

Submission
No 10

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

Name: Ms Ellen Ash

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GPSC5 GPSC5 - Enquiry into raid on Waterways Wildlife Park at Gunnedah

From:
To: <gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 6/16/2010 9:20 PM
Subject: Enquiry into raid on Waterways Wildlife Park at Gunnedah

Enquiry into the Raid on the Gunnedah Wildlife Waterways Park

The RSPCA should be thoroughly investigated not only over the raid on the Wildlife Park but over other raids and prosecutions. Its agenda has deviated a long way from genuine care for animals. The emphasis is all on "euthanasia" and prosecutions.

The RSPCA has been granted extensive powers which are not monitored and consequently are being misused.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act needs clarification.

It is essential that RSPCA inspectors acquire knowledge of animals rather than be self-proclaimed "experts" simply because they wear the RSPCA uniform.

Under the terms of reference I make the following submission:

- a) The fact that the raid took place without prior warning was traumatic for the owners, as it was in the case of Ruth Downey when the gang of RSPCA, DPI and RLPB people all turned up without warning to "assess" her cattle, having brought burial machinery! Owners should be given warning so that a local vet can examine their stock before a raid takes place.
- b) The training of the inspectors in dealing with the public is lamentable. I have tabulated several cases of sheer belligerence. Victims of raids all say that the flaunting of RSPCA powers was most offensive. In Nancy Small's case the tourists in the park immediately complained to the local police regarding the way the Smalls were treated by the RSPCA. In Ruth Downey's case, the Pilliga policeman, Mark Mills, aided and abetted the RSPCA in the destruction of her stock, which were strong and healthy, despite the severe and prolonged drought.
- c) If there was any concern about the koalas' health, the local vet could have treated them in their own environment. Any documentation provided in order to justify taking these koalas to Port Macquarie in clothes baskets should be examined meticulously. No doubt the koalas were traumatised by their experience by the time they reached Port Macquarie. If the "assessment" was as cursory as in the case of Ruth Downey's cows, then it would count for nil!
- d)
- e) Although the television programme, *RSPCA Animal Rescue*, is supposedly a reality show, channel 7 does admit that it is scripted. It is certainly at odds with the number of healthy animals "euthanased". The ignorance of the RSPCA inspectors is constantly on display. eg using two narrow slings to lift a horse out of a hole, and then remarking that this might have caused internal damage. Any farmer would have used a wide sling to support the belly and avoid any possible damage. *Animal Rescue* is just a vehicle for bringing in donations for an extremely wealthy organisation which has become a business. The raid on the Wildlife Park was a publicity stunt for television.

The RSPCA is a very devious organisation and very skilled in the art of "spin". Please give this submission your earnest consideration,

Sincerely Ellen Ash