

S00114 – Shane Strong

I thank the department of OEH for inviting me as a stakeholder to also put forward my opinions and proposals for the current fauna dealer retail and private keepers sector.

I have kept and bred a lot of types of animals over the last 40 years and have owned the about store for over twenty-two years, yours sincerely Shane Strong.

One Fauna Dealer License, 1-year with a 3-year option, with endorsements

To charge another large fee on top of the original fee for another group of animals to be able to sell is just not fair because it is still located at the same premises, it does not require that much more policing or work at the same premises. This is how the fee structure should be.

- Example;

License fee, \$600 pa for initial Fauna Dealer license with endorsements being \$100 per endorsement

Example 1, Bird with endorsement for Reptile/Amphibian -\$600 plus \$100 = \$700 pa.

To get the endorsements for the different types of fauna to be traded, would still require the same Species specific requirements that would still need to be obtained by the fauna dealer.

Fauna dealer conditions to not only include the buying, selling and trading off, But also the breeding of;

- So that all the reptiles that can be traded by the licensed dealer can be at one licensed location. This would streamline the business operations and Allow for the NPWS Ranger easier access for random inspections as well.

Fauna Dealer Reptile should be combined with Amphibian. There is no logical or husbandry reason why they should be separate because they are all the same licensed classed animals. Unless you allow an endorsement to trade in a higher class of animals, then this would require additional requirements and knowledge testing. "Still not rocket science".

If you code-regulate Reptiles, then does that mean 'Joe blow' down the street can sell them out of his/her pet store with no fauna dealer's license? Or trade online buying and selling them from home? Without the six month holding period.

And would that include all code-regulated birds as well?

It doesn't leave much left for the bird fauna dealers to sell when paying such a large fee to continue on. It's already a free for all at the bird sales as it stands now.

You have suggested putting the following birds on the class two list,

Red tailed black Cockatoo, Gang Gang cockatoo, Major Mitchel Cockatoo, Regent Parrot, Superb Parrot, Red Winged Parrot and their hybrids. Does this mean that dealers can't sell these species or are you going to let dealers sell all class two birds?

Also to keep these birds does not require a lot of expertise and are on a class 1 license now and the class 2 requirements would stop a lot of people from keeping them because as I see it, all class 1 birds that have been moved to class 2 would need to be kept on class 1, because you would have to have kept a bird Class 1 license for at least 2 years as it stands now, before you could apply for a class 2 license. So this would effectively stop fauna dealers from trading in these easy to keep and great companion pet birds.

It's a good idea to allow Fauna dealers to include the sale of Native Mammals as well.

- Does this mean another license fee or just combine with one of the other licenses? Because at just two mammals, plains rats and hopping mice would not justify a large license fee. The list should be expanded to mirror such lists as Victoria and South Australia currently have, there are no issues in those states, with keeping and trading in those animals and the fewer cats sold the better.
- With an upgraded competence test there is no reason A fauna dealer who should be at the top of their game cannot deal in both Class 1 and Class 2 non venomous reptiles and all of class one Amphibians, Class 1 and 2 Birds, and an

expanded list of native mammals as well to include Feathertail Glider - *Acrobates pygmaeus*, Common Ringtail Possum - *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*, Fat-tailed Dunnart - *Sminthopsis crassicaudata*, Kowari - *Dasyuriodes byrnie*, Quokka - *Setonix brachyurus*, Spot-tailed Quoll - *Dasyurus maculatus*, Eastern Quoll - *Dasyurus viverrinus*

Rufous Bettong - *Aepyprymnus rufescens*, Striped Possum – *dactylopsila trivirgata*, numbats, bilbies and Sugar Glider, *Petaurus breviceps*.

- Some or all of these species are now available and legal to keep in Victoria, South Australia and other States.
- All Mammal Animal keepers to be licensed.

Published by the Rural Industries and Development Corporation, advises that keeping native mammals as pets could benefit their wild counterparts in several ways. The research advocates a 'conservation through sustainable use' strategy – putting a monetary value on natives as pets to contribute to their protection in the wild. The report also says that replacing some non-native pets, such as cats, with natives could also have conservation benefits.

The eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*), now extinct on the mainland, and Mitchells hopping mouse (*Notomys mitchellii*), presumed extinct in New South Wales, were investigated for their suitability as pets for the purposes of the study. Both of these species are impacted by cats and foxes in the wild.

The report also identified several other potential pet species, including sugar gliders and native rodent species other than Mitchell's hopping mouse. Sugar gliders are already popular pets in the United States.

'Australia is facing a number of mammal extinctions,' explains the lead author of the report, Dr Rosie Cooney.

Dr Euan Ritchie, a mammal ecologist from Deakin University, agrees in principle.

'Keeping natives rather than cats would pose less risk to native species,' he says.)

Commercial online seller, (back yard dealer)

- Must have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- The owners of the private residence must have approval from their local council for the building that houses the reptiles and amphibians. Often referred to as an Animal Establishment.

- Relevant Care sheets to be offered to the new owners at the same time of purchase.
- Is the online seller (BACK YARD DEALER) able to sell reptiles other than what they can breed? They should not be allowed to buy and sell within the six month holding period.
- If an online (BACK YARD DEALER) has a class two license then does that mean he can advertise and sell class two reptiles as a dealer?
- This does seem to be the case if he is dealing from home and has a Class 2 license, which would put the bricks and mortar retail stores at a disadvantage.

No native Birds, reptiles/Amphibians and Native mammals to be sold at (flee) markets.

Only permitted at organized Bird, Reptile and Amphibian Sales normally but not limited to Clubs and Societies.

Number 7 on the dealer's terms and condition needs to be changed.

Remove the one viewing panel only rule for reptiles and Amphibians enclosures requirement and replace it with; If a reptile or Amphibian is stressed by its habitats public viewing arrangement then it must be removed to a single sided viewing enclosure. This rule makes no sense because you have to supply a retreat area for the reptile anyway.

If you are going to exempt some reptiles then Stimson Pythons should be code regulated also as they are not endemic to NSW and for the average Joe they would not be able to tell them apart unless they are shown otherwise and they breed freely just like the Eastern Small Blotched Python (*maculosa*) with the same care.

AKL reptile keeper/amphibian also combined there is no logical reason they should be separate. This only inhibits the further understanding and the keeping of frogs, as

the current system requires a separate license and fee and seems quite complicated by having to have both for the same Class Animal.

The dealers turtle enclosure size requirements on the small end of turtle carapace size needs an additional carapace size added.

I recommend the following,

Up to 7cm carapace, minimum floor area 1800cm squared, minimum width area 30cm, minimum water depth 20cm, maximum number of animals 6, increased area for each additional animal 150cm squared and change the next one to 7cm - 10cm carapace.

You have at the bottom of attachment 2 (Minimum Reptile Enclosure Sizes)

“The juvenile python (less than 40 cm) may be kept singularly in holding units with a minimum floor area of 480cm. These units may be stored in one temperature controlled enclosure.”

This cage size minimum is too small and needs to be changed to the following to be more accommodating for larger hatchlings and to not be so small an enclosure size being from the public’s perspective.

The juvenile python (less than 60 cm) may be kept singularly in holding units with a minimum floor area of 600cm. These units may be stored in one temperature controlled enclosure.

I Recommend the following reptiles, Amphibians and birds be removed from class 2 to class 1 license.

- Frilled lizard
- Green Tree Python
- Ring-tailed gecko
- Jewelled gecko
- Fat-tailed Gibber gecko

- Red-barred crevice-dragon
- Western netted ground-dragon
- Peninsula crevice-dragon
- Tawny crevice-dragon
- Crested bicycle-dragon
- Ring-tailed bicycle-dragon
- Chameleon gecko
- Painted short-necked turtle
- Northern yellow-faced turtle
- Northern red-faced turtle
- Yakka skink
- Pygmy spiny-tailed skink
- Crowned gecko
- Wheat-belt stone gecko
- Helmeted gecko
- Prickly forest skink
- Boyd's forest dragon
- Rough-scaled python
- Mourning chained gecko
- Kimberley bearded dragon
- Giant cave gecko
- Dotted velvet gecko
- Centralian blue-tongued lizard
- Western blue-tongued lizard
- Northern blue-tongue lizard
- Wonga Pigeon
- Australian brush turkey
- Chestnut teal
- Grey teal
- Magpie goose

- Pacific black duck
- Australasian shoveler
- Cape barren goose
- Australian wood duck
- Double-eyed fig-parrot
- Wandering whistling duck
- Plumed whistling duck
- Pied imperial pigeon
- Torresian imperial pigeon
- Black swan
- Partridge pigeon
- Australian magpie
- Topknot pigeon
- Brown cuckoo-dove
- Pink-eared duck
- Cotton pygmy-goose
- Green pygmy-goose
- Blue-billed duck
- White-quilled rock-pigeon
- Chestnut-quilled rock-pigeon
- Tawny frogmouth
- Radjah shelduck
- Australian shelduck
- Superb fruit-dove
- Chestnut-backed button-quail
- Red-backed button-quail
- Buff-breasted button-quail
- Red-chested button-quail

Finally

Why are Bird species such as Australian Eagles, Falcons, Hawks and Owls, not allowed to be kept by private individual hobbyists?

Its not "rocket science" featherdale wildlife park keeps them very successfully and just because they are a zoo doesn't mean said birds couldn't be kept by a private individual just as successfully and in some circumstances with better housing conditions. It seems to me we are still living in the past and not increasing our knowledge on the keeping, understanding and more importantly conservation efforts. Zoos are strapped for cash and generally only exhibit a small number of these animals, which is really not a lot of benefit conservation wise. It would give zoos an opportunity to out source their blood lines from private individuals without having to hold a lot of the same animals and thereby keep a viable population in captivity. I know the uptake for such a type of avian species would be low, but just imagine if there was twenty-five individuals in Australia with such a licence - that would make for a much better conservation wise viable population.

We all know what this planet is headed for; even the greedy ones know it but won't admit it.

Same reasoning would apply to Native mammals as well although the licence uptake would be a lot greater.

Proposed additions and changes to the NSW Native Animal Keepers species list.

Just because an animal is rare in captivity or the wild doesn't mean they can't be kept easily and/or breed.

*Egernia formosa*, Class 1

*Egernia epsisolus*, Class 1

*Egernia stokesii badia*, Class 1

*Egernia cygnitos*, Class 1

*Egernia pilbarensis*, Class 1

*Varanus eremius*, Class 1

*Strophurus jeanae*, Class 1

*Diporiphora superba*, Class 2

*Liopholis pulchra*, Class 1

*Underwoodisaurus seorsus*, Class 1



## Summery

1 - One Fauna Dealer License, 1-year with a 3-year option, with endorsements

2 - Fauna dealer conditions to not only include the buying, selling and trading off, But also the breeding off

3 - Fauna Dealer Reptile should be combined with Amphibian.

4 - You have suggested putting the following birds on the Class two list, they need to be put back onto the Class 1 license.

5 - It's a good idea to allow Fauna dealers to include the sale of Native Mammals as well, but the list needs to be expanded.

6 - Commercial online seller, (back yard dealer). Must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and the owners of the private residence must have approval from their local council for an Animal Establishment.

Commercial online seller (back yard dealer) should not be allowed to buy and sell within the six-month period.

7- Will an online (BACK YARD DEALER) be able to deal in Class two Reptiles?

8 - No native Birds, reptiles/Amphibians and Native mammals to be sold at (flee) markets.

9 - Number 7 on the dealer's terms and condition needs to be changed.

10 - Stimson Pythons should be code regulated also as they are not endemic to NSW and will have confusion with the general public.

11 - AKL reptile keeper/amphibian should be also combined.

12 - The dealers turtle enclosure size requirements on the small end of the turtle carapace size needs an additional size added.

13 – For juvenile pythons a change in enclosure sizes is needed. The juvenile python (less than 60 cm) may be kept singularly in holding units with a minimum floor area of 600cm. These units may be stored in one temperature controlled enclosure.

14 -Recommendations of a number of reptiles, Amphibians and birds be removed from class 2 and put on to a class 1 license.

15 – For conservation reasons Australian Eagles, Falcons, Hawks and Owls, should be allowed to be kept by private individual hobbyists.

16 - Proposed additions and changes to the NSW Native Animal Keepers species list.