

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Formal submission - Proposed changes to laws for exhibiting and dealing with native and exotic animals
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From: Raymond Hoser (The Snake Man),
Snakebusters: Australia's best reptiles.
[REDACTED]
Doncaster, Victoria, 3108, Australia.
[REDACTED]

TO/ Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Phone: 07 3406 7669
Fax: 07 3406 7070
Email: arec@parliament.qld.gov.au
Ms Heather Crighton, Acting Research Director
Ms Megan Johns, Principal Research Officer
Ms Rhia Campillo, Executive Assistant
arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Madams, Sirs,

As a wildlife displayer who educates nationally, including in Queensland under the current legal regime, I wish to make a very simple submission and that in large part is that other displayers should adhere to the same standards that we at *Snakebusters: Australia's best reptiles* have done so for many years. If this is done, all current issues concerning a lack of welfare considerations for the animals and proper public safety would be immediately resolved.

Our business has an unmatched perfect safety record spanning many years. This is in large part due to the fact that we alone in Australia have surgically de-venomized snakes (known as venomoids), created via a surgical procedure I developed and perfected in 2003.

By contrast, all our significant and long-term competitors in the wildlife education space have had a series of fatal and near fatal snakebites and the majority are also corruptly protected from prosecution by wildlife department staff, including in Queensland.

See for example the numerous near fatal bites, including involving members of the public, by the displayer Tony Harrison (as shown in the attached news clips) of the Gold Coast, for which he was never charged!

I also note that the animal welfare of venomous snakes is also compromised by continued stick / hook / tongs handling as done in displays where the snakes are not de-venomized and is necessitated by the ongoing risk of handling snakes that can otherwise kill people.

No snakes like being stick handled at any time and at best tolerate it.

Our de-venomized snakes are never stick handled and their happy well adjusted nature is self-evident at every display we do.

On that basis I would be calling for all venomous snake displays with snakes that have not been surgically de-venomized to be outlawed. This is also on the basis of inherent public safety risks as well as the consideration of inherent welfare aspects in terms of the tormenting of snakes with metal sticks.

My own expertise with wildlife is set out here:

<http://www.smuggled.com/Exp1.htm>

A FAQ about de-venomized snakes is here:

<http://www.smuggled.com/VenFAQ1.htm>

An incomplete list of fatal and near fatal snake bites involving government licensed handlers in Queensland and elsewhere is here:

<http://www.smuggled.com/BitLis1.htm>

We deleted near four venomous bites from the Irwin business following legal threats from them in 2011.

Our business risk assessment (which should be made mandatory for all others as well) is here:

<http://www.smuggled.com/RisAss1.htm>

I also attach a few recent clips involving serious safety breaches by government licensed displayers, all of whom should have been shut down for their serious safety breaches. I also suggest that for reptile displays in particular, as well as venomous snake displays specifically, you should not be licensing people to display and educate unless they have independently verifiable expertise in the form of past publications of at least ten scientific papers on the relevant subject in peer reviewed scientific journals, published over a time span of at least 10 years (being journals in which the author has no editorial control, and papers in which the relevant author is sole or senior author). This would weed cowboys (and girls) out from the business of wildlife education. Please acknowledge receipt of this submission (including attachments) as soon as possible.
YOURS SINCERELY
RAYMOND HOSER (THE SNAKE MAN)

[Snakebusters](#) - Australia's best reptiles

The only hands-on reptiles shows that lets people hold the animals.

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