

Submission
No 220

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

Organisation: Dolphinaria-Free Europe (DFE)

Date Received: 24 November 2019



The exhibition of cetaceans in New South Wales

Dolphinaria-Free Europe (DFE) is a coalition of European animal welfare organisations, international wildlife professionals and scientists working on the issue of dolphins and whales in captivity in Europe and we submit herewith our letter to support the ending of keeping of cetaceans for display in New South Wales.

It is well documented in the scientific literature that dolphins held in captivity suffer significant and numerous health and welfare problems as a result of confinement in captivity. When denied adequate space, individuals from wide-ranging species (dolphins can travel in excess of 100km a day in the wild) commonly develop problems such as abnormal repetitive behaviour (termed stereotypies) and aggression (Clubb & Mason, 2003).

Dolphins sharing the same pool in captivity are often unrelated, from different geographical regions or even different species. This can result in dominance related-aggression, injury, illness or in some instances even death (Waples & Gales, 2002). In most facilities dolphins are kept in small, smooth-sided pools virtually empty of the stimuli essential for these highly intelligent and social mammals. Noise is also a problem: not only do the animals have to tolerate the continuous, repetitive noise of pumps and filters but also facilities often utilize loud music during shows – all of which are thought to cause significant stress to dolphins who rely on their sense of hearing (Couquiaud, 2005). Stress caused to the dolphins by handling, confinement, transport, isolation, crowding and eating an artificial diet, plus the reported use of tranquillizers to control anxiety, means that, generally, captive dolphins have higher mortality rates compared to free-ranging dolphins (Small & DeMaster, 1995; Woodley et al, 1997).

The members of DFE respectfully ask that the Committee considers our concerns and the scientific evidence below and end the exhibition of cetaceans in New South Wales, especially as the only facility in the State of NSW at Coffs Harbour, are investigating alternatives such as sanctuaries, for the dolphins they currently hold.

I attach the following documents to support our submission:

- [‘The Case Against Marine Mammals In Captivity’](#)
- [The EU Zoo Enquiry Review : EU Dolphinaria](#)
- [Psychologists Statement on the anti-pedagogical value of the abuse of animals in circuses and performances](#)

I submit this on behalf of the members of the Dolphinaria-Free Europe coalition and agree to this being made public.

Chair
Dolphinaria-Free Europe

Animal Welfare Institute ▪ Anima International ▪ British Divers Marine Life Rescue/Orca Aware ▪ Born Free Foundation ▪ Djurrattsalliansen ▪ Free Morgan Foundation ▪ Kyma Sea Conservation ▪ LAV ▪ Marine Connection ▪ Ocean Care ▪ One Voice ▪ Sea First Foundation ▪ Whale and Dolphin Conservation ▪ plus individual DFE members.