

To: **The Office of Environment and Heritage**
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From: Mr Ian Manton
Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Inc

Subject: Draft Code of Practice for the Keeping of Native Birds
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Preamble:

The Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Inc (BSNSW Inc) is an association dedicated to the welfare, breeding and exhibition of Budgerigars (affectionately known as Budgies). It is affiliated with the Australian National Budgerigar Council (A.N.B.C) - as are all the leading Budgerigar Clubs in all Australian States.

A representative of the Society attended a recent consultative meeting hosted by your staff and having perused the above Draft Code of Practice we are questioning the relevance of the "Code" with regard to Budgerigars.

Matter for Consideration

The removal of "Budgerigar" from the Schedule to the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Native Birds.

Remarks

This bird is not in danger of extinction and can be found in large numbers in all Australian states and territories.

The Budgerigar is one of 41 Species of birds not on the protected native birds list. A licence is not required to keep or trade them. Yet Section 3 "Acquisition and Disposal" of the "Code" dictates:-

- 3.1.1 who can acquire a bird
- 3.1.3 from whom a bird can be acquired
- 3.1.4 to whom a keeper can dispose a bird
- 3.1.5 where keepers can advertise
- 3.1.6 "Keepers of species listed in the Schedule to this Code must not buy, sell or trade in native birds as a business".

For a species that has such vast numbers both in the wild and in captivity right across Australia that a licence is not required to keep or deal in Budgerigars, **it makes no sense for it to be subject to these conditions.**

Also this would be almost impossible to police.

We also question Section 4 "Record Keeping".

We agree that accurate records help in proving how/where birds have been acquired thus identifying sources of health problems.

A typical BSNSW Inc member/keeper, (we call the breeder or exhibitor), would have 100+ birds at any one time. This would increase substantially during a breeding season. In the ensuing months (may be up to 12 months) he/she will assess his/her stock to ascertain what to retain for showing and future breeding. The surplus stock will be disposed of to mostly other and disposal of birds)

When a chick is approximately a week old a metal band specially coloured, marked and numbered is placed on its leg and is there for life. The colour represents the year the chick was hatched, mark signifies the association and the number is registered to the breeder.

The rings are acquired from the A.N.B.C by the BSNSW Inc (approx. 60,000 annually) who distributes them to its members.

The BSNSW Inc maintains a record of the individual ring numbers sold to each member. Thus at any time, the bird can be traced back to where it was bred. **This eliminates the need to micro-chip any bird** (as required under 4.2.2)

We also advise that most Budgerigars held in captivity have been "developed" for exhibition developed" exhibition and bear very little resemblance to the native bird. This does not place any demand for, or, imperil the native bird.

With regard to Section 5 "Welfare" - this is always a priority with the Society.

Summary/Recommendation

The Budgerigar Society of NSW Inc considers as the Budgerigar is not endangered and it does not require any form of licensing, it does not need to be subjected to the requirements of the Code.

We recommend that Budgerigars be removed from the Schedule of the Draft Code of Practice for the Keeping of Native Birds.

Ian Manton

Public Officer

Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Inc