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MEDIA RELEASE

RE: NSW Native Animal Licensing Update

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 has passed through parliament. This Act includes framework legislation for a revised system of native animal licensing in NSW. The design details of the new licensing scheme are currently being formulated with consultative meetings planned with a variety of avicultural and other stakeholder representatives. CCBFA is working closely with those designing the proposed risk-based scheme and we anticipate it will reduce the administrative burden on many licence holders. The new system is planned to commence late 2017 at the earliest.

The primary aim of native animal regulation is protecting wild populations, particularly threatened species - aviculture has much to offer in this regard. We are focused on developing a new system where bird clubs and government work cooperatively to better meet this aim, whilst removing significant flaws of the current system. We encourage all clubs and their members to support this effort.

Several member clubs have indicated concern with the current Native Animal Keeper Licence (AKL) system regarding pressure to use the online e-book facility when members do not possess the skills or technology to do so.

In consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) licensing staff and given a new licensing system is imminent we make the following points.

1. Licence holders with internet access are encouraged to use the online e-book system wherever possible. The wildlife team (02) 9585 6406 is available to assist and guide you as you transition to the online system.
2. Licence holders without suitable technology or internet access are asked to ring the wildlife team on (02) 9585 6406 so a paper-based method of receiving your records can be arranged. We encourage those in this category to make contact well before returns are due for submission.
3. CCBFA has been assured that NPWS/OEH and the wildlife team are committed to ensuring all licence holders can fulfil their licence conditions regardless of the technology and skills they possess under the current and proposed system. If this is not your experience, please don't hesitate to contact CCBFA via your local club executive.

Encouraging licence holders to use the online system aims to improve administrative efficiency and minimise costs. Licence holders can be confident of the security of their details regardless of how their data is submitted.

We welcome feedback during 2017 as details of the new scheme are formulated and released.

Sincerely,



Samuel Davis

Vice President – Government Liaison

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