

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Wild Animals Australia is a facebook site run by 2 carers with over 20 years experience caring for native wildlife. We provide education and share information for wildlife carers as well as raising funds for carers. We have been recently compiling information on glue traps and are surprised that there seems to be no review of the impacts of pest management traps on wildlife. We have collected records from carers willing to talk about their experiences with dealing with accidental catch of wildlife on glue traps. We have contacted our largest suppliers regarding controls and risk assessment of these freely available items. Basically there are no controls on people wishing to use glue traps despite suppliers and pest controllers knowing about cruelty of their use, and there appears to be no consideration of impacts of our wildlife in pest management processes. This is a glaring omission, especially considering the risk of extinction much of our native wildlife faces. Even the "insect glue traps" which are smaller and have less-strong glue are continually catching our insect eating wildlife, including birds and microbats. We ask that during this review you consider impacts of animal management processes on wildlife, and that animal management processes specifically refer to glue traps and related items. We would like to see glue traps banned as there seems to be no controls on their use, which is not only inhumane but lethal. Animals caught can die slow and horrific deaths from thirst, starvation, suffocation and injuries as they struggle to free themselves. Many people, when questioned if they found an animal trapped, would simply throw the trap in the bin. We have evidence reptiles, small native mammals (including bandicoots, antechinus, native rats), birds, raptors, pet kittens, and most often, our insectivorous bats caught on glue traps. Most do not survive. It also takes time and emotional toll on carers and vets trying to treat and save our wildlife. We ask that the committee consider impacts of animal management processes consider unintended consequences on our native wildlife, as well as the humaneness of the process. We ask that traps be included as a threatening process in the Bill.