

# Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020

Explanatory notes for SL 2020 No. 136

made under the

*Environmental Offsets Act 2014*

*Marine Parks Act 2004*

*Nature Conservation Act 1992*

*State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999*

## General Outline

### Short title

*Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020*

### Authorising law

Section 93 of the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*

Section 150 of the *Marine Parks Act 2004*

Section 175 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*

Section 165 of the *State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999*

### Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The policy objective of the *Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020* (Animals Regulation) is to provide for the conservation and management of protected animals in Queensland by:

- listing animal species under conservation classifications (established under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*), including under the two new classes (extinct and critically endangered) resultant of the common assessment method for nationally threatened species;
- providing a management approach (management principles and intent) for each classification, based on the threat of extinction to the species;
- providing general authorisations for interactions with animals in the wild;
- providing a permitting and authorisation framework for taking, keeping and using native animals outside of protected areas;
- streamlining the licencing framework for keeping and using animals (including fees);
- including administrative arrangements for permitting and licencing frameworks;
- specifying offences and associated penalties; and
- including transitional provisions to allow continuity and preserve existing rights.

Triggered by the impending expiry of the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006* and the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*, in accordance with the requirements of section 54 of the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, a review of the framework was undertaken and identified the following three key issues:

- the licencing and record-keeping requirements do not adequately prevent protected animal illegal trafficking and trade;
- the unregulated take of animals from the wild threatens the long-term viability of wild populations; and
- out-dated provisions create unnecessary regulatory burden.

The Animals Regulation creates a modern framework for the most common licences for keeping and using native animals – the recreational and commercial wildlife licences. The new licencing framework better reflects the current state of the wildlife keeping industry by removing the distinction between recreational and commercial keeping purposes. Rather than considering the purpose of an activity (i.e. personal enjoyment or for business), the new licence system is now based on the level of risk associated with keeping native animals. The licencing requirements will depend on the number and type of animals being kept, levels of breeding and trading undertaken, human health and safety risks and animal welfare matters.

The new framework reduces costs and regulatory burden for the majority of businesses and community members, while improving the administrative systems and delivering conservation outcomes for native animals in the wild.

## **Achievement of policy objectives**

The Animals Regulation repeals the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*, the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*, and the *Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2017*. The Animals Regulation will become the single point of reference for all management and use of protected animals under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. The Animals Regulation is structured in:

Chapter 1: Provides a preliminary basis for the statutory interpretation of the Animals Regulation.

Chapter 2: Defines the classification of protected animals under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, as well as the categories used within species lists for licencing purposes.

Chapter 3: Provides general authorisations and restrictions for certain classes of people or organisations to deal with animals. This chapter includes specific authorisations ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples retain cultural rights.

Chapter 4: Provides the types and conditions for animal authorities (licences and permits), including the new licencing framework, for the take, use and keep of native animals.

Chapter 5: Provides the application requirements, process, restrictions and management options (e.g. amendments or cancellations) for the animal authorities in Chapter 4.

Chapter 6: Provides general requirements to protect marine mammals, including restrictions on boating and swimming near these animals.

Chapter 7: Provides offences for non-compliance with licences and permits and interacting with native animals.

Chapter 8: Stipulates requirements for records, return of operations and tagging for licences and permits.

Chapter 9: Details fees payable under animal authorities.

Chapter 10: Includes miscellaneous provisions, such as the urban flying-fox management area map provisions.

Chapter 11: Includes administrative provisions in relation to internal and external review of decisions and powers to seize property.

Chapter 12: Repeals the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*, the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*, and the *Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2017* and includes transitional provisions designed to retain existing rights.

Chapter 13: Includes consequential amendments to the *Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2017*, *Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2019* and *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017*.

Schedule 8: Includes consequential amendments to the *Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014*; the *Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2018*; the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017*; the *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017* and the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014*.

The Animals Regulation reforms the recreational and commercial wildlife licencing framework. This is the most substantial policy change from the status quo in the current wildlife regulations. Repeal of the three regulations resulted in a number of provisions and schedules being moved to the new Animals Regulations.

Repealing the three regulations has also led to the creation of the *Nature Conservation (Plants) Regulation 2020* and consequential amendments to the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017*.

#### Licencing reforms

Chapter 4 of the Animals Regulation provides substantial changes to the licencing framework for recreational and commercial wildlife licences. An outline of the new licencing framework is provided below.

#### **Key concepts**

A person can only keep a live protected or international animal if: the animal is listed as exempt, if they have a general authorisation or if they hold a licence. The new licences allow a person to keep and use protected and international animals. Existing authorisations to take animals in the wild (e.g. harvesting licence or damage mitigation permits) are carried over into the Animals Regulation.

**Exempt animals** – All invertebrates, except for those listed as protected, for example scorpions (genus *Urodacus*) and tarantulas (family Theraphosidae), will remain exempt from requiring authorisation for their take, keep or use.

The list of exempt bird species is expanded from 22 to 68 species. For these exempt bird species, the exemption only applies to the captive-bred industry. The exemption does not apply to the take, keep or use of these species in the wild and these activities therefore require an authorisation.

**Activities requiring authorisation** – To improve the long-term viability of populations of certain species, the Animals Regulation prohibits the take of protected scorpions (genus *Urodacus*), tarantulas (family Theraphosidae) and amphibians from the wild for recreational purposes. This new restriction is consistent with the regulatory approach applied to all other mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and invertebrates protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. A person wishing to keep these animals will be required to obtain the animal from an authorised person and an appropriate licence from the department.

Breeding animals is restricted to certain licence types under the Animals Regulation. This new restriction is consistent with a risk-based approach to licencing and enables better prioritisation of compliance and enforcement activities.

The new framework streamlines 11 licence types into three types. A licence is required for all Class 1 and 2 animals, with the licence type depending on the class and number of animals being kept or traded, and whether breeding is intended to occur.

**Class 1** – A class 1 animal includes scorpions (genus *Urodacus*), tarantulas (family Theraphosidae), bird, reptile and amphibian species that are considered: easy to keep; established in the captive-bred market; to not pose a public safety risk in the event of escape; and to have minimal impact to wild populations from illegal take.

**Class 2** – A class 2 animal is a bird, reptile and amphibian species that: requires specialised keeping environments; are not commonly kept and traded; pose a risk to public safety in the event of escape; and may be targeted by illegal take activities because of their attractiveness and or rarity.

Class 2 category includes dangerous snakes. The keeping of dangerous snakes under the Animals Regulation requires new licence holders to start with less-dangerous snakes in order to gain some experience before they are permitted to keep more dangerous snakes. Dangerous snakes will only be allowed under a specialised or advanced licence. The lists of these animals will be made available on the department's website.

**Standard licence** – This licence is intended for a person wanting to keep native animals as pets. It allows a licence holder to keep up to 10 live class 1 animals only. A class 2 animal cannot be kept under this licence. The holder of a standard licence is prevented from trading an animal within six months of acquisition, and is not authorised to breed animals in their possession. Where accidental breeding occurs, the licence holder must notify the department who will direct the holder to either: upgrade their licence to a specialised or advanced licence; where practical, humanely dispose of reproductive material (i.e. eggs); or seek approval to sell or give away the progeny once they are independent.

**Specialised licence** – This licence is aimed at small to mid-range hobbyists who have an interest in native animal husbandry or keeping more difficult species. It allows a licence holder to keep up to a maximum of 50 live class 1 or class 2 vertebrate animals (birds, reptiles and amphibians) and unlimited protected scorpions and tarantulas. The holder of a specialised licence is prevented from trading an animal within six months of acquisition, however breeding animals in their possession is authorised, and offspring can be sold or given away once they are no longer dependant on parents. Where a licence holder exceeds the maximum limit of 50 animals, for example via a breeding event, the licence holder must notify the department who will direct the holder to either: upgrade their licence to an

advanced licence; where practical, humanely dispose of reproductive material (i.e. eggs); or seek approval to sell or give away the progeny once they are independent.

**Advanced licence** – This licence allows large-scale keepers and commercial operators to keep, breed and trade live class 1 and class 2 native animals. Under the advanced licence, there are no animal keeping limits and breeding and trading is unrestricted. However, the chief executive has the power to limit the number of dangerous animals that may be kept by a condition of licence to manage any public safety risks. Through a standardised condition, the holder will be limited to keeping a maximum of 50 dangerous snakes unless they can demonstrate to the chief executive that they can safely, competently and humanely keep a larger number.

**Reporting** – Each of these licence types will involve a transition to online record keeping. Licence holders will no longer be required to maintain hardcopy record books or complete movement advices when buying or selling an animal. In all circumstances, a record must be completed within 72 hours except for excess breeding events or excess dangerous snakes events which must be recorded within 24 hours.

The Animals Regulation allows licence holders in hardship to continue using hardcopy record books. In these circumstances, returns of operation must be submitted annually for a standard licence, and every three months for a specialised or advanced licence. An example of online record-keeping causing hardship would be when a person does not own or have access to a device, or does not have access to the internet.

**Ability to renew licences** – The three new licence types expire in five years, retaining status quo. The new framework provides the ability for holders to renew their licences before they expire. This will create administrative and system efficiencies from the status quo which requires holders to apply for new licences.

#### **Transitional licencing arrangements**

Licence holders under the repealed regulations will continue to keep and use their authorised animals until their licence expires. Prior to expiry, licence holders will be required to apply for the new licence type which applies to their circumstances. The new application costs, contained in Schedule 6 of the Animals Regulation will represent a cost savings to approximately 90% of licence holders.

The new classes of animals have resulted in consequential changes to the ‘species keeping list’. This means there may be cases where a person is keeping an animal, lawfully kept under the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006* that will become prohibited under the Animals Regulation. To ensure these people retain existing keeping rights, the Animals Regulation modifies the permit to keep authority to allow these animals to be kept after their existing licence expires. Permits to keep have trading and breeding restrictions and have a term of three years.

In future reviews of the species lists, if a ‘prohibited’ animal transitions to a licence category (class 1 or class 2), the permit to keep can be surrendered and the relevant person may apply for a licence to keep and use the animal.

### Other permits and authorisations

Apart from the changes made by the new licencing framework, Chapter 4 of the Animals Regulation retains the following authorisations:

- harvesting and farming licences;
- commercial interaction licence;
- damage mitigation permits;
- research and education permits;
- rehabilitation permits;
- permits to keep; and
- collection authorities.

There is no change to the policy intent of these authorities and permits, however contemporary drafting practices have resulted in clarification of interpretation of the provisions.

All authorisations (including those under the new licencing framework) are subject to statutory conditions and may be subject to specific conditions when the chief executive grants the authority. The Animals Regulation retains existing statutory conditions and introduces new conditions on animal limits and breeding requirements for the new licencing framework.

### Common Assessment Method new classes of wildlife

To give effect to the new classes of wildlife, ‘extinct’ and ‘critically endangered’ established under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the Animals Regulation establishes their declared management intent and principles and ensures that the take, keep and use of these animals is considered by the permitting and licencing framework.

Schedule 1 lists the specific animal species under each new conservation category. The listing is a result of an independent scientific assessment process led by the Queensland Species Technical Committee.

### General authorisations for interactions with native animals

Chapter 3 of the Animals Regulation retains a range of general authorisations which remove the requirement for people to hold a licence or permit. Below is a summary of the general authorisations that have changed from the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*.

Animals that have died either through natural causes or unintentional human interactions may cause public health and safety risks. Authorisation is required for dealing with these animals. Part 2 retains the general authorisation for government officers, employees and contractors to deal with dead protected animals in public places if it is necessary or desirable to do so. For example, it may be necessary or desirable to move a dead protected animal to ensure the free and safe movement of traffic. This authorisation is expanded to allow government officers to take and use dead animals and/or animal parts (e.g. tissue sample) for research purposes. This is particularly important for obtaining viable samples when disease outbreaks occur in wild populations of protected animals.

Part 2 expands the general authorisation to emergency service officers (no longer requiring a collection authority) for keeping a collection of dead protected animals for education and training purposes. For example, Queensland Ambulance will have a general authorisation to

keep a collection of dead venomous snakes for training staff in identifying snakes in an emergency situation.

Part 2 also expands the general authorisation to members of the Australian Defence Force (no longer needing a collection authority) to take, keep and use a least concern animal for the purpose of training members about survival in the wild. This provision applies to State and Commonwealth land that is not a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. The general authorisation does not allow the take, keep and use of a least concern animal for a commercial purpose.

Part 5 replaces the museum licence with a general authorisation for the State museum to take, keep and use (including process) a protected animal, other than from a protected area, for scientific and educational purposes, unless the take is likely to impact on the survival of a species. A State museum cannot take an animal from the wild for display (i.e. display animals must be captive-bred), or take, keep and use a protected animal for biodiscovery. A State museum can only temporarily display an animal for a period of one month. A State museum can buy or accept a protected animal from a person who is authorised to sell or give away the animal. This change allows the State museum to conduct their core business of natural science and education and delivers administrative efficiencies for the department.

Animals may have impacts on airport operations (e.g. birds and bats interfering with runways). Part 6 replaces the requirement for a damage mitigation permit for airports with a general authorisation. Airports will be authorised to take, remove and relocate a protected animal to protect public safety. The take may only occur if the airport has made a reasonable attempt to prevent or minimise the threat, that action failed and the take will not adversely affect the survival of the animal in the wild.

Part 15 of the Animals Regulation includes a general authorisation for individuals to collect, keep, and use discarded or naturally shed parts of a protected animal for a private collection or use (e.g. a bird's feather that is naturally shed, or a snake's skin that is naturally shed). This exemption applies to natural products used for artwork, even though that art may be sold in the future (e.g. indirect commercial gain). If the harvest of discarded parts is for direct sale (i.e. wholesale sale to a retailer or art studio etc.) then a harvesting licence is required.

#### Consequential amendments

The Animals Regulation consolidates the requirements for animals from across the three repealed regulations resulting in a number of re-drafted provisions that reflect current drafting practise. A number of minor amendments have been made to:

- update the way that offences are prescribed for authority conditions;
- remove redundant provisions and definitions; and
- clarify policy intent of existing provisions.

The Animals Regulation also includes amendments to other related legislation, including the *Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2018*, the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017*, the *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017*, *Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014*, and the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014*.

Amendments to the *Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2018* correct cross-references to the new Animals Regulation.

Amendments to the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2019* correct cross-references to the new Animals Regulation and references to authorities that have been renamed or replaced.

Amendments to the *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017* correct cross-references to the new Animals Regulation and references to authorities that have been renamed or replaced. Amendments also extend the term of a macropod harvesting licence to three years, reducing administrative burden to government and costs to regional communities.

Amendments to the *Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014* correct cross-references to the new Animals Regulation. Amendments also give effect to the new classes of wildlife under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* by referencing ‘critically endangered’ as a Prescribed environmental matter—matters of State environmental significance.

The Animals Regulation also amends the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014*. These amendments replace the penalty infringement notice offences (PINs) under the repealed regulations. A number of offences, around use of animals, or breach of authority conditions, have been given a single overarching offence under section 318 of the Animals Regulation, including for example a new offence relating to breeding animals while holding a standard licence. Offences have been reviewed to reflect current drafting practices and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General Guidelines.

## **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

The Animals Regulation is consistent with the objectives of the authorising law. The object of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* is the conservation of nature while allowing for the involvement of Indigenous people in the management of protected areas in which they have an interest under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom.

The Animals Regulation is consistent with the objectives of the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014* and is consistent with section 165 of the *State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999* which allows for a regulation to prescribe an offence to be an infringement notice offence and to provide for an infringement notice fine.

The Animals Regulation is consistent with the objectives of the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* which allows for national, State and local matters of environmental significance to be prescribed environmental matters, including threatened species listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

## **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

The Animals Regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of other legislation. For example, the provisions dealing with the management of animals are consistent with provisions under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* and the *Exhibited Animals Act 2015*, which applies to the display of certain animals prescribed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.



## Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

The option of allowing the regulations to expire without replacement would not achieve the objective of ensuring the State has a framework for the ongoing management of protected animals in Queensland.

The option of retaining status quo was not desirable as it:

- retained a licencing framework for keeping protected animals that is outdated, inefficient, and enables illegal trade;
- facilitated unregulated take of protected animals from the wild threatening long-term viability of wild populations; and
- carried over provisions that create unnecessary regulatory burden, are unclear, or are overly complex.

Alternative ways of achieving the policy objectives were widely consulted via the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement: Reviewing the framework for the management of protected wildlife (animals) in Queensland under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Consultation RIS). A comprehensive analysis of the options and the consultation process can be found in the Decision Regulatory Impact Statement: Reviewing the framework for the management of protected wildlife (animals) in Queensland under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Decision RIS).

## Benefits and costs of implementation

The benefits and costs of implementation were consulted through the Regulatory Impact Assessment process and documented in the Decision RIS for the Regulation can be found on the department's website.

The Animals Regulation presents financial and administrative benefits to business, the community and Government. The new licence system provides a simplified framework for clients, and approximately 90 per cent of licence holders will pay a cheaper licence fee as compared to the licences under the repealed regulations.

The State will have greater capacity to respond to the increasing risks of illegal wildlife trade and will achieve cost recovery for the administration and assessment of licences.

## Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Animals Regulation has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament, and complies with the fundamental legislative principles under the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

### ***Offences and penalties***

The Animals Regulation continues offence provisions from the previous *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006* and *Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2017*, which are required to support implementation of the Animals Regulation.

In considering whether the legislation has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals (Legislative Standards Act, s 4(2)(a)), these offences are only made where it is

appropriate and is required to ensure the effective enforcement of requirements relating to the take, keep and use of protected animals. The offences are reasonable given the need to achieve the conservation objectives of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and consistent with the way existing offences are established for wildlife under the Act.

Although the Animals Regulation generally maintains status quo of offence provisions under the previous regulations, offences have been restructured to provide for a more consistent application of penalties. ‘Conditions of authority’ offences are now aligned to two broad penalty types –record keeping and return of operation offences (maximum of 120 penalty units) and all other offences (maximum of 80 penalty units).

The offence for feeding or disturbing dangerous animals is retained, generally attracting a maximum penalty of 40 penalty units. In the instance of dingoes on K’gari (Fraser Island) the maximum penalty for this offence increases to 80 penalty units. This increase is in response to a number of serious dingo attacks in 2019. The penalty unit increase surpasses the guidelines for prescribing penalty infringement notice offences under the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014*. This serves to highlight to the community the seriousness of disturbing or feeding dingoes and the importance government places on deterring anyone from considering such actions.

#### ***Amendment, suspension or cancellation of animal authorities***

Chapter 5, Part 6 of the Animals Regulation includes provisions enabling the chief executive to amend, suspend or cancel an animal authority. These powers may appear to have insufficient regard to the rights and liberties of the holder of an animal authority in relation to section 4(2)(a) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

The processes that apply to amendments, suspensions or cancellations of animal authorities provide for natural justice by requiring the chief executive to notify the holder of the authority of the action and allowing for review and appeal rights. These provisions in the Animals Regulation are considered to be proportionate with the need to conserve wildlife whilst also considering the rights and liberties of individuals who hold relevant authorities.

#### ***Record keeping requirements***

Under clause 342 of the Animals Regulation, certain licence holders are required to keep an electronic record book through the department’s new online system. This obligation raises concerns regarding section 4(2)(a) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* which states legislation should have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals. This principle is not breached as the Animals Regulation allows for a licence holder to apply to the department to use a hardcopy record keeping system if hardship can be demonstrated.

#### ***Seizure of property***

The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* provides for the making of a regulation dealing with the seizure of an object (e.g. vehicle, boat, recreational craft, aircraft or appliance) in the interest of wildlife protection. Chapter 11, Part 2 (Seizure of property) of the Animals Regulation continues provisions from the previous Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 allowing a conservation officer to, under certain conditions, seize an object without a warrant, if it is necessary for the protection of native wildlife. Those conditions are: where the object is on land without the landholder’s consent or is abandoned. The definition of land in the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* includes – the airspace above the land; land that is, or is at any time, covered by waters; and waters.

While this provision raises concerns with s4(2)(a) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, it is justified in the interest of protecting native wildlife (e.g. seizing a trap being used for taking animals, or using illegal nets that have caught turtles). In these situations it is often necessary to seize the object immediately in order to protect wildlife. It would not be appropriate to delay seizure until a warrant is obtained as the delay would likely lead to the death of the animal. In addition, restrictions are placed on the chief executive when the owner or person in control of the object to be seized is or should reasonably be known.

The Animals Regulation enables a seized thing to be returned to the owner provided the chief executive is satisfied the person has a right to the seized thing, and reasonable costs associated with the seizure (such as costs associated with holding the seized thing) are paid by the person to the chief executive. If the item is unable to be returned to the owner and it is sold, the Animal Regulation provides direction regarding how the sale is to be conducted and dealing with the proceeds of the sale.

## Consultation

Consultation with external stakeholders occurred during the development of the Animals Regulation. On 24 May 2018, the department released the Consultation RIS.

Notification of the Consultation RIS was sent by email to 30,113 people, predominantly recreational wildlife licence holders. In addition, a public engagement campaign was launched and a number of meetings with stakeholder groups were held. In total, the department received submissions from 96 people, as well as 869 responses to an online survey.

The Wildlife Advisory Committee, a group representing recreational keepers, commercial keepers, conservation and scientific interests and welfare concerns, was also established to assist development of the new licencing framework. Members of this Committee included Queensland Museum, Pet Industry Association of Australia, Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand, Queensland Council of Bird Societies, Australian Herpetological Society (replaced by Queensland Fauna Lobbyists during the consultation period), Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, RSPCA Queensland, Queensland Conservation Council, and the Australasian Arachnological Society.

Further consultation was undertaken with PetCity pet shop, the Burnett Bird *Keepers* Association, Queensland Finch Society, Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia. In addition to detailed discussions with the Wildlife Advisory Committee, detailed workshops in relation to the proposed species listings, and refinement of the license options were also held with the Queensland Council of Bird Societies, Queensland Finch Society, Queensland Fauna Lobbyists.

Submissions raised concerns in relation to the species lists, the animal limits under the standard and specialised licence, and breeding limitations for the specialised licence. These issues have been addressed in the new licencing framework in the Animals Regulation, developed in consultation with the Wildlife Advisory Committee, who support the revised licencing framework for protected animals.

Results of consultation are outlined in the Decision RIS.

The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) within the Queensland Productivity Commission was consulted regarding the requirement for further analysis or assessment in accordance with *The Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation* (the Guidelines).

OBPR has confirmed that policy positions detailed in the Decision RIS meets best practice requirements of the Guidelines.

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