

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our thoughts for the upcoming review of the Biodiversity Legislation.

Our submission particularly relates to:

**Theme 5: Wildlife management**

*The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act) establishes mechanisms to deal with unique conservation issues associated with the management and use of native animals and plants including exploitation, culling and movement.*

.....Of particular interest to the panel are:

**3. Are the provisions for marine mammals effective?**

We wish to propose a review of the legislation that applies to the feeding of wild marine animals. *In October 2005, [The Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching 2005](#) were released. The Commonwealth, states and territories agreed to introduce consistent regulations for marine mammal protection in all jurisdictions so the same rules applied across Australia. These regulations are contained in the [NSW National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009](#).*

Our request is for NSW to adopt and allow an amendment so that the same rules apply for every state and territory in Australia. This would allow businesses to undergo this type of practice in New South Wales as has been done in Qld and WA such as the Tangalooma Dolphin Resort in Qld - [http://www.tangalooma.com/info/dolphin\\_feeding/](http://www.tangalooma.com/info/dolphin_feeding/)

Research shows that if people are educated then they act with responsibility and these types of programs would allow that education of marine mammal protection to occur especially in Northern NSW where the dolphin habitats are so large and plentiful.

Theme Parks and Marine Parks also have the opportunity to fund wildlife rehabilitation through their various programs and the establishment of such programs being allowed to operate in NSW with wild marine mammals would mean more funds for the establishment of rehabilitation centres and more experience and skills being able to be utilised for such rehabilitation.

It would also serve as an incredibly strong tourism boost to smaller coastal towns of New South Wales if provision was enabled for such practices.

Once again thankyou for the opportunity to present our submission

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