



Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Our Ref: CTS 24353/18
Your Ref: A358450

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19 SEP 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 30 August 2018 in relation to Petition No. 2964-18 regarding wildlife licensing, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 August 2018.

The Queensland Government is currently undertaking the most comprehensive review of licences to keep native animals since 2004. The objectives of the review are to modernise the system for keeping and trading protected animals, to strengthen conservation outcomes and streamline the regulatory framework while reducing administrative burden.

On 24 May 2018, the Department of Environment and Science (the department) released a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement presenting options for the future management of protected wildlife (animals) in Queensland. The department also emailed over 30,000 recreational and commercial wildlife licence holders, inviting feedback on this consultation document. This consultation period closed on 29 June 2018, which was longer than the mandatory 28 day consultation period for a Regulatory Impact Statement. However, upon request, extensions for submissions were provided into July 2018.

I note that the petitioners would have liked until 30 September 2018 to consider the proposals in the review. However, this would significantly delay this phase of the review and compromise the capacity of the department to ensure the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006 and the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 are remade prior to their scheduled expiration on 1 September 2019.

Although the consultation proposal provided a cheaper licence to an estimated 78% of existing licence holders, I note that the Petition raised concerns about the proposed limits on the number of animals under the proposed standard and specialised licences, proposed lists of prohibited species and the proposed limitation on breeding under these licences. These concerns reflect those raised in the 95 submissions and 869 survey responses the department received on the consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

Consultation feedback is assisting the department to develop improved proposals. Departmental officers are actively reviewing elements of the proposed options – including proposed limits on the numbers of animals permitted under standard and specialised licences and proposed breeding limits on the specialised licence.

In developing these refinements departmental officers are continuing to work with the Wildlife Advisory Committee, representing keepers, traders and animal welfare interests.

Departmental officers contacted the principal petitioner, Mr Reid, on 5 July 2018 to discuss the concerns raised in the petition and offered to hold a meeting with local licence holders. Subsequent discussions with Mr Reid resulted in agreement that, rather than hold a meeting, the Wildlife Advisory Committee would represent local interests. The department also committed to keeping Mr Reid informed of any future consultation processes for the review.

The remaining elements of the Petition are outside the scope of the review; however, this does not mean that these are not part of the department's ongoing commitment to ensuring the ongoing viability of Queensland's wildlife.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the Petition in accordance with Standing Order 32.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



Leeanne Enoch MP

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