

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION — LICENCE CONDITIONS

**876. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the reported impact of red tape on licence conditions for small volunteer based native animal rehabilitation groups such as Fostering and Assistance for Wildlife Needing Aid and Native Animal Rescue.

- (1) Does the minister support the work of volunteer native animal rescue groups such as FAWNA and NAR?
- (2) Will the minister commit to assisting volunteer groups as they grapple with increasingly difficult licence conditions, which are reported to be putting the welfare of native animals at risk?
- (3) Will the minister provide support to ensure these vital volunteer organisations are respected, valued and supported into the future?

**Hon DARREN WEST replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment I provide the following answer.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The implementation of regulation 35, fauna possessing (other purposes) licences, to rehabilitate fauna for release to the wild was a step the rehabilitation community requested the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions implement to raise standards, accountability and consistency across the sector. In implementing this licence, the DBCA has engaged extensively with the rehabilitation community and the groups mentioned contributed to the *Code of practice for wildlife rehabilitation in Western Australia* that forms the primary basis of the conditions of this licence. Notifications and recording of fauna rehabilitation information are some of the key conditions that will allow licensees to demonstrate the work they do and illustrate their important contribution to supporting sick, injured and abandoned fauna. This approach is consistent with other jurisdictions across the country.
- (3) The DBCA engages with regulation 35 licensees in good faith and with respect for the important work they do. The DBCA waives the fees associated with the licence in recognition of the importance of their activity. There are several state government grant opportunities available to wildlife rehabilitators, including the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments' animal welfare grant program, state natural resource management community stewardship grants and Lotterywest.