

# The Animal Care Expert

“Animal welfare by the experts—those who keep, care for and breed animals”



## *In this issue:*

- Animal Advisory Groups
- Animal Species' Updates
- *Plus lots more.*



## General Meetings

*Held bi-monthly*

Our next General Meeting is Monday January 13th,  
7.30pm.

Held in the Upstairs Lounge at the Commercial Hotel  
Parramatta—2 Hassall St Parramatta.

General Enquiries:

[aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au)



# President's Report

What a busy time the past three months has been since our last newsletter.

## New Animal Group Delegates

We welcomed Joanne Payne from Illawarra Reptile Society as our new Reptile Delegate and Kylie Gilbert who is the National Education Manager for Pet Professionals Australia as our new Dog Delegate .

## Local Councils, Legislation & Inquiries

Changes to pet keeping guidelines within local Council areas have been ongoing, and ACA has responded to Northern Beaches Council and will be responding to South Gippsland Council at the end of this month.

Changes to Acts were proposed in Victoria and in NSW which saw ACA respond to:

- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Draft 2019 in Victoria and,
- Draft Research into Animal Re-homing Guidelines 2019 in NSW.

There have been a number of Inquiries in NSW in the past few months and ACA has provided submissions.

- **Right to Farm Bill 2019 – NSW** — supporting the intent of the Bill and highlighting the lack of protection for pet keepers & hobbyists against animal rights trespassers on our properties.
- ♦ **Exhibition of exotic animals in circuses and exhibition of cetaceans in NSW** — supporting both circus & marine parks where best welfare practices have been proven, in addition to seeking assurances animals in other 'mobile' shows or exhibitions are not included or affected in the future.

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- **Legislative Council Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in New South Wales** - supporting the RSPCA & Animal Welfare League but with strong recommendations for change in the areas of transparency, accountability and seeking an independent auditor such as an ombudsman or review committee.

Animal Care Australia has been approached to see if we would be prepared to provide input as a witness at the Exhibited Animals and Animal Cruelty Inquiries. Time will tell if the respective Select Committees determine to include us.

### Policies

One of the first important tasks that ACA needed to complete following the AGM is the implementation of governing policies.

During the AGM a strong push was made to have all member organisations require a Code of Ethics (in addition to the DPI/NSW Govt Codes of Practices) as a requirement of membership to ACA. A majority of the newly elected Committee recognised this was unrealistic and impossible and would give the impression of exclusivity. We acknowledge many member organisations are small and do not have a Code of Ethics, or even know what that might entail.

One of Animal Care Australia's primary goals is to achieve higher welfare standards within all animal keeping groups. This would not be possible if we were excluding groups. Those excluded groups would particularly need our assistance. To ensure our members do follow ethical practices, ACA has implemented the following policies:



- **ACA Organisational Code of Ethics** — upon joining as a member, individuals & organisations agree to abide by this policy. Their membership is conditional to that agreement.
- **ACA Responsible Breeders Policy** — ACA encourages all members to adopt this policy.

Other policies implemented include:

- **Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy**
- **Communications Policy** — for internal use
- **Statement of Responsibilities** — a statement of duties outlining the role and responsibilities of the Animal Group Delegates.

The **ACA Code of Ethics, Responsible Breeders Policy and Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy** can be downloaded from our website:

<https://www.animalcareaustralia.org.au/policies/>

### Stakeholders & Government Contacts

As the President, I believe it is important to maintain a connection with stakeholders who are not our members. To date, we have now met with the following people:

- ◆ **Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer NSW Department of Primary Industries** — the first stage of the review of POCTA has commenced and ACA have participated in consultation with Kim and her team as well as provided input into the definition of Animal Cruelty.
- ◆ **Steve Coleman, CEO RSPCA NSW** — re-established communications with RSPCA and will hold regular meetings with Steve & other staff to ensure both organisations can work together to resolve issues quickly.

We will be pursuing meetings with the Minister of Agriculture and also the Minister for Energy & Environment.

# Small Mammals Update

**By R.D. Sydenham**

It has well and truly been a very productive couple of months for all of our Animal Care Australia group representatives as we have all been busy attending to various government Inquiries regarding animal welfare. Our submissions to these Inquiries are available to view on our official ACA website.

In rabbit news, evidence of the new RHDV vaccine studies came to light when Humane Research Australia, (HRA), an animal rights group, released a media statement on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 regarding the rescue and re-homing of laboratory rabbits that are being used for testing of the RHDV vaccine and its efficacy. Whilst the release of these animals from a pathogen free laboratory environment is unfortunately unrealistic, we can at least hold some hope by this news that the development of the new RHDV vaccine is in fact in motion. ACA hope to follow up on this news to gain more information on the progress and will share this with our members when we can.

To view the HRA media release, click on the link:

[http://www.humaneresearch.org.au/literature\\_251671/Lab\\_bunnies\\_lives\\_hang\\_in\\_the\\_balance\\_as\\_NSW\\_Government\\_decide\\_their\\_fate](http://www.humaneresearch.org.au/literature_251671/Lab_bunnies_lives_hang_in_the_balance_as_NSW_Government_decide_their_fate)

In Small Mammal matters, various councils across Australia are once again looking to implement new Animal Keeping Policies, outlining restrictions on the numbers of animals allowed to be kept by residents within their properties. The latest brought to our attention was the Draft Keeping Animals Policy by Northern Beaches Council, proposing unrealistic numbers of 4 of each variety to be kept at any one time, of Cavies, rats, and mice with care taken to prevent excessive breeding and release into the environment and at least one gender de-sexed if housed together. This would pose a problem for anyone residing within the Northern Beaches Council, should they be an active hobbyist/member of cavy or rodent groups.

A submission was made to Northern Beaches Council by ACA on behalf of its member groups, outlining having number restrictions on the keeping of these

To view the Northern Beaches Council Draft Keeping Animals Policy, follow the link below:

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/2019-policy-review/keeping-animals-policy-draft>

animals would have detrimental effects on hobbyists maintaining a healthy selection of breeding lines as well as the welfare of these animals that naturally live in large social colonies.



On December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, the ACA Small Mammals Representative received confirmation of receipt of the submission along with an invitation to meet with Louise Kerr of the Northern Beaches Council, for an opportunity to discuss our concerns with the Draft Keeping Animals Policy. So watch this space!

# The Story We Tell

By Noeline Cassettari

Below are some of the arguments from submissions for the Inquiry into exotic animals in captivity. Emotional arguments passionate 'animal lovers' believe to be true. Even though none of the arguments are factually correct. Stories spread by animal rights groups.

- cruel and inhumane
- suffer a lifetime of stress and boredom
- torture
- forced to perform behaviours through punishment and restraining food
- They are mistreated and kept in steel cages with inadequate shading and no natural habitat.
- They must be trained with the use of bullhooks, whips, metal spikes, hotplates and electric prods, and learn to obey out of fear of punishment.
- Circus animals spend almost their entire lives in chains or cooped up in cages
- Circus animals are forced to travel thousands of kilometres each year in filthy, cramped compartments
- Animals in circuses are a threat to public safety
- Circuses indicate to children that it is right to make imprisoned and terrified animals perform unnatural acts for audiences' amusement and that it is funny to watch beautiful and dignified creatures, tricked out in tawdry costume, going through dangerous and demeaning acts for human



entertainment.

So what story can those that believe in human/animal interaction tell?

- ⇒ Let's be proactive in telling a story in which animals, and humans, benefit from interaction with each other.
- ⇒ Lets support all the humans that spend their lives caring for animals.
- ⇒ Lets support farmers, zookeepers, animal trainers, breeders, greyhound owners, thoroughbred owners.
- ⇒ Lets encourage continual improvements in animal welfare. Identify specific problem, and think of a way to do things differently.
- ⇒ Lets support everyone else that works with animals.
- ⇒ Lets tell emotional stories showing positive human/animal interaction.
- ⇒ Lets tell captivating stories to teach people

Some great examples:

**Farming**

<https://www.facebook.com/onwardmurraygreys/>

**Animals for TV and Film**

<https://www.facebook.com/AnimalsAllAroundZelieCraigBullen/>

**Circuses with Animals**

<https://www.facebook.com/SCWPA/>

**Animal Training**

<https://animaltrainingsolutions.com.au/>

By Kylie Gilbert

In this current climate we are facing a lot of change in the ownership of dogs, we have seen revision's to the animal Acts and Codes nationwide which in some cases are decreasing our ability to own dogs and in a lot of cases the ability to breed dogs for the future, and now we have the POCTAA up for consultation. What some also fail to see is that the changes will also affect shelters and pounds as foster carers will be further limited on what they can take on, but that is a story for another day.

While no one wants to see animals in shelters, there has been a lot of debate around the "adopt don't shop slogan". People should have a choice, we need to look at why most animals end up in shelters and pounds, it is generally due to behavioural or temperament problems, or due to people falling on hard times. Dogs with temperament and behavioural issues are not always easy to re-train and it is a timely undertaking, unfortunately with most of the population working longer hours not everyone has the time to re-train a dog or has the tools to deal with behavioural issues. So, do these people not deserve to share their lives with a dog? Do they not deserve the right to go out and find that dog that best suits their lifestyle? If these people were to take on a dog with severe issues, what are the chances that the dog would end up back in a shelter when the new owners cannot fix the original issues? There are people out there with the time to take these dogs on and they should be



commended, and it is a wonderful thing to see a rehabilitated dog out in society.

People should not be demoralised and made to feel guilty for going out and buying a dog from a breeder.

The term "preservation breeder" is a somewhat recent designation. It is used with increasing frequency among dedicated fanciers to reinforce a commitment to produce dogs of quality. This new designation is a direct response to animal rights campaigns determined to eliminate the controlled breeding and ownership of all companion animals. To a growing number of people, the stakes have never been higher and the use of "purebred" seems out of touch these days, if not entirely obsolete. "Preservation" may best describe the work required of today's breeders who wish to live in a world where Schipperkes and Rottweilers coexist alongside "service dogs" and "rescues."

With preservation as the objective, every breed requires a plan of action tailored to its circumstance. Each breed's development, historical function, current state of health, and susceptibility to disease must be understood in order to establish standard practices that will help to ensure its continuation.

In the 21st century, "adaptive reuse" has been coined by real estate developers, city planners, architects and politicians as a directive for finding



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new purposes for places that already exist. Well, dog breeders have been doing much the same thing for years. Where as a breed may have been originally developed to retrieve ducks, chase gazelles or confront an errant bull, the Golden Retriever, Saluki and Bulldog have each managed to survive through their own adaptive reuse: guide dog; couch potato; and symbol of the British Empire respectively. The survival of each breed depends at least in part on its having been rebranded for the modern world.

Times are changing and we are now being asked to consider animals as sentient beings this again is being heavily pushed by the Animal Activist and the Animal Rights movements. Do animals have feelings and emotions? Yes they do, but if we are going to go as far as I predict is suggested than this will mean we should not at any point be de-sexing animals as this would be going against the idea of them being sentient as by de-sexing them we are undertaking a procedure that was not their choice. We are all huge advocates for animal welfare and rights but while we are going to these measures to appease the emotiveness of animal ownership, we are forgetting the bigger picture of these animals being huge parts of people's lives and we are forgetting how they improve mental health.

I would like to see the end of the "Adopt Don't Shop" slogan and it be replaced with the "Adopt or Shop Responsibly". We all want to see an end to the puppy farm and the terrible conditions in which their puppies are raised and the over breeding of their producing animals but it is unfair to say all dog breeders fit into this category.



## Animal Advisory Groups

ACA's Animal Advisory Groups discuss and draft proposals and submissions under the guidance of their Animal Groups Delegate, on behalf of the ACA Committee. Approved members are invited to participate in an Animal Advisory Group, providing the opportunity to contribute to proposed legislative changes, local Council reviews, the reviews of the Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act, and much more.

Participation in an Animal Advisory Group is online via a private Facebook Group. They are moderated by the Animal Group Delegate, listed below, and at least one other ACA Committee Member:

- **Birds:** Sam Davis
- **Cats:** Helen Toovey
- **Dogs:** Kylie Gilbert
- **Farm Animals:** Noeline Cassettiari
- **Horses:** Karri Nadazdy
- **Native Mammals:** Michael Donnelly
- **Reptiles:** Joanne Payne
- **Small Mammals:** Rachel Sydenham

If you or a representative of your organisation would like to join an Animal Advisory Group send an email to [aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au) , subject line: Animal Advisory Group along with the following information:

- The name of the representative of your organisation who will participate, or if you are an individual – your name
- The URL of that person's Facebook profile
- The Species Group/s that you wish to join (bird, cat, small mammal, reptile, etc)



# Gliding In Your Living Room

By Mitchell Hodgson & Michael Donnelly



**Would you prefer a Quoll instead of a cat? A Bettong instead of a puppy? A Sugar Glider instead of a cockatoo?**

For many people in NSW it would seem a strange concept to have a bettong, sugar glider or quoll. What a lot of NSW residents don't realise is that in Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory private ownership of these native mammals and many more is not only allowed, it is encouraged!

In South Australia and Victoria keeping native mammals has been legal for well over 40 years. There are hundreds of sugar and squirrel gliders in Victoria that knowledgeable keepers love and cherish, so how come in NSW we can only have two native rodent species? That's a question that the Mammal Society of NSW (MSNSW) posed to the previous Environment Minister, and her staff responded by saying 'good question?'

In June 2018 the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) released a discussion document that aimed to implement a new risk-based strategy for keeping reptiles, birds and amphibians, while making a passing comment about native mammals, indicating they weren't keen on discussing it them too much – something the Mammal Society of NSW wanted to fight against. So, we did.

After we approached OEH and the Environment Minister's office we were officially invited into the review and made a submission documenting why we disagree with OEH's policy on prohibiting native mammals, while also including a list of the mammals we'd ultimately like to see on the species list. Along with that list we provided license classes and suggested ways of regulating the species as well as our desire for an enforceable code of practice.

**For anyone interested the submission is on our website:**

**<https://mammalsocietynsw.org.au/about-us/documents/>**

Along with other stakeholders we attended the first of what were many meetings to discuss the basics and proposed foundation of the general licensing scheme and how it will impact all groups of animals. Stakeholders included the keeping groups, but also animal rehabilitation and animal rights organisations such as the New South Wales Wildlife Council and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). To say that all groups saw eye-to-eye on the idea of adding more native mammals to the private keeping list would be a bit of a stretch, in fact the animal rights and wildlife rehabilitation groups were strongly opposed to any changes that allowed more animals to be kept (especially native mammals)

It was not long until we realised this was going to be a long and hard battle with strong ideological views against animals in captivity vocalised. One of the continual arguments used by those opposed to adding species such as sugar gliders or wallabies was that 'we believe

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this species should be in the wild, not in captivity'. During the meetings we'd continually deconstruct the arguments put forward by the opposition – fighting against claims such as they can't be maintained in captivity, they aren't suitable pets or there isn't enough information on them. All three of the above claims are incorrect. Australian mammals are maintained privately both interstate and internationally and with that has come a wealth of information on how to care for them and good welfare standards. It's anecdotally reported that there are more captive sugar gliders currently in the US than there are in the wild in NSW!



Days before our next major meeting on native mammals we received an email from an officer at OEH informing us the meeting had been postponed. Later we found out that the meeting was postponed due to some questionable decisions by the welfare sector, mainly about them releasing the meeting location and details to several animal rights and liberationist organisations, in an attempt to have that meeting railroaded.

We patiently waited for the new date to be announced, but sadly nothing came. We then received correspondence to inform us that mammals had been indefinitely halted for the time being due to private concerns raised with the Ministers Office. Things remained that way until August when communication from office of the new Environment & Energy Minister –



Matt Kean MP Minister stating a secondary review will be needed to move forward.

Not giving up, on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019, we attended a meeting with the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Minister to discuss ways of moving forward. It was made clear to us that the proposal for the licensing review had not been received by the Minister's Office, and that his staff were unaware the Mammal Society had been removed from the consultation process. It was also clear they were unaware of how long native mammals have been kept by private keepers in other states, along with the fact South Australia has just recently adjusted their licensing to enhance and increase the number of animals, including mammals that can be kept in that state.

So now it's a waiting game unfortunately for the current proposal to proceed and be assessed by the Minister before further consultation/discussion is to be commenced in NSW– a satisfactory outcome for the welfare groups – but not for us.

In this ever changing environment with the AR movement gaining ground, and our native wildlife populations being decimated by land clearing, feral-predation and mega fires along the east coast of Australia—this fight to preserve our native mammals in captivity is only going to get harder, and yet more vital.

**The Mammal Society can be contacted via our:**

**Website:** <https://mammalsocietynsw.org.au/>

**Facebook Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mammalsocietynsw/>

# Horse Update

By Karri Nadazdy

The Inquiry into the Feasibility of a National Horse Register final Report was tabled earlier this month, with 18 recommendations made by the Senate Committee. ACA's submission was referenced 18 times in the report.

One of the recommendations by the Senate Committee was the formation of a National Horse Traceability working group, comprised of various equestrian industry, animal welfare and biosecurity stakeholders. ACA's next step is to obtain a seat on that panel. The committee recommended that the racing industry bodies draft the register, which is not good news for recreational horse owners, and some impartial representation of the recreational sector is desperately needed.

ACA has concerns with the biosecurity focus of the Register, and the recommendation that the register is to be designed to meet European horse meat trading standards. This will make it easier to send horses to slaughter for human consumption, and legitimise an industry that is already not permitted in Australia.

Microchipping is still being touted as the primary identification method, which ACA does not believe is appropriate for horses. But we were pleased to see a recommendation to include biometric identification as well, which is more reliable, particularly for unhandled and feral horses, who cannot be chipped at all, as well as the especially vulnerable older horses, whose chips

have migrated and become unreadable or have expired. Identification of horses for the register should protect the horse for its entire life, and not just be what is quick and convenient in the short term.

ACA is firmly focused on ensuring that the Horse Register is established to improve welfare standards for horses in Australia, without mitigating the rights of their caregivers. It must be fair, and affordable, and not only of benefit to the wealthy or lucky ones. The horse industry is very diverse, and we will continue to speak up for the good welfare of our National Herd.

2019 saw a lot of horses in the media spotlight, but not always in a positive light. In addition to the National Horse Register Inquiry, we also saw:

- \* Equestrian Australia come under fire for its questionable safety and welfare standards;
- \* The International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) followed Equestrian Australia's lead to ban bitless bridles in the cross country eventing
- \* Several aerial brumby culls went ahead in different States;
- \* Ex-racehorses were filmed being slaughtered for human consumption, as well as their shocking treatment by abattoir workers and,
- \* Yet another horse was seriously injured in the Melbourne Cup. ....Continued over page



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The news has been overwhelmingly negative, and shows that we have a long road ahead to turn this around. ACA, and our Horse Advisory Group, will continue to work hard behind the scenes to achieve these goals. We hope we will start to see more positive news about horses in 2020 and beyond.

We do hope you will join us.



## General Meetings in 2020

**Held bi-monthly**  
**7.30pm**

**Held in the Upstairs Lounge at the Commercial Hotel Parramatta—2 Hassall St Parramatta.**

- January 13th
- March 9th
- May 11th
- July 13th
- September 14th
- November 9th

Check our Events calendar on our Facebook Page for more information, including announcements of Guest speakers.

## No Christmas Feast

**By Helen Toovey**

With the season to be jolly upon us and so many things around that we would not usually have out it's a good reminder of what can harm your feline friend.

- ◇ **Plants** – Azaleas, Daisy, Daffodils, Ivy, Lily, Tulip, Oleander, Kalanchoe.
- ◇ **Food** – Onions, Garlic, Cooked bones, Chocolate, Caffeine, Alcohol, Grapes and Raisins, Yeast Dough, Avocado, and Nuts
- ◇ **Human pain killers.**
- ◇ **Xylitol**—One that you may not be aware of. It is an artificial sweetener. This is used in a lot of sugar free lollies etc. This is extremely toxic to cats.
- ◇ **Himalayan Salt Lamps.** It can look very tempting to lick due to its texture. Ingestion of the salt can cause sodium poisoning.
- ◇ **Liquid air fresheners** are also toxic to cats.
- ◇ Whilst we are all opening the many presents it is also advised to be aware of any small objects that the cats can ingest causing a blockage. Hair ties, small toys, buttons, ribbons and string.

Happy blessings to both you and yours – human and feline.



By Sam Davis

## ACT Licensing Issue

Bruce Goleby (President Canberra Finch Club), Simon Degenhard and CCBFA President Sam Davis met with the ACT Conservator's office on Thursday afternoon 5/9/2019 to present our submission to reverse the recent changes to again allow the keeping of most exotic and commonly kept native species within the ACT without the need for a licence. Full submission is our website – [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au).

The meeting couldn't have been more successful. There was immediate agreement that in general all exotics that are at all likely to be present in ACT aviculture should be returned or added to the exempt list, and similarly, in general, for any natives that are (or will be) exempt in NSW.

Implementation will take some time as they wish to ensure the new exempt list does not conflict with their work on the pest animal lists. There may be some negotiation on some species but we're confident all can be resolved sensibly. In the interim, we were assured nobody will be charged for keeping birds that were exempt but are currently not exempt.

Many thanks to all who assisted.

## Native Parrot Exports for Display – Australian Government Meeting

Productive meeting about native bird exports in Canberra yesterday 5/9/2019. A summary of the meeting will be released in due course, however this seems to be taking way too long.

The main points to come out of the meeting, in my view are....

ACTP has done nothing wrong whatsoever.

Support for a broader definition of where animals can be sent compared to the somewhat vague "zoo" current criteria. 4 criteria, from memory, were proposed as follows - conservation, education, welfare and breeding.

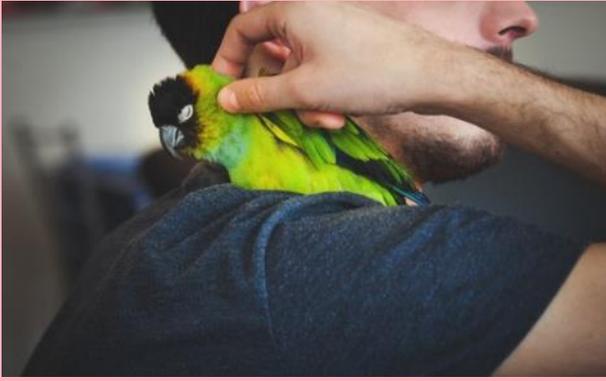
Ensuring only captive bred birds are exported. A range of convoluted systems were discussed. A simple blood



dot system so parentage of birds in doubt can be later checked would be simplest (my view).

The following CCBFA statement relevant to this matter was unanimously passed at our September CCBFA meeting and is the general view expressed by CCBFA President Sam Davis during the meeting and on behalf of approximately 250 CCBFA affiliated clubs. I believe there was general support for this statement at the Canberra meeting.

CCBFA supports and encourages a simplified export system for birds known to be aviary bred. Essentially captive bred birds, whether native or exotic, should be treated in the same manner as dogs, cats, and other routinely exported (and imported) species (except for threatened species within captive breeding programs). This is THE way to deter smuggling, as there is not and will not ever be sufficient sustainable funding to enforce border controls. The only proviso is to include safeguards to ensure captive numbers within Australia for each exported species remain sustainable.



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### **Major Review of the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA).**

A major review of POCTA and related Acts has just commenced. Michael Donnelly (ACA President) and I were and invited and subsequently met with the Kim Filmer (Chief Animal Welfare Officer), Suzanne Robinson (Director Animal Welfare) and other senior policy staff in Sydney on 24/10/19. The aim was to gather our initial thoughts on the current Acts regulating animal welfare in NSW prior to widespread public consultation taking place.

We outlined our recommended approach with simplified legislation based on the five freedoms, with enforceable standards for each animal grouping. The Standards (along with guidelines) to be written by the stakeholder groups with DPI staff assistance to edit. We have agreement to work with RSPCA as these standards are developed. Note this process will take many years.

There are a range of parliamentary inquiries underway that feed into this review and to which we are or will contribute, largely via ACA. We have been asked to present at the parliamentary inquiry into Animal Cruelty Laws in New South Wales whose findings will no doubt influence the POCTA review. Our CCBFA submission to this inquiry can be found on our website [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au) under the documents tab.

ACA President Michael Donnelly and I met with Shooters Fishers Farmers Party (SFFP) MP Mark Banasiak at parliament house on 23/10/19 and are confident of their support. We subsequently met with Animal Justice Party (AJP) MP Emma Hurst on 3/12/19 to try to find common ground – AJP remains opposed to ALL birds in cages – full stop.

We are meeting with RSPCA NSW CEO and senior staff regularly so as to present a united voice.

### **Victorian Animal Welfare legislation review**

There has been recent media indicating Victoria will move to progress its Animal Welfare Action Plan into a major review of all animal welfare legislation in the state. CCBFA is in contact with the Director of Animal Welfare, Tracey Marsden to ensure CCBFA (and ACA) are consulted from the start.

A team is currently forming to manage the review processes. We are in contact with the manager with commitments for further consultation early in the new year.

### **NSW Native Animal Licensing Update.**

We are still awaiting approval of the reforms package by Matt Kean, Minister for Energy and Environment. We have learnt the package has not yet reached the Minister's office so we have requested meetings with Atticus Fleming who is now at the top of the chain as Executive Director as well as with the Minister. Everything remains ready for implementation.

### **Level 2 Water Restrictions – Sydney Water**

CCBFA have written to NSW Water Minister Pavey and Sydney Water requesting an exemption from Level 2 water restriction which came into force on 10/12/19.

We requested a similar exemption to that approved in 2004 to permit the following:

In high temperatures when birds show signs of distress, use fixed sprays for short periods within the aviary and/or on the roof of the aviary in order to reduce the temperature.

In the interest of maintaining hygiene, allow aviaries to be washed out with the use of hoses fitted with a hand-controlled nozzle to limit the volume of water and/or the use of pressure hoses.

We encourage all clubs to join ACA at their earliest convenience.

Membership forms can be downloaded from <http://animalcareaustralia.org.au/files/aca-membership-application.pdf>

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Watch out for our next  
issue in March 2020.

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