

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Exhibited Animals Bill  
**Date:** Monday, 20 October 2014 1:52:08 PM

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Dear AREC Committee,

My name is Robert Joyes and I represent our animal exhibition business, Wildlife Kingdom. As part of our business, we exhibit and present our animals with traditional circuses who regularly tour Queensland.

Traditional circus with animals have been a part of Australian culture for over 150 years and are well patronised by Queenslanders. Our tours often encompass rural and regional towns of Queensland, giving local children the opportunity to view our animals, who otherwise for various reasons may never have a chance to visit zoos or other shows located in larger centres.

I wish to bring to your attention some concerns relating to the proposed "Exhibited Animals Bill". The draft bill in its current form, has negative implications to the operation of traditional animal circuses in this state.

During the consultation process of this bill, I made a number of submissions to the RIS and attended workshops, highlighting my concerns. These concerns however, have been overlooked at every stage and as you are aware, the bill has now been introduced to parliament.

The concerns for my business and the wider sector of our industry are as follows:

- **It is proposed to no longer allow Queensland-based traditional circuses to hold exotic animals.** This proposal will prohibit any circus owner who has exotic animals (such as ourselves) from becoming Queensland based in the future. This would serve no benefit to the local economy as they would have no alternative but to remain based in other states. No other state in Australia has this law or is proposing it. Australian circuses have a good record of public safety and animal welfare and there has not been any bio-security risks or threats as a result of traditional circuses keeping and displaying exotic animals. It was suggested at the workshop and in the RIS that Queensland based circuses should maintain a home base where they could have layover facilities for their animals that would be equivalent to zoo sized enclosures for when they are not touring, but this discussion went no further and it is now proposed to outlaw it all together.
- **It is proposed for interstate and local circuses who tour Queensland to require new permits every 6 months.** The current situation grants interstate and local circuses a permit lasting 2 years. This gives circuses greater flexibility in their operations. This proposal completely contradicts the *Governments desire to reduce red tape and to simplify how the Government authorises the exhibition of animals*. This additional requirement would discourage interstate circuses spending greater amounts of time in Queensland. Whilst circuses are touring Queensland they are employing local people, utilizing local goods and services and contributing to the state's economy. This should be encouraged, not discouraged by increased administration and costs.  
Due to the geographical size and growth of the state, the average tour of Queensland well exceeds 6 months. For this reason, the current licence term of two years works well and we feel should not be changed.

- **Proposed licensing costs are to rise from \$206 for 2 years to \$2,615 per year( for a Qld based circus) or Approx \$900 per year (for an interstate based circus).** Whilst it is considered justified to modestly increase these fees, the proposed increase is outrageous. We, for instance are a small operation with less than 20 animals and of which only 2 are regarded as “exotic” animals under licence. This extra cost would pose a big financial burden on our small business. The proposal is discriminatory to our sector of the industry, as an equivalent Queensland based fixed exhibitor will only pay \$970 per year for the same number of animals displayed.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and any assistance from you in addressing my concerns would be greatly appreciated. Should you wish to discuss the matter further, you can contact me anytime on the phone number below.

Kind Regards,

**Rob Joyes**



Crescent Head NSW 2440

