

**INQUIRY INTO THE RSPCA RAID ON THE WATERWAYS
WILDLIFE PARK**

Organisation: Save Our Snowy Organisation

Name: Mr Mal Davies

Position: Chairman

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Partially Confidential

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No5

Inquiry into the RSPCA raid on the Waterways Wildlife Park

Submission By:

Mal Davies (Chairman)

Save Our Snowy Organisation (unincorporated - 2004)

This submission tenders our inquiries and findings concerning the RSPCA-NSW inquiry of the Gunnedah Waterways Wild Life Park.

It further includes a synopsis associated to our ongoing investigations into the operations of the RSPCA-NSW that has attracted public concern by the people of New South Wales.

Content:

Background – pages 2 – 4

Facts – pages 5 – 7

Related Issues – Pages 8

Argument – page 9 – 10

Recommendations – page 11

BACKGROUND

Save Our Snowy Group was started in 2003 after the massive bushfire that threatened our heritage and our farmers of the Snowy Mountains in both NSW and Victoria.

Developing a website network – www.sosnews.org – by a nucleus of concerned Australians with expertise from farming, computer science & engineering, forensic investigations, and agricultural science. This group has grown from several hundred subscribing computers to in excess of 68,000 computers on the present mailing list. SOS News is supported by a current average of 58,000 visits to our website network daily.

The group functions entirely through the efforts of volunteers, whose credentials, expertise and integrity have maintained this public news service for nearly nine years.

Alerted to a bullyboy side of the RSPCA Australia- wide in 2007, SOS-News embarked on an inquiry to substantiate the allegation we had received.

This public organisation of dedicated volunteers hold animal welfare as the main purpose of existence for the RSPCA, however the inspectorate area of law enforcement is most certainly not of that virtue and we found management lacking in ethics as well.

Isolating our inquiries to RSPCA-NSW we have recorded interviews and have compiled data base information (held offshore for security) of some 25 incidents, including the Gunnedah Koala case. All this information relates to what can only be called "RSPCA-NSW Inspectorate agenda driven so called animal cruelty inquiries"

I refer to the Parliament Of New South Wales hansard dated 21 June 2004, where Senator Ms LEE RHIANNON made this speech to the house.

RSPCA OPERATIONS

Page: 12529

Ms LEE RHIANNON [10.18 p.m.]: On 21 June 2004 a Four Corners program suggested that nationally vested farming interest groups controlled the RSPCA and manipulated its

FACTS

Our attention was drawn to an RSPCA-NSW Inspectorate raid on the Gunnedah Waterways Wildlife Park 3rd February 2010. A telephone call to SOS-NEWS prompted Veterinarian Tina Clifton of Gunnedah Veterinary Hospital, who had read about our ongoing investigation into the RSPCA-NSW Inspectorate and Management to speak of her concern with the RSPCA-NSW.

Recording this interviewing authorised by Tina Clifton, she informed me that Mrs Nancy Small had for some 30 years operated a Wildlife Park in Gunnedah which had outgrown its original location and is now located in the township and is known as Waterways Wildlife Park.

She further commented that Nancy is one of those incredible people that will get up at 4am in the morning to attend an injured koala on the side of the road, so there are very few people in Gunnedah who have not had something to do with Nancy. As a result nobody will believe that there was any major issue that warranted these eight koalas being seized (by the RSPCA-NSW).

Tina explained she has some 5 years experience with Koala's, the other Veterinarian at Gunnedah Veterinary Hospital is David Amos, has some 30 years experience with Koala's. The hospital enjoys a working relationship with Nancy Small by taking any injured wildlife she has needing care, they in return send wildlife to Nancy Small that need rehabilitation.

Tina explained the Gunnedah koalas are very different to the coastal koala such as: -

1. Coastal koala's do not go to ground in hot weather but the Gunnedah koala do, and as this time (February 2010) there have been days and days of over 40 degree heat this has been happening.
2. Further because koala's in Gunnedah are on a much rougher more fibre diet they wear their teeth more that the coastal koala, hence their shorter life span.
3. It is also well documented that the Gunnedah koala lose weight in the summer more than coastal koala.

4. The natural population of koala in Gunnedah is increasing and is one of the only places in NSW where this is occurring.
5. Gunnedah is totally Chlamydia free of that disease.
6. Gunnedah is known as the Koala Capital of the World which host a very strong healthy huge koala population.

Tina Simpson, discussing the conversation with Nancy Small (owner of Waterways Wildlife Park) about the subject RSPCA-NSW raid on 3rd February 2010, stated that Nancy related that RSPCA-NSW Inspector Kylie Prowse said **"these animals were stressed"**, indicating to several Koalas gathered around the base of a tree.

This suggests the RSPCA-NSW Inspector/s were oblivious to this natural, well documented behaviour for Gunnedah koala to exhibit by going to ground during extreme heat.

Tina Simpson further stated, ***"the only reason they (RSPCA-NSW) seized them (8 koalas) is because they say they were stressed which is such a loose incredibly undefined term, and I think that if you are going to take eight (8) koalas, catch them, anaesthetise them or sedate them and drag them away in a hot car for 4 four hours I can't think of what more that that would stress an animal more"***

In further recorded conversation with veterinarian Tina Simpson Several weeks before the RSPCA-NSW raid on Waterways Wildlife Park owner Nancy Small had a hip replacement. While in hospital RSPCA-NSW Inspector Kylie Prowse visited the wildlife park to check on a complaint about a Dingo. She stopped at the Koala enclosure and remarked to a staff member - ***"how healthy the Koalas were, she took photos and stated they were to show her niece because she would love such healthy koala's"***.

Tina further stated, ***"the RSPCA-NSW inspectors Prowse and Matt French arrived at the Waterways Wildlife Park on February 3rd 2010 with the channel 7 -RSPCA Animal Rescue - film crew and eight plastic clothes baskets, just the right number for the enclosures koala population"***.

Confirmation was received the eight koalas seized by RSPCA-NSW were taken to Port Macquarie Koala Preservation Society of N.S.W Inc.

They quote a koala hospital from the website - <http://www.koalahospital.org.au/> - is run and serviced by volunteers, far removed from a Veterinary Hospital in Gunnedah hosting 30 years experience with Koalas.

Further inquiries revealed the Port Macquarie Koala Preservation Society of N.S.W Inc (Port Macquarie Koala Hospital) is open 365 days a year and visitors are welcome at all times during the day. This organisation has been operating for about 37 years without an "Animal Exhibitors License".

In New South Wales the display of animals is regulated by the Exhibited Animals Protection Act (EAPA). The Act was passed in 1986. It pertains to the exhibition of all vertebrate animals, irrespective of whether they are native, exotic or domestic. The Act currently falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Primary Industries (Steve Whan) and the Director General of NSW Department of Primary Industries (Dr Richard Sheldrake) is the licensing authority.

We find interesting, just weeks after taking the Gunnedah koalas and attracting massive public concern to the RSPCA-NSW handling of their inquiry, the "Koala Preservation Society of N.S.W Inc" applied to the DPI to grant an "Animal Exhibitors License".

RELATED ISSUES

Our inquiries into the RSPCA-NSW have uncovered bullying and harassment of targeted people by the RSPCA-NSW inspectorate and management that aligns with the witness testimony we gathered of their raid on Waterways Wildlife Park in Gunnedah.

Public concerns over several years directed to SOS-NEWS refer to RSPCA-NSW Inspectorate raids in rural areas upon NSW farmers, many predominantly aged and single females, displays an alarming pattern that Mrs Nancy Small of Waterways Wildlife Park Gunnedah fits into.

I make mention to related case files we have investigated such as Mrs Ruth Downey (73), Ms Jan Richardson (68), Mrs Linda Hall (85) all prosecuted by the RSPCA-NSW using a Private Law firm which includes then RSPCA-NSW President/Solicitor Andrew Wozniak and Director/Barrister Paul O'Donnell, and their expert witness on veterinary subjects, Dr Peter Wright, current President of that organisation. .

May I direct the committee to the e-book book attached I published at SOS-NEWS, detailing the RSPCA-NSW agenda directed investigation, and subsequent prosecution of Mrs Ruth Downey. This contains evidence RSPCA-NSW have not refuted or questioned which elaborates and corroborates concerns of the not only the Gunnedah koala raid but the integrity and operation of RSPCA-NSW Inspectorate and Management.

Investigations that have been and are ongoing by SOS-NEWS into the RSPCA-NSW so far uncovered an entrenched power greed driven area within management and their inspectorate department that operate outside accountability under clandestine control members of that organisation are oblivious of. Our extensive inquiries substantiated with irrefutable evidence is available at anytime to this committee.