

Supplementary  
Submission  
No 10a

**INQUIRY INTO 2025 INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION  
OF THE APPROVED CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS  
UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS  
ACT 1979**

**Name:** Ms Coral Johnson

**Date Received:** 23 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

I wish to add further information and some questions to my earlier submission. I received 2 fines of \$1,000.00 each.

One fine was for "being in charge of an animal and failing to provide vet treatment".

The other was for "committing an act of cruelty upon an animal".

The rescue was conducted during Cyclone Alfred and the weather was so severe that I had to pull over in the car twice because of poor visibility. I considered returning home but didn't. I had the animal's welfare in mind.

I am sure that the fines were only overturned because I had commissioned a solicitor to write to the RSPCA.

I still don't understand on what basis the fines were issued or why they were cancelled.

I have some questions to ask.

1. On whose authority within WIRES was the possum reported to the RSPCA?

Were WIRES Board or Welfare Team involved in the referral?

2. What official channel was taken to lodge this complaint between WIRES and RSPCA?

Is the complaint anonymous or does RSPCA know it is from WIRES?

3. Does RSPCA prioritise complaints from WIRES over other cases? If so, for what reason?

4. Is the RSPCA/WIRES of the opinion that any animal not taken immediately to a vet is being treated cruelly? If so, under what provision in the legislation is this founded?

5. Do RSPCA/WIRES consider rescuing this animal from its situation was kinder than leaving it in situ? Can animal cruelty be considered when an animal in distress is ignored?

6. The NSW Codes of Practice are followed by wildlife rescuers and they specifically outline that an "experienced fauna rehabilitator or a vet" can assess wildlife. I meet the definition of an experienced carer so has WIRES/RSPCA failed to consider the Codes Of Practice which are followed by wildlife rescuers and carers? Does RSPCA have appropriate jurisdiction to investigate rescues carried out under the Biodiversity Conservation Act and the National Parks Act for wildlife?

7. Do RSPCA/WIRES believe every animal that is rescued must go directly to a vet?  
If so, whose responsibility is it to pay the vets for this treatment?

8. Given that catatonic is defined as "a state of immobility or stupor" on what basis did  
judge the possum [seen to have been eating] to be catatonic? What  
qualifications or experience in native wildlife does have and how  
many callouts does she attend for native wildlife generally?

9. Why were the charges by the RSPCA against me withdrawn by the Chief Inspector  
Scott Myers? When accusations are made falsely and the dropped, should the  
accused know the reason[s]? These are serious charges and for a wildlife rescuer  
they can damage someone's reputation and their ability to continue caring for  
wildlife.

10. Is RSPCA wasting resources and public funds investigating wildlife rescues on the  
whim of WIRES? What processes do RSPCA follow before they respond to a  
WIRES request for an inspection?