

Submission
No 212

**INQUIRY INTO EXHIBITION OF EXOTIC ANIMALS IN
CIRCUSES AND EXHIBITION OF CETACEANS IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 24 November 2019

Partially
Confidential

To the Government of New South Wales,

My name is _____, a former resident of Queensland, Australia. I am appalled by the fact that cetaceans around the globe, including Australia, are kept in captivity. The horrors of these intelligent & social animals in confinement is incomprehensible. These animals NEED to be in the wild, and we as humans have no right to take that right away from them. These beautiful animals suffer immeasurably when locked in these tanks – no size tank could EVER compare to the ocean. Cetaceans, namely orca & other dolphins, can dive deep, swim vast distances, they need to socialize, mate, raise young, play, hunt... Any life other than that of the wild is summoning premature, unruly death to these creatures. Medically speaking, these animals have been shown time and time again to be incredibly ILL when held in captivity – these are NOT ‘happy’ animals – please do not be fooled by their ‘smile’ ... Videos have been taken of orca, in particular, bashing their heads against the sides of tanks (pretty much losing their mind!), chewing on concrete & having horrifying bacterial & fungal infections both internally & externally. And to think that some people think this is ‘happiness’?! The excuse of ‘education’ is also ridiculous – there is NOTHING educational about viewing these animals in such horrifying conditions. Captivity is NOT natural in any sense & promoting this as natural, trying to educate the younger generation, is simply the absolute worst form of misinformation possible, in my opinion. These animals need to be observed in the WILD, where they belong, in their natural habitat. There are so many educational & awe-inspiring documentaries out there these days, as well, exhibiting cetaceans in the wild, and this is also a tremendous form of education for not only our youth but anyone keen on learning.

I hope to live in a world, one day, where captivity, particularly of cetaceans, is a thing of the past, ancient history – something the world looks back on one day & wonders, ‘What were we thinking?!’ ... because that is how absurd it is that in this day & age that cetaceans are STILL kept captive in these tiny tanks, performing mind-numbing shows for the likes of an incredibly ignorant & naive audience. The intelligence level and social structure of cetaceans not only rivals us as humans in its complexity, but many scientists believe that it far exceeds it! Imagine if this was you, locked away in a small bathtub, forever, away from your family and friends, forced against your will & your nature to do absolutely ridiculous things, all the while wasting away from insanity, starvation, illness & aggression forced to withstand. I pray that my son grows up in a world where ALL cetaceans are able to swim WILD & FREE, simply put.

Australia is a WORLD LEADER and you have the power and privilege NOW to make a change for the betterment of the world & for its living creatures – and to influence other nations to do the same. There is no better time than NOW.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission of support to BAN the captivity of cetaceans in New South Wales.

Sincerely,