



# Industry & Investment

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DF10/1061

- 9 AUG 2010

Mr Ian Cohen MLC  
Committee Chair  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Cohen

Thank you for your letter of 30 July 2010 regarding the Inquiry into the RSPCA actions at Waterways Wildlife Park and your request for further licensing information pertaining to the Waterways Wildlife Park.

The "show cause" process instigated under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* (the Act) in this matter is still ongoing. I am advised that a response by the licensees' solicitor was received by the Department on 3 August 2010 and a detailed assessment in respect of that response is now being undertaken.

With regard to the current status of the Waterways Wildlife Park, I can confirm that the relevant licence has been extended in accordance with the Act to 1 October 2010.

Presently, it is not possible to provide a specific timeframe for the resolution of matters concerning the licence. This is due to the multiple issues and detail involved, coupled with the continuing and evolving operational response of the Waterways Wildlife Park.

I acknowledge the difficulty the Committee has noted in addressing certain aspects of the inquiry given the request for confidentiality concerning this process. However, I confirm that this request is made solely on the basis of seeking to maximise the integrity and fairness of the present and unfinalised process instituted under the Act. I refer generally to my previous correspondence wherein the reasons for requesting the maintenance of confidentiality were outlined.

That being said I am happy to further explore and support alternative ways of assisting your Committee in its deliberations. I have requested Mr Kristian Holz of the Department to contact the Committee Director of the Legislative Council in this regard.

Yours sincerely

**RICHARD SHELDRAKE**  
DIRECTOR GENERAL