

Submission on The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Prohibition of Live Imports of Primates for Research) Bill 2015.

I hereby register my support for the private members bill introduced to the Senate in November 2012 by Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon, re-presented last November and referred to inquiry by the Senate Environment and Communications Committee.

Australia has three government-funded facilities where primates are bred specifically for research – macaques and marmosets in Churchill, Victoria and baboons in Wallacia, NSW. Yet despite this "ready supply", nine permits have been granted since 2000, to import primates into Australia for research.

Data obtained from CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species - to which Australia is a signatory), has shown that between 2000-2015, Australia has imported:

- 331 pig-tailed macaques from Indonesia
- 250 crab-eating macaques from Indonesia
- 71 owl monkeys from the United States
- 37 marmosets from France.

Despite non human primates experiencing stress, trauma and pain as human primates do, they are often subjected to highly invasive experiments and confinement. Long distance transportation adds even further stress and suffering of these social and intelligent primates. Please stop importing them for macabre experiments and supporting this disturbing industry.