

6th Nov 2014

Dept Agriculture, Resources And Environment Committee

Dear Committee,

Our families, Lennons and Wests represent 2 of the 3 NSW based circuses namely Stardust Circus and Lennon Bros Circus with exotic animals registered with NSW Exhibited Animals Protection Act department and have been for 20 years or more

I am worried about the proposal put forward in "The Exhibited Animals Bill 2014", which proposes to limit interstate registered circuses such as ours to a 6 month Permit in Qld which does not allow the circus enough time to fully tour Qld, as at times we go into the country areas such as Mt Isa, Blackall and Charleville, to name but a few where the locals never get to see these type of animals that we have with our circuses.

- Permit for 6 months. Will a provision be provided for a further 6 month permit to be issued if required to allow the circus to tour in Qld up to 12 months before leaving the state.
- A 12 month permit would be more appropriate for interstate registered circuses such as ours to operate in Qld, which would make for less paper work for both Dept of Agriculture Qld Bio-Security and the circuses involved.
- Each of our 2 circuses usually go into Qld every 2-3 years and we would like to continue to do so in the future.
- Our Stardust Circus usually stays in Qld 8-9 months each tour and our Lennon Bros Circus up to 12 months
- Victoria now issues a 12 month permit for our circuses when we need to go into their state, to cover the amount of time we spend in Victoria.
- South Australia issues a Permit to cover the months that we ask for to operate in SA.
- Our families have been in the circus business since 1893 and have had exotic animals (Monkeys then Lions) since 1957.
- Lennon Bros Circus and Stardust Circus have never been convicted for cruelty to animals and have always had the animals welfare and safety paramount in their operations.
- Lions and Monkeys
 - The outside exercise enclosures for our lions are approx 250 square metres which far exceed the minimum requirements in the current Code of Practice for Animals in Circuses.
 - The monkey quarters have an extra enclosure attached when on site which increases the exercise area well past what is required.
- These animals have all been born and bred in captivity and have been with the circus their whole life.
- Risk to human health and safety. We have procedures in place to deal with any attacks, escapes etc.
- Risk of biosecurity issues. There has never been a case in Australia's history where a vertebrate pest species has become so as a result of a deliberate or accidental release from a circus.

Thanking you for your consideration.

Kind regards

Jan Lennon

Co-owner of Lennon Bros and Stardust Circus [REDACTED]