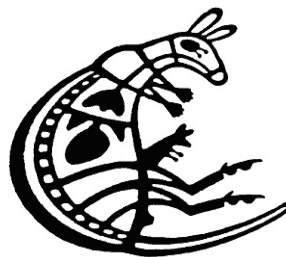


THE AUSTRALIAN MAMMAL SOCIETY

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
MELBOURNE 3010
28.11.05



Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Council of the Australian Mammal Society, which is a society committed to the conservation and care of wildlife, would like to make some comments on the National Animal Welfare Bill. Because of the nature of our Society, we feel that animal welfare legislation is appropriate and we also know that such legislation is already operating.

We have read the proposal for a National Animal Welfare Bill and feel that it has a number of disturbing aspects which should be addressed. We have confined our comments to those relating to the “humane, responsible and accountable care, protection and use of wildlife and animals kept for scientific purposes”.

The Bill imposes an excessive level of bureaucracy on animal welfare which is already highly regulated and subjected to very tight restrictions on any actions that might be taken. Use of wildlife and animals kept for scientific purposes are already adequately supervised and controlled by state agencies. The Bill could seriously affect field and laboratory work on wildlife which is directed towards wildlife conservation.

The application of the Bill to both invertebrates and vertebrates will make it unworkable. It is impossible to legislate to ensure that people should treat mosquitoes or fleas, for example, in a humane fashion. Of course if people have to kill any animal, it would be best done in the most humane way possible, but a proper public education campaign is preferable to a law that will be impossible to police.

I trust you will consider these objections to the Bill and remove mention of wildlife and animals kept for scientific purposes from the scope of the Bill.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Lynne Selwood,
President, Australian Mammal Society

The Australian Mammal Society: President, Prof Lynne Selwood; Secretary, Dr Graeme Coulson;
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