

S00184 – Robert Payne

I have only one concern these days as I have since retired and that relates to the catch and release of possums. I had a recent experience with this. A DA was approved by Council to clear an adjacent block of land. This block had trees with hollows and as a result of tree clearing the possums in the hollows ended up in my roof cavity (six of them in fact over three weeks). The DA approval didn't identify this problem. So there should be stronger regulations on Councils to identify this problem if tree hollows are present and outline the procedure to proponents.

I asked OEH what was the procedure and was informed there was no procedure. As I live on the edge of Brisbane Water National Park I released them all at that location but it is likely that they all died. To keep track of these issues some sort of approval form to harm them should be approved by Council or NSW OEH so as to produce annual records which should be put into a database to see what impact it is having.