? What makes the people of those states better than the people of NSW to be allowed to keep such a wider amount of mammals?

I thought this department cared for our native animals and would do anything to stop them from becoming extinct, well a good way to ensure that is to encourage people to keep them as pets to ensure their future survival etc.

I've heard a couple of arguments about why we cannot keep them here in NSW, one of them being "they require special care" well that's exactly why we have a licensing law so not everyone can wake up one day and own one instantly. I also think that's a poor excuse as if mammals aren't allowed to be kept in NSW due to the special requirements than again 1, why are other states allowing people to keep them and 2, what makes say reptiles any different? You cant just pick one up and grow it in a tank and feed it human food, reptiles require special care too. So if we can be trusted with the special care of reptiles etc why not mammals?

We are not asking for every species to be included but atleast a few extra options even if you still to locally found mammals for example: kangaroo, possum and sugar glider, all which are located in NSW so would threaten any habits if accidentally released.

A bonus to approving more species would help encourage people to get licenced and own one and stop people from illegally owning them and potentially not giving them the correct care they require due to hiding the fact they own them.

The other issue I have is the cost of licensing, I find it strange that there's no incentive to drop prices for multiple types of licences for example,

If I was to pay for a reptile licence but also what to own a frog I have to purchase an amphibian licence too at the same cost as a full reptile licence. Now I don't expect to get one for free, everyone would be happy to pay but it's strange there's no discount especially between reptiles and amphibians

The weirdest thing is everything to do with reptiles usually include amphibians, companies specialising in equipment specialise in reptiles and amphibians, there's clubs that are for reptiles and amphibians, books for reptiles and amphibians! But when it comes to licensing it's reptiles and it's amphibians separately.

Why can't one be discounted as long as you already pay for a full licence of the other for example

I pay \$60 for 2 years for a reptile licence but if I want to own an amphibian I have to pay \$60 again for 2 years (both being class 1)

So why not as an incentive have it that if you pay say the \$60 for a 2 year reptile licence, if you want to also own frogs you pay say \$30 extra to have an amphibian licence for 2 years so totaling \$90 for a class one for both for 2 years

If you were to implement something like this, not only will it encourage more keepers to buy the additional licence (causing more money added to your budget) but also encourage more to keep them and ensure the future survival of frogs in this country as we all know frogs are declining in the wild at a rapid rate as it is.

Just a few simple suggestions that should be looked into and discussed more, at the end of the day this department relies on keepers to keep it going so how about some rewards to us and at least compromise a little and put politics aside for a minute and think about and for the animals future in this unique country of ours!!