

Submission  
No 25

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

**Organisation:** Badgerys Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Inc.

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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31/10/2025

Submission To:

2025 Inquiry into the operation of the approved charitable organisations under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979

From:

Peter Day

## **Overview**

My experiences with the RSPCA occurred just after the black summer bush fires. Prior to this event, I had no contact with the RSPCA.

I have had 2 complaints made to the RSPCA against me

1. The first was anonymous, however I strongly believe the complaint came from WIRES.
2. The second complaint was lodged by WIRES.

No action was taken by the RSPCA on either complaints.

## **My Issues with the RSPCA**

My wife and I are worried that;

1. The RSPCA is being used by WIRES to harass and intimidate us.
2. The RSPCA has become an enforcement arm of WIRES, who use the RSPCA to intimidate and harass members and former members they consider difficult, or are exposing possibly fraudulent activities at WIRES with management and board.
3. The RSPCA will again enter our property when we are not home and conduct a search based on a vexatious complaint by WIRES, or someone affiliated with them.
4. The possibility of an RSPCA 'raid' on our sanctuary is affecting our ability to help the local wildlife.

## **My Background**

- My Wife and I run a wildlife sanctuary located at our property in a remote and forested part of NSW.
- We have been rescuing and rehabilitating native wildlife since 2015 and continue to do so.
- From 2015 to 2020, I was a member of WIRES and authorised to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife under their license.
- I am an experienced macropod rescuer and rehabilitator, having rescued and rehabilitated hundreds of animals, mostly macropods and wombats.
- I have completed numerous advanced macropod rescue and rehabilitation courses, including a chemical immobilisation and tranquilliser course.
- During the 2019-2020 black summer fires, we rescued and treated over 22 macropods - the vast majority survived to be released back into the wild.
- Humane World for Animals provide an emergency triage centre at the sanctuary where wildlife is triaged, or receives veterinary care.

## **My experiences with the RSPCA**

- My only experiences with the RSPCA were during the 2019-2020 bushfires, where I led search and rescue operations in my local area.
- During the crises, a temporary treatment facility was established in my home, where volunteer veterinarians treated wildlife that survived the fires.
- I oversaw the release of treated animals at the sanctuary.

## **Events as they occurred**

1 February 2020

- Our property and sanctuary was devastated by 3 major fires that had merged.
- My wife and I stayed to defend the property, however we were eventually evacuated by a NPWS fighter.

3 February 2020

- We returned and began conducting black walks, searching for the sanctuary's wildlife and other wildlife that survived the fires.
- My wife and I rescued 6 sanctuary and 6 wild animals over a period of a few days.
- WIRES, the wildlife group I was a member of and authorised under refused to assist. I repeatedly rang requesting assistance, however my pleas for help were ignored.

6 February 2020

- A Department of Primary Industries veterinarian visited the sanctuary and asked if we had any livestock that needed assessment and treatment. I told the vet that we didn't, that we were a wildlife sanctuary and that I had wildlife that I had been treating for burns. I asked the vet if he could check my animals, he answered no, and left.
- The same day I had a call from a NPWS area manager, letting me know that they couldn't provide help. It took over a week for veterinary help to arrive at the sanctuary. Up until then I had been treating the survivors myself under the guidance of a veterinarian specialising in soft tissue wounds. He provided advice via telephone and emails.

8 February 2020

- A New Zealand NGO 'HUHANZ', arrived at the property to provide support.
- They brought with them Australian veterinarians and immediately started treating the survivors.
- Whilst I was thankful for the help, I was shocked to see that none of the Australian vets had any wildlife experience.

17 February 2020, almost 3 weeks after the fires.

- A WIRES disaster response team arrived at the property to take over from HUHANZ.
- There was to be a handover of care from the HUHANZ provided veterinarian (who was at the sanctuary), to the WIRES disaster response team.
- This handover was compromised as there was no veterinarian in the WIRES team to handover to.

*The WIRES disaster response team consisted of;*

- the team leader, who was the WIRES media content creator;
- a WIRES vet nurse who had no Australian wildlife experience;
- and a contracted shooter, who was a former RSPCA NSW inspector;
- There were no vets with the WIRES team;

Within hours of the WIRES disaster response team arriving, an RSPCA inspector turned up.

- He told me there was an anonymous complaint that I had been treating wildlife without veterinary supervision.
- He showed me photos of burn wounds on his mobile phone, that he had been sent. I had provided those photos to the WIRES vet nurse only hours earlier.
- The HUHANZ veterinarian that was at the property treating the animals that day, told the RSPCA inspector that she was a veterinarian and had been treating the animals since 8 February.

- The RSPCA inspector then asked me if he could look around the property, which I agreed he could do as I had nothing to hide. He then left and no action was taken against me.

21 February 2020

- An RSPCA inspector climbed over a locked gate and searched the property whilst we were not home. I have CCTV which recorded this.
- The inspector made no attempt to phone me before entering the property.

23 February 2020

- We return home to find an RSPCA sticker on the gate.
- I rang the inspector to see why he was there. He said he was acting on a complaint from WIRES.
- The inspectors tone was aggressive and bullying, demanding I allow him to interview me at my property. This phone call was witnessed by 3 other people - my wife, an ABC news reporter and a Canadian photo journalist.
- I agreed to meet with the inspector only at a public place as I didn't feel safe. The interview took place on 25 February 2020.
- The interview concluded and I never heard from the RSPCA again.

## **Recommendations**

1. The RSPCA ensure that complaints warranting a visit by an inspector are valid before entering a property. Evidence based complaints should be investigated.
  - This will stop organisations and individuals using the RSPCA for their own agendas.
2. If a complaint has been lodged by an organisation, eg. WIRES, that the complainant's identity be revealed at the time of interview or beforehand.
  - Organisations, unlike private individuals, should not be able to harass employees, members, or competitors anonymously.
3. If a complaint has been lodged by an employee, or member of an organisation, eg. a WIRES member or employee, and not on behalf of that organisation, that the RSPCA reveal the identity of the organisation they are a member of, or employed by.
  - This will stop individuals lodging a complaint at the behest of an organisation, to give that organisation anonymity.
4. The RSPCA should notify people interviewed whether or not they will be prosecuted in a timely manner.
  - Its now over 5 years and I have not been advised by the RSPCA whether they are going to take action against me. I relied on the statute of limitation applying to the investigations I endured - this places unwarranted and unnecessary stress on innocent people.
5. The RSPCA inspector should not behave in an aggressive and intimidating manner. This behaviour towards possibly innocent people is unacceptable.