

Dear

I am writing to you as my local member to object to the recent Biosecurity Bill 2013 passed by the Queensland Parliament (6th March, 2014). This bill has been passed with no consultation with any aviculturist organization, including our state body, The Queensland Council of Bird Societies. But this Bill will require all animal owners to be registered and give the department right of entry onto their property at any time.

The measures being brought in by this bill are very onerous for hobbyists as they are in addition to the current regulations regarding native birds. The Department of Environment and Heritage already requires keepers of native birds to hold a license and pay a fee, dependent upon the level of license involved. A Record Book must also be kept on these birds recording any sales, purchases, births and deaths and returns made to the department each year. Also whenever any of these birds are bought or sold a movement advice must be obtained, filled out and a copy returned to the department, in the process generating masses or paperwork for all concerned.

One of my hobbies is the keeping and breeding of finches, small parrots, canaries, doves, quail (put in the appropriate birds here). This new legislation will require anyone with more than 100 birds to register their aviaries and put in various systems such as foot baths. This is for a backyard hobby. The birds I keep are finches, which are small birds. But if I start off with 10 pairs of birds and breed some babies then I will soon reach 100 birds. Finches have an average of 3-4 babies per nest and can breed up to 3 nests in one breeding season.

It seems to me to be grossly unfair to put such onerous conditions on what should be an enjoyable hobby which does not generate a biosecurity threat. All our birds are aviary bred and so have been in a controlled environment. They are not wild birds nor are they newly imported birds so I fail to see how they can be a threat of disease to our country.

The Australian Veterinary Association, Queensland Division, agreed with this view and in their submission they expressed the view that the legislation, as it applies to household pets is unworkable, and they recommended that captive birds are excluded from the designated list for the Bill, but that view has been ignored.

In addition the Bill forbids the feeding of meat protein to birds but many aviary birds require live food to breed and rear their young, and others, especially softbills, require live food as an important part of their diets to keep healthy. So the Bill is in complete conflict with good bird husbandry in our hobby.

I ask that you, as my representative, please talk to the minister concerned, Mr John McVeigh, about our objections and ask why we were not consulted in this legislation, which is going to so detrimentally affect our hobby. There are a large number of bird keepers in Queensland who get a lot of pleasure in breeding their little feathered friends. I strongly object to these proposed changes for which we had no consultation.

Yours Sincerely,

Printed Name:

Address:

Phone/Email:

I would like to be replied to via my: Mailing Address or Email or Telephone