

Ms Sally Barnes
Chief Executive
Office of Environment & Heritage
PO BOX A290
Sydney South NSW 1232

Dear Sally,

Thank you for your letter ED12/698 dated 8 November 2012 regarding the NSW Wildlife Council (NWC) proposal of 17 July 2012 that sought to adjust the s121 and s123 occupier licence application processes. Kate Wilson also commented in her letter ED 12/576 dated 14 August 2012.

It appears from these responses that OEH may have inadequately considered our proposal in light of the NSW Government State Plan NSW 2021 which encourages the involvement of communities in decision-making processes. The NWC proposal not only achieves this, but also increases the veracity of property owner claims and level of compliance.

OEH say they are in partnership with the NSW Wildlife Council however the dismissal of our proposal without addressing directly the issues raised is a little puzzling.

OEH claims that any change would introduce red tape and delay the process, have not been substantiated and the benefits to the Department and the NSW community have not been acknowledged.

The NWC would like the OEH to reconsider the NWC proposal that would permit neighbours and communities to have limited input into the occupier license process.

Sally, I believe it would be worthwhile meeting with you to discuss the merits of the NWC proposal further. I would also welcome the opportunity to bring you up to date with other NWC activities and concerns. If you agree, we would be available to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

On behalf of NWC I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2013.

Yours sincerely

Audrey Koosmen
Chair, NSW Wildlife Council
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13 December 2012