

14/2/2023

Hon. James Griffin MLA
Minister for Environment and Heritage

Dear Minister

Re: Species List Advisory Committee (SLAC forum) issues

Thank you for your letter. Sadly, you have been inaccurately advised and hence your response does not address the issues.

You state in your correspondence of 31/1/2023 (MD22/5354 - attached)...

"I encourage you to share your views constructively through this forum to support the development of a risk-based assessment and draft codes of practice."

This is precisely what I and the members of the SLAC forum have been attempting.

At the SLAC forum meeting on 17/10/22 a "Draft Dealing in Protected Birds Code of Practice 2022" (Draft Code) was presented. The majority of the members of the SLAC forum were shocked that the Draft Code included provisions more stringent than the current licensing scheme.

No member spoke in favour of these provisions. All who spoke, spoke against.

Significantly, upon questioning, the NPWS department staff were unable to provide any evidence for including such provisions. When asked for the source of these provisions the officers were not forthcoming. When asked if the code could be modified based on evidence and advice from the SLAC forum we were told "No" and that the Draft Code was going to public consultation in its current form.

Clearly there are forces at play behind the scenes to which the SLAC forum is not privy resulting in failure of NPWS staff to be open, accountable, and transparent. This is the issue.

We again request a meeting, however given the election is weeks away this is unlikely. We shall progress the matter with the new government after the election and ask that this correspondence be retained for the information of the incoming minister.

Regards,



Sam Davis
President - Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.
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The Hon. James Griffin MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage

MD22/5354

Mr Sam Davis
President
Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.
PO Box 230
FRENCHS FOREST NSW 1640

By email: president@ccbfa.org.au

Dear Mr Davis

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australian Inc regarding the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) native bird licensing review and draft Dealing in Protected Birds Code 2022.

I am advised you are a member of the Species List Advisory Committee. I encourage you to share your views constructively through this forum to support the development of a risk-based assessment and draft codes of practice.

In NSW, dealing in native species as pets is regulated through section 1.3g of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Part of the purpose of the Act is to regulate human interactions with wildlife by applying a risk-based approach.

I am advised that as exempt activities are considered a lower risk category than a Code of Practice, consistent with the 2014 review of biodiversity legislation in NSW recommendations, that it is not appropriate for a Code of Practice to replicate the 'exempt' category of licence as proposed.

I am also advised NPWS received highly diverse feedback from a range of stakeholders in developing the draft risk-based approach to human interactions with wildlife under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. It is appropriate that a final model represents a balanced approach reflecting this diverse feedback.

I am advised NPWS remains committed to implementing reforms to the licensing process under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* to streamline licence administration and enable compliance of higher risk activities.

Should you have any further queries on this matter, please contact Ms Andrea Kubin, Manager Wildlife Programs and Regulation, NPWS on 4348 1907 or at andrea.kubin@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Griffin'.

James Griffin MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage

3.1.23