

2/9/2021

Hi all CCBFA affiliated clubs, members and aviculturists nationally

RE: OPPOSITION to a National Registration Scheme for ALL BIRDS - URGENT

The following serious matter was discussed at last night's September 2021 CCBFA meeting. Please distribute this communication to all aviculturists nationally, URGENTLY.

The Federal Wildlife Trade Office (WTO) within the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment has contracted consultants "ThinkPlace" to consider "Options for a National Registration Scheme for Native and Exotic Live Birds".

Such a scheme is proposed to require registration of all individual birds of all species listed under the CITES convention. This includes all parrot species, both native and exotic (apart from Budgerigars, Cockatiels and Indian Ringnecks), plus some finches that are CITES listed including Red Siskins, Black-throated Finches and wait for it, Java Sparrows.

CCBFA is unanimously and totally opposed to such a national registration scheme.

We encourage all clubs to read and distribute this email to their members and encourage all to complete the online survey making their opposition to such a scheme clear.

I have spoken to the head of wildlife trade about our CCBFA proposal outlined below on numerous occasions. I (and others) have also been interviewed by "ThinkPlace" consultants as have Dr Simon Griffith (Macquarie University) and Dr David Groth (Curtin University) on my recommendation. Both scientists confirm the viability of DNA parentage testing which is at the centre of the CCBFA proposal.

To reiterate, the main points in CCBFA's proposal are as follows.

1. CCBFA is strongly opposed to the introduction of a "National Registration Scheme for Native and Exotic Live Birds".
 - a. This will not prevent smuggling or poaching and will likely enable laundering of illegal birds into the system.
 - b. Registering all CITES listed birds is unrealistic.
 - c. The previous National Exotic Bird Registration Scheme (NEBRS) failed. It is also common knowledge that NEBRS enabled smuggled birds to be legalised.
2. Stopping poaching and smuggling is the main aim. For this to occur an accessible yet robust system to ensure birds for export are captive bred is required. CCBFA's proposal recommends the following...
 - a. Australia's CITES obligations require a captive bred assurance from the Management Authority of the State of export (CITES Article VII (5)). No

further CITES permits are required when birds for export are shown to be captive bred.

- b. CCBFA acknowledges there are deficiencies in the current system of proving birds intended for export are captive bred.
 - c. CCBFA supports the introduction of economical DNA parentage tests using blood spots from the captive parents and from the birds to be exported. DNA testing proves parentage which proves that the birds for export are captive bred.
 - d. DNA parentage testing is only required for birds as part of the export process.
 - e. A simple addition to the EPBC Act 1999 is required to implement the above and CCBFA offers to assist.
3. Captive bred exports should NOT be restricted to “display establishments” aka zoos. Exports should be able to go to anyone, cost effectively with some welfare assurances. This must be the case to minimise smuggling and poaching.
- a. Birds shown to be bred in captivity should be treated no different to any other animal bred in captivity. The system for export (and import) should be like dogs, cats, horses, etc. – a system accessible to all. This is the way to minimise smuggling.

Sadly, it appears, we have some vested avicultural interests aiming to lock up the export (and import) of birds for their own financial gain via the introduction of this archaic national registration system. In addition, ask yourself why such people would oppose DNA parentage testing?

Public consultation, including an online survey, is open until 17th September 2021. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to make the above points clear as they complete the survey.

Consultation website is here...

<https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/registration-scheme-for-native-and-exotic-live-birds>

The survey itself is here...

https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/registration-scheme-for-native-and-exotic-live-birds/survey_tools/registration-scheme-for-native-and-exotic-live-birds

Many survey questions presume a national registration scheme is happening – for these questions please answer simply that you strongly oppose such a scheme and perhaps include further comment to explain. Some possible responses could be (but reword if you can).

- A national registration scheme makes no sense as it will enable not prevent smuggling.
- Ridiculous proposal. Registering all birds is a waste of taxpayer funds particularly when the CCBFA DNA parentage test proposal solves the problem simply and economically.

- A national registration scheme was tried years ago and not only failed but worse it enabled smuggled birds to be legalised.
- The only winners from a national registration scheme will be the smuggler and poachers.
- A national registration scheme makes no sense as it will do nothing to protect wild birds.
- A national registration scheme makes no sense as there are hundreds of thousands of aviary birds – compliance would be impossible and pointless.
- Registering all birds is crazy when only very small numbers will ever be exported. Please implement the CCBFA's DNA parentage proposal which requires only birds for export to be tested.
- No need to register all birds when it is only export that is an issue and CCBFA's DNA parentage proposal solves this issue and only involves export birds.

Please complete the survey NOW.

Thank you for your attention.



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