



The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Western New South Wales

OM21/2075

Mr David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blunt

I am pleased to submit the NSW Government response to the report of the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry inquiry into the use of exotic animals in circuses and the exhibition of cetaceans in NSW.

The final report made four recommendations. The Government response supports two recommendations and notes two. The two recommendations supported by the Government are already being progressed through existing government initiatives.

Please find enclosed the NSW Government's response.

Yours sincerely

Adam Marshall
MINISTER

Enc.

CC: The Hon. Matt Kean, Minister for Energy and Environment

*Received at 2:15pm
Tuesday 15 June 2021*

NSW Government response to the report of the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 4 inquiry into the use of exotic animals in circuses and the exhibition of cetaceans in NSW

#	Recommendation	Government Response
1	<p>That the NSW Government, when developing the new animal welfare legislative framework as part of the Animal Welfare Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • address the concerns identified by stakeholders as raised during this inquiry and set out in this report, and • consult widely with all affected stakeholders, including industry groups and animal welfare organisations. 	<p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to continuing to work with the community and all stakeholders on the development of a modern and streamlined animal welfare legislative framework. In 2020 the Government sought community feedback on the existing framework to identify issues and opportunities for reform. In 2021 the Government will seek community feedback on proposals for the new framework.</p>
2	<p>That the NSW Government consider applying limitations on the breeding of cetaceans which allow for breeding for conservation or protection purposes.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>In February 2021, the NSW Government made the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Cetacea) Regulation 2021. The regulation prevents the breeding or importation of cetaceans for anything other than genuine scientific or educational purposes or any other purpose connected with the conservation or protection of marine mammals.</p> <p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Government currently provides funding opportunities for wildlife rehabilitation groups, including those engaged in marine rescue and rehabilitation, through the NSW Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Strategy and the Marine Estate Management Strategy.</p>
3	<p>That the NSW Government consider providing financial assistance to support marine rescue and rehabilitation work in NSW.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Government has committed over \$6.5 million to implement the NSW Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Strategy, including \$2.47 million provided by the Environmental Trust to underpin the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife 'Wildlife Heroes' program and support the rescue and rehabilitation of sick, injured and displaced wildlife – whether marine or terrestrial.</p> <p>The National Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for implementing initiative 5 of the Marine Estate Management Strategy. Under this initiative, \$3,000 has been paid to the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Australia for workshops and \$1,000 for a cetacean identification pocket guide.</p>

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	<p>An amount of \$5,500 will be directly allocated in 2021. A \$50,000 grant program is also being rolled out under the Marine Estate Management Strategy to support marine rescue and rehabilitation work across several groups. Funds will be distributed before 30 June 2021.</p>
<p>4 That the NSW Government provide support to the Dolphin Marine Conservation Park, Action for Dolphins and World Animal Protection, to enable the completion of a feasibility study into relocating the dolphins at the marine park to a sea sanctuary.</p>	<p>Noted The NSW Government is continuing to provide technical advice to Dolphin Marine Conservation Park, Action for Dolphins and World Animal Protection regarding the feasibility study into the development of a sea sanctuary.</p>