



DEW F0001695401

Date: 3 July 2018

Office of the Group
Executive Director, People
and Performance

81-95 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001
Australia

Ph: 08 8204 9473

www.environment.sa.gov.au

Hon Tammy Franks MLC
Legislative Council
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Franks,

I refer to your application pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act) received by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on 2 May 2018, seeking access to:

"Minutes of the Review of the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Wombats by Shooting in South Australia, held April 4th 2012 by DEWNR".

As the agency did not determine the application within 30 days of receiving it, by the operation of section 19(2)(b) of the FOI Act, the agency is taken to have determined the application by refusing access.

However, section 19(2a) of the FOI Act, provides that an agency may give access to a document on an application after the period within which it was required to deal with the application (and any such determination is to be taken to have been made under this Act).

DETERMINATION

Searches of the Department's records have found one (1) document held by this agency within scope of your request.

As a DEW Accredited FOI Officer, I advise you that whilst formal minutes were not taken at this meeting, notes of the discussions were recorded by Departmental officers and I have determined to grant you partial access to this one (1) document. Section 20 of the Act provides that an agency may refuse access to a document if it is an exempt document under the Act.

The document, or parts of the document to which I am refusing access and the reasons for the refusal are summarised in the attached document schedule and explained in more detail below.

Document number 1

Schedule 1, Clause 6(1) of the Act states that:

6—Documents affecting personal affairs

- 6(1) *A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).*

The full release of this document would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning personal affairs, thus those parts are exempt pursuant to Clause 6(1) of the FOI Act.

In accordance with [PC045 – Disclosure logs for Non-personal information](#) once a determination has been provided, the agency is required to make available on our website information and documents that have been disclosed. Information will be publicized online at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/freedom-of-information/foi-disclosure-log>.

FEES AND CHARGES

There is no charge for processing this application.

YOUR APPEAL RIGHTS

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your rights to internal review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation, by completing the attached Application for Review of Determination. If you decide to apply to exercise your rights to review, the completed form must be returned within 30 days to:

Chief Executive
Department for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

If you have any queries in relation to the above please contact Katrina Button on telephone (08) 8463 6625 or email DEWNR.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Wiebke Billows
ACCREDITED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER



Meeting Notes

Review of Code of Practice for the humane destruction of wombats by shooting in South Australia

Wednesday 4 April 2012

Meeting venue: University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, Cornish Building

Attendees	Organisation
6 - Documents affecting personal affairs	RSPCA
	ZoosSA
	University of Adelaide School of Earth & Environmental Science
	Wombat Awareness Organisation
	Wildlife carer
	South Australian Farmers Federation
	Landholder
	DENR - SA Murray Darling Basin Region
	DENR - Policy (Abundant Species and Sustainable Use)
	DENR - Policy (Abundant Species and Sustainable Use)

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Item	
1.	Welcome The meeting commenced at 10:05am.
2.	Purpose of the meeting* <ul style="list-style-type: none">6 - Documents affecting personal affairs explained that the focus of the meeting is solely about the Code of Practice and not wombat management in general.6 - Documents affecting personal affairs raised whether to have only one Code of Practice. What if the animal is sick or injured?What term to use to describe the action? Propose to use the word "kill".Process<ul style="list-style-type: none">Working Group↓Animal Welfare Advisory Committee↓DENR Senior Management↓Code of Practice finalised <p>* A group of technical experts and land owners coming together to workshop ideas for the Code review.</p>



3. Review of literature (provided in the agenda pack)

- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 - Information on stress, fear and anxiety in animals (especially larger pouch young wombats) not in the literature provided by DENR.
 - Terms 'consciousness' and 'unconsciousness' key to deciding on what method. Pouch young can express pain and fear.
 - The longer animals are handled, less pain is felt (natural response). The animal shuts down.
 - 7 gram joeys react to consciousness.
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs** in response, stated that they do react to light. The eyes are going through a lot of development at that time. He is not sure whether this is related to pain.]
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 - The Papers provided is what DENR could find.
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 - Joey wombats up to 12 grams can be rehabilitated successfully.
 - When persons shooting female wombats with offspring it can become an emotional issue when young dependent wombat needs to be destroyed.
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 - Cross-fostering 2-5 gram joeys will respond to hunger and light if taken off the teat. Not sure whether this is a pain response.
 - Can send small joeys (2-5 grams) across the country (12 hour trip) and the joeys go straight back on the teat – no problems.
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**, in response, stated that fear and anxiety need to be considered, not just pain.]
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 - We are talking about planned destruction. What about unplanned/accidental death/injury of wombat?
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 - The Code needs to consider what to do with planned and unplanned events. There is a duty to the wombat and the Code needs to be practical for the landholder.
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 - Agrees with **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 1. Reduce/eliminate stress to the animals
 2. Small animals – hit them on the head and make sure they are dead (check the eyes).
- **D - Documents affecting personal affairs**
 - Wording of the Code needs to be really clear otherwise difficult to enforce.



- More explanation on how to ensure that animals are dead.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Code of Practice terminology needs to be right and explicit.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Indicated she went out with a landholder who shot ten lactating females.
 - Expressed concern about the length of time between when the female wombat is killed and joeys dispatched.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Time of year important.
 - July to December – new births occurring.
 - Large joeys will be encountered January to May.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - The Code of Practice would still need to consider the best method of euthanasia for larger joeys.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Discussion on size of wombats is a management issue, not specific for Code of Practice discussion. The Code of Practice should focus on the method of destruction.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Referred to the Kangaroo Code of Practice. The new Code refers to the size of animal being that which fits in palm of your hand.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Can you shoot a joey in the pouch of a dead female?
67 Documents affecting personal affairs in response, stated that shooting at close range is not safe to do so and is not humane.]
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Discussed gun safety. It is not safe to shoot at close range.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - In Victoria they use carbon dioxide in warrens.
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Can farmers use chemical other than lethobarb? (to keep in glove box)
- 67 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Injecting small joeys could be inhumane if not done properly.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <small>6: Documents affecting personal affairs</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talked about Marsupial Society trying to get approval for lethobarb. There are very stringent requirements. Need to keep in safe, even when travelling need to be in a safe in case of vehicle accident, etc. Lethobarb can kill people.• <small>6: Documents affecting personal</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• The most humane method for joeys would be a hard blow to the head rather than the process of getting the lethobarb and injecting. The time taken would place more stress on the animal before death.• <small>6: Documents affecting perso</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referred to Victorian Government advice on the destruction of wombats.• <small>6: Documents affecting personal affairs</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed the use of a captive bolt gun that could be used in the pouch to destroy joeys.• <small>6: Documents affecting perso</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would captive bolt gun be any more humane than the other alternatives?• <small>6: Documents affecting personal affairs</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RSPCA use captive bolt gun but follow up with lethobarb to the heart or throat cut.• <small>6: Documents affecting perso</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referred to Wombat Code of Practice and statement of decapitation.• <small>6: Documents affecting personal affairs</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joey would have to be removed by cutting the female wombat teat as the joey's mouth is fused onto the teat.• If small joey removed from teat first then there is stress and pain to the joey and the membranes would be damaged.• <small>6: Documents affecting personal affairs</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use forceps to remove joey from teat.
4.	<p>Legislation, policy context and obligations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <small>6: Documents affecting personal affairs</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on gaps in policy (e.g. DENR have policy and Code of Practice but nothing else specific to wombats).• <small>6: Documents affecting personal affa</small><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness of other legislation. Landholders have obligations under other legislation as well.



5. **Agree on outline/structure of the Code of Practice**

- 6.5 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Aboriginal people are taking wombats for food and how they deal with wombat young.
 - Methodology used to dispatch animals – should Aboriginal people have to comply with the Code of Practice?

Discussion

- Title of Code – change “destruction” to “killing” and remove “shooting”.
- Discussion on time of year where destruction should be avoided.
- Size of wombats
 - Adult
 - Large joey’s still dependent (at foot) stay on top of the burrows
 - Joey’s (pouch) – small and large
- 6.7 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Separate independent and dependent young (independent wander around the paddock, dependent young will sit on top of burrow).
- 6.6 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Sick animals tend to be out more during the day.
 - Proposed that where lactating females are shot that the warrens should be monitored to check on young.
- 6.7 Documents affecting personal affairs
 - Lethobarb – a tranquilizer/sedative used for pre-euthanasia.
 - S4 drugs – only to be used by Veterinarian or in the presence of a veterinarian or if with special approval (e.g. research).
 - Permit conditions – storage and handling restrictions; OHS issues and implications.
 - Injecting not always as quick as mechanical means because of animal welfare concerns.
 - Referred to paper by David Taggart on Growth and Development of Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat.
 - For a 1 inch long joey weighing approximately 15 grams recommends to decapitate in pouch.

Agreement

- Need a Code of Practice.
- Wording must contain concrete language (e.g. must, not, should).
- Shooting – method for adult wombats.
- Practicality.



	Lunch 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs
6.	Method of destruction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on what calibre of rifle would be appropriate to use on adult wombats.• Agreement that .243 should be maintained as an available calibre to use, and is the most suitable calibre in most circumstances.• Agreement that .270 and .308 are also very suitable calibres.• Request that 22/250 was added as a calibre for use, especially for longer shots in open landscapes.• General agreement that a clean head shot is required.• General agreement that shooters must be skilled.• Discussion on difficulty of assessing shooter competency.• Suggested use of pre shooting targets to establish competency.• Further discussion on separating the sizes of joey and sub adult wombats.• Getting sensible size categories is important because each size category will have a different method of human killing.• Small wombats (pinkies) should be decapitated with a sharp knife or similar. The current code of practice has this as preferred method for this size wombat.• Slightly larger joeys would need a stun blow before decapitation.• Discussion on whether decapitation is required if the blow to the head can be used to kill the animal.• Discussion on "belt and braces" of decapitating the animal after the blow.• Larger joeys will have to be killed with a blow to the head. Decapitation not practical in the circumstances and larger size of the animal.• Further discussion on what size descriptions of joeys should be used.• Agreement on pinkies – everybody will understand that description.• Suggestion to use palm of hand as a size measurement.• Suggestion to use fur development as a way of differentiating growth stages.• Agreement that a fully furred wombat joey would require a forceful blow to the back of the head.
7.	Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 - Documents outlined that from here the input from the group would be used to develop a revised code of practice.
8.	Close meeting