

S00006 – Vanessa Lacey

Dear People,

As usual when dealing with government departments, you have given me enough paperwork and documents with which to deal, which would bamboozle and deflect any normal human being.

I would simply like to state some very basic principles, to which we would all (mostly) agree.

1. Australia has a unique collection of flora and fauna.
2. Therefore to behave as the rest of the world has done and sees fit, may not be in the best interests of the people, flora and fauna of this country.
3. I can see that you, as a government, have done your best to accommodate both human and flora / fauna needs and desires in this country.
4. To use, domesticate or destroy any animal native to this country, other than the dingo, which accompanied aboriginal settlers, is, in my opinion WRONG and should not be attempted by anyone for any reason.
5. Certainly human life has greater demand for protection than animal or plant life but there are always ways to mitigate against predation or theft by native animals, even if it involves wearing an ice cream container or similar on your head in magpie breeding season or netting crops.
6. The main point I wish to make is that they were here first and we should be fitting in with their ways, rather than trying to fit them around us, much as we should have done and failed to do with the human population of this country, when we first arrived and to our eternal shame.
7. Study and education is always the key to letting people know that no matter how cute, cuddly and tempting the fauna/flora looks, we are NOT doing them a favour by trying to adopt them, sell them, or interact with them except from a respectful distance, with the knowledge to help or cure and release them.
8. Obviously vets. zoos, accredited WIRES and NPWS officers are exempted from getting up close and personal with native and indeed invasive species and indeed making judgement calls, when necessary, such as euthanasia or destruction of invasive flora.
9. Governments are expected to make long term, far reaching decisions for the good of all and then educate people as to why they must make these decisions. They should never give in to self-centred, short term, greedy or crazy interest groups. Clearly, we can never go back to the past and undo all the wrongs done and must work with the status quo but going forward we can do much, much better and we must.

Regards, Vanessa Lacey