

**Submission
No 50**

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

Organisation: Protect WIRES

Date Received: 15 December 2025

Cover Note

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

Submission from: Protect WIRES

This submission provides context for the volume of material critical of WIRES received in this inquiry.

Protect WIRES is a collaboration of senior carers and supporters established independently to document, manage, and respond to sustained harassment and misinformation directed at WIRES.

WIRES is **not** an organisation approved to enforce the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979. It does not investigate offences, issue penalties, or prosecute matters under that Act. Those powers sit with approved enforcement bodies and government agencies.

WIRES is a wildlife rescue and coordination organisation. Its role is to support wildlife care, administer care standards attached to rehabilitation licences issued by NPWS, and refer serious welfare concerns to authorised enforcement bodies when required.

A significant number of submissions referencing WIRES do not arise from the Terms of Reference. They form part of a long-running, coordinated activist campaign led by a very small group of individuals and do not reflect the broader views of the wildlife rescue sector or WIRES' membership.

The volume of submissions is intentional and should not be interpreted as evidence of widespread concern or consensus.

This submission is not intended to avoid scrutiny. It is provided so WIRES-related material can be assessed accurately, in context, and according to the scope of the inquiry.

Substantial additional information and supporting material exists and can be provided if requested.

Protect WIRES

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

NSW Legislative Council
Animal Welfare Committee

Submission from: Protect WIRES

Date: 13/12/2025

To the Committee,

This document is provided to explain why many submissions critical of WIRES are expected in connection with this inquiry, and to assist the Committee in understanding the source, intent, and relevance of that material.

Many of these submissions form part of a coordinated campaign by a small activist group known as Reclaim WIRES.

Based on observed behaviour over time, this activity is driven by a core group of approximately 10–15 individuals motivating a Facebook group with a transient number of other activists. This includes former members and individuals who have never been members. By contrast, WIRES has a membership of approximately 3,000 active members.

These submissions are not independent, and do not reflect the broader views of the wildlife rescue sector or registered carers.

Our document is not intended to argue the merits of wildlife policy or licensing decisions. It is intended to provide context so that submissions can be assessed fairly and accurately.

The concern is that to hear from a dozen or so submissions with misinformation about WIRES could lead you to believe the issues are:

- 1) Valid in any way
- 2) Representative of the majority of WIRES members

They are neither valid nor representative.

Relevance to this inquiry and WIRES' role

This inquiry examines charitable organisations approved to exercise compliance and enforcement functions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.

WIRES is **not** one of those organisations.

WIRES does not investigate offences, enforce the Act, issue penalties, or prosecute anyone. It does not hold enforcement powers under section 34B of the Act. Those powers sit with approved enforcement bodies and government agencies.

WIRES is a wildlife rescue and coordination organisation. Its role is to support wildlife care, coordinate rescue activity, and administer care standards attached to wildlife rehabilitation licences issued by NPWS.

This means WIRES provides guidance to carers, checks compliance with care conditions, responds to welfare concerns within the rescue network, and refers serious matters to authorised enforcement bodies when required. These responsibilities are set by government and are not optional.

Because WIRES is often the visible point of contact when welfare issues arise, it is frequently blamed for standards and decisions that it does not set and does not enforce.

Despite this, a number of submissions to this inquiry attempt to link WIRES to enforcement actions or misuse of powers it does not have. These claims do not arise from the Terms of Reference. They reflect a coordinated effort to use this inquiry as a platform to advance activism and long-running personal vendettas, opportunism and negativity against WIRES.

This misuse of the inquiry has resulted in sustained hostility toward WIRES, including abuse, harassment, threats, and other hostile behaviour directed at staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Understanding the difference between **administrative welfare coordination** and **statutory enforcement** is essential when assessing the relevance and weight of submissions that seek to attribute enforcement powers or responsibilities to WIRES that it simply does not possess.

Why a high volume of submissions about WIRES is expected

The Committee is likely to receive many submissions focused on WIRES. These submissions do not reflect general views across the wildlife rescue or animal welfare sector.

They are the result of a long-running (two to five years), coordinated activist campaign by a small group of individuals who repeatedly target WIRES whenever a public process can be used as a platform.

The volume may appear significant, but it is intentional. Talking points, timelines, and coordinated calls to action are used to manufacture the appearance of widespread concern.

This pattern has occurred across multiple government inquiries, regulators, media processes, and public forums over several years.

Who is behind this activity

As stated, the activity is driven by a small network of individuals operating under the banner “Reclaim WIRES”.

Some of the most active participants:

- are not based in NSW
- are not registered wildlife carers
- describe themselves as activists rather than rescuers

The group includes individuals with histories of conflict with organisations, repeated complaints to regulators, and public hostility toward science, regulation, and animal welfare oversight.

The group also includes individuals who have previously been involved in court proceedings, court orders, or personal protection matters arising from disputes with other organisations or individuals in comparable circumstances.

These matters are publicly documented and form part of a broader pattern of conflict-driven engagement, escalation through formal processes, and hostility toward organisational governance and oversight.

Their **stated** objective over time has been to undermine WIRES, damage its public and sponsor reputation, disrupt its governance, and ultimately gain control of the organisation. An unsuccessful board takeover attempt in 2025 was part of this effort.

How the campaign operates

The campaign follows a consistent pattern:

- high volumes of submissions are encouraged whenever an inquiry or review opens
- identical or near-identical language is repeated across submissions
- unrelated issues are inserted into processes where they do not belong
- individuals rather than policies are targeted
- coordinated online harassment of individuals who support WIRES, including public identification of named individuals, circulation of false and damaging allegations about them, publication of personal information, threats, and organised “mobbing” campaigns.
- escalation occurs when claims are dismissed or ruled out of scope

The focus is not on contributing evidence. The focus is on volume, repetition, and pressure.

Use of regulators as a pressure tactic

Members of this group repeatedly encourage one another to lodge complaints with:

- SafeWork NSW
- the Fair Work Commission
- ACNC
- ASIC
- Members of Parliament
- media outlets

Complaints are often encouraged even after regulators have confirmed they have no jurisdiction or have closed earlier matters.

When complaints are dismissed, this is not accepted as an outcome. Instead, it is framed as proof of bias or wrongdoing, and used to justify further escalation elsewhere.

Regulators have noted spikes in complaints during short periods that align with online calls to action.

Use of courts and legal processes

Legal and corporate law processes are also used as part of this pressure strategy.

Governance disputes, constitutional issues, and Corporations Act provisions are repeatedly presented publicly as evidence of wrongdoing, regardless of whether matters are unresolved, contested, or procedural in nature.

The existence of legal action is then cited as proof of misconduct and used to fuel further complaints, submissions, and media pressure.

This approach creates confusion and instability rather than resolution.

Targeting of staff, volunteers, and donors

A key feature of the campaign has been the targeting of people rather than issues.

This has included:

- a large volume of online abuse naming staff and volunteers
- publication of personal details and workplaces
- intimidation and harassment

- disruption of lawful court proceedings
- calls for volunteers to stop volunteering
- calls for donors to stop donating, not only to WIRES sponsors, but to sponsors of organisations that support WIRES.
- pressure applied directly to supporters

This behaviour is not limited to online commentary. In several cases it has involved stalking-type conduct, publication of personal locations and workplaces, and actions that reasonably cause fear for personal safety. These incidents are not isolated. They have been coordinated in private forums with the stated aim of harassing and intimidating WIRES staff, volunteers, and supporters.

The intent is to wear people down, isolate them, and weaken the organisation by attacking those who support it. This has caused real harm and diverted time and resources away from animal rescue.

This is why the behaviour has required the formation of Protect WIRES, a group established by senior carers and supporters to document, manage, and respond to sustained harassment and misinformation.

Stated motivations behind the campaign

In assessing the volume and nature of submissions targeting WIRES, it is important to understand the motivations that have been publicly stated by individuals involved in this campaign.

These motivations have been expressed repeatedly across public posts, activist forums, and communications encouraging participation in complaints, submissions, and legal action.

- **Revenge.** The word “revenge” has been explicitly used by campaign participants to justify actions against WIRES leadership and staff. These statements are often framed as responses to animal welfare interventions, including cases where animals were removed or restrictions applied due to welfare concerns. In this context, retaliation against the organisation is presented as morally justified, even where decisions were lawful, evidence-based, and required under regulatory standards.
- **Money and control of resources.** A recurring focus of activist commentary is WIRES’ finances. Financial figures are frequently taken out of context, exaggerated, or misrepresented, alongside statements that funding should be redirected to individuals or groups aligned with the campaign. In multiple instances, campaign participants have publicly linked their opposition to WIRES

with expectations of access to funding, paid roles, or control over organisational resources.

- **Removal of animal welfare oversight.** Some campaign participants have openly stated that, if successful in taking control of WIRES, they would dismantle or significantly weaken the organisation's welfare oversight functions. This includes reducing welfare checks and relaxing care standards. These standards are prescribed by NSW regulators and are not discretionary. WIRES has a duty to apply them. Opposition to enforcement of welfare standards has been a consistent driver of hostility toward the organisation.
- **Attention and status within the sector.** A further motivator evident in public material is the pursuit of visibility, influence, and status. Campaign participants frequently position themselves as central figures, whistleblowers, or victims of wrongdoing, and actively seek public attention through media engagement, social platforms, and inquiry submissions. This behaviour is reinforced by online dynamics that reward outrage, repetition, and escalation.

These motivations help explain why the campaign persists despite repeated regulatory closures, factual corrections, and rejection by the broader WIRES membership.

The activity is not driven by policy reform or improved animal welfare outcomes. It is driven by retaliation, resource fixation, resistance to oversight, and the pursuit of influence.

Understanding these stated motivations assists in distinguishing genuine policy input from coordinated pressure activity.

What this means for the inquiry

Many submissions referencing WIRES are best understood as campaign material placed into a parliamentary process, rather than evidence relevant to the Terms of Reference.

The Committee is respectfully asked to:

- assess WIRES-focused submissions for relevance
- treat volume and repetition as signs of coordination rather than consensus
- avoid treating activist material as evidence on licensing matters
- distinguish between legitimate policy discussion and targeted campaigns

Protect WIRES does not object to scrutiny, accountability, or evidence-based review. The concern is sustained harassment and misuse of public processes.

Closing

This context is provided so the Committee can focus on the substance of the inquiry into licences to harm native animals, without being diverted by unrelated campaigns.

Over this multi-year period, WIRES has been required to manage these issues and the underlying welfare concerns without meaningful government support directed at addressing sustained harassment, misuse of regulatory processes, or the resulting risks to public and animal safety.

This is why Protect WIRES was established by senior carers and supporters. The purpose of this work is to ensure that sustained activist and opportunistic behaviour does not compromise animal welfare outcomes, the safety of carers, or the stability of the organisation responsible for delivering these outcomes.

The response set out in this document has been deliberately measured and restrained. Substantial additional information, evidence, and supporting material exists and can be provided to the Committee if requested.

For the Senior Carers and supporters.

Protect WIRES