



14th April 2015

Ben Bawden



Submission to Parliamentary Council: Exhibited Animals Bill 2015

To whom it may concern,

I own and operate a multi-taxa wildlife demonstration business, prior to this I have worked in Zoos, Wildlife Parks and in tertiary education, I have also been involved in the establishment of an industry group for mobile demonstrators, Queensland Wildlife Educators Network.

I firmly believe that the Exhibited Animals Bill 2015 has been written to suit fixed exhibitors with little consideration for mobile wildlife exhibitors, despite mobile exhibitors making up more than half the permit holders in Queensland at the time of writing. Mobile exhibitors meet all the same standards (where available) as fixed exhibitors and adhere to the same OHSW practices.

The legislation currently in place does not allow mobile exhibitors to exhibit prohibited matter, I firmly believe this is anti-competitive, the current rate of mobile exhibition permits being granted is staggering, and it seems that these permits will not become any 'harder' to obtain. Whilst the inclusion of some prohibited matter to 'Category B' is a step in the right direction, I do not believe this will give our industry the extra dimension it needs.

Mobile exhibitors have proved time and time again that they are capable of holding and breeding species that many stationary exhibitors have struggled with or deemed 'out of trend', this combined with a strong compliance record of standards put forward by Biosecurity Queensland further supports the ability of mobile exhibitors to hold 'Category C' animals.

Please find attached comments and recommendations on specific areas of the legislation in the tables below.

Sincerely,

Ben Bawden

Section	Clause	Comments
24	<p>24 Consultation about codes of practice</p> <p>(1) Before the making of a code of practice under this part is recommended to the Governor in Council, the chief executive must consult with relevant entities.</p> <p>(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the adopted provisions of a code of practice.</p> <p>(4) In this section—</p> <p>relevant entities means entities the chief executive considers have an interest in matters relating to exhibiting and dealing with exhibited animals.</p> <p><i>Examples of types of entities—</i></p> <p>entities from community groups or professional and industry associations</p>	<p>I believe this example of entities is far too broad, it leaves it open for propaganda-fuelled groups (such as extreme animal rights groups) to obtain a footing on issues that they may not have adequate knowledge of to make an informed comment.</p> <p>Codes of Practice should be written by industry bodies and Bio-Security, the only people with knowledge of the issues actually facing the industry.</p>
31	<p>31 Meaning of special exhibition approval</p> <p>A special exhibition approval is an approval given by the chief executive to the holder of an exhibition licence to exhibit and deal with an authorised animal (category C) at a place identified in the approval that is outside—</p> <p>(a) a regular enclosure for the animal at a regular enclosure site under the licence; and</p> <p>(b) a controlled area that includes a regular enclosure for the animal at a regular enclosure site under the licence.</p>	<p>The way the legislation is written Authorised Animals Category C must be displayed in a fixed exhibit for 900 hours per year. This indirectly means that only fixed exhibitors will be able to exhibit these animals, excluding half of the industry (mobile exhibitors) from exhibiting Category C animals.</p> <p>By offering special exhibition approval to take category C animals out of controlled areas the government is acknowledging that the relevant risks associated with exhibiting a category C animal outside of its fixed exhibit or the controlled area can effectively be managed. This provision means that the Department admits these risks can be managed by any exhibitor.</p> <p>Interstate there are mobile exhibitors operating with a range of Primates, reptiles and small cats, as well as many fixed exhibitors taking out category c species, further supporting the fact that risks can be managed.</p>
34	<p>(a) (x) Red-tailed black cockatoo (calyptorhynchus banksii)</p>	<p>This species is listed as category B but is also covered under section 33 (b) (iv) as a restricted animal, what category does this animal fall in? What management plan process will apply.</p>
37	<p>37 Meaning of management plan</p>	<p>Management plans as described currently will become a burden for both the department and permit holders, the amount of information required and the adherence too it is extreme. For example I prepared a 'draft management plan' for one species in my collection, this document came in at over twenty pages, at current staffing levels, who will read this? And what delays will it cause to the amendment process?</p>
73	<p>73 Exhibiting authorised animal (category C)</p> <p>It is a condition of an exhibition licence that an authorised animal (category C) may be exhibited only at—</p> <p>(a) a regular enclosure for the animal at a regular enclosure site under the licence; or</p> <p>(b) a place outside a regular enclosure site under the licence but within a controlled area including a regular enclosure for the animal at the site; or</p> <p>(c) another place, but only if the exhibition is authorised under a special exhibition approval included in the licence.</p>	<p>See point 31.</p>

75	<p>75 Minimum number of occasions for exhibiting authorised animal (category B)</p>	<p>I am of the firm belief that this is not good for animal welfare, by forcing a minimum number onto each species it could cause undue stress to an animal from undesirable weather conditions, breeding seasons or the unavailability of appropriate training sessions for exhibition.</p> <p>As a mobile exhibitor I do not hold huge numbers of individual species, some may be only one individual, if this animal is not suitable for exhibition for a period of time there should not be a penalty for its 'off season' time.</p> <p>There are many other steps the department could take to ensure that 'category b' species are being held only by 'legitimate' exhibitors.</p>
76	<p>76 Minimum exhibition period for authorised animal (category C) (2) It is a condition of the licence that at least 1 authorised animal of the species must be exhibited for a combined total of at least 75 hours in each calendar month (the <i>relevant month</i>) during the term of the exhibition licence.</p>	<p>Biosecurity may be quoted during consultation and workshops as saying "Exhibition in a fixed exhibit is the most reliable way to mitigate risks associated with these animals." Mobile exhibition would be even more reliable, mobile exhibitors are constantly in the public eye, even more so that fixed exhibitors, and in a range of locations.</p> <p>This does not stop a fixed exhibitor from maintaining one animal on exhibit and a 'private collection' of the species off display, which as stated by Biosecurity during the consultation process is exactly what they are trying to avoid.</p> <p>Mobile exhibitors are required to meet all the same standards as other exhibitors, so why should they be excluded in legislation from category c animals. (see point 31)</p>
86	<p>86 Record requirements</p>	<p>What will these requirements be?</p>
105	<p>105 Assessment fees</p>	<p>These fees have the potential to significantly impact small business. What about regional businesses? Will they be penalised by higher fees?</p>