



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Parliamentary Brief – Wildlife Conservation

2nd February 2017

Dear Parliamentarian,

We are pleased to provide you with our regular Parliamentary Briefing focusing on wildlife conservation issues of concern to Humane Society International (HSI) and our 65,000 supporters. You will receive a separate Parliamentary Briefing bringing your attention to animal welfare issues.

Trawling

The infamous super trawler is morphing into a pair trawler. Muollo Fishing Pty Ltd has applied to AFMA for a permit to allow a pair trawler to operate in the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF). Pair trawlers are banned in a number of international marine jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, because they are known to kill marine animals including dolphins and seals. Don't let one into Australia.

Whaling

This week Japan has said it will not cooperate with the resolution Australia secured at the International Whaling Commission to subject scientific whaling to proper scrutiny. Will the government mount the diplomatic, legal and economic fight needed to bring Japanese whaling to a halt once and for all? Meanwhile, HSI is seeking to enforce contempt orders made in the Federal Court in 2015 and [has issued a final notice to Japanese whalers](#), Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha Ltd, warning the company is liable to sequestration if they do not comply with the orders.

Environment laws – standing

The Minister has flagged denying the community's right to challenge decisions under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Challenges are brought to protect the wildlife and places the public cares about. Don't let the Minister pander to big business and go down this electorally unpopular path.

Environment laws – devolution

Big business is continually trying to dismantle our national environment laws and would love to see the Federal Environment Minister devolve his approval powers to state and territory

governments. For the sake of Australian wildlife and their habitats, please be alert in Parliament to stop this from happening.

Shark nets

Our Federal Environment Minister misused a rarely invoked "national interest" clause to exempt the implementation of more lethal shark net programs in NSW from environmental impact assessment. He did so knowing assessment would show the nets mass kill harmless endangered species (sadly record numbers in NSW this year – [read our blog](#)). The clause should be reserved for national defence and security emergencies. The Minister has now set an appallingly low bar for its abuse.

Flying-foxes

The Minister is misusing "Conservation Agreements" to justify destruction of camps of grey-headed flying-foxes – a threatened species. Conservation Agreements offer exemptions from environmental impact assessments and referrals which is fine when they are genuinely used "for the protection and conservation of biodiversity", their stated purpose, but not for its destruction.

Dingoes

The management of dingoes is causing environmental havoc across Australia, with the apex-predators indiscriminately killed along with 'wild dogs'. This allows feral cats and foxes to flourish with threatened species suffering. The Federal Government has an opportunity to stimulate alternative methods by directing the Threatened Species Scientific Committee to assess "loss of dingoes in the landscape" as a potential Key Threatening Process.

Albatross

Will Australia succeed in getting Japan and others to take the issue of albatross bycatch in regional tuna fisheries seriously or will we see these ancient wanderers continue their slide to extinction?

If you are interested in championing any of these issues in Parliament, HSI staff can offer you briefings and suggested questions to raise.

Contact details for further information

Below you will find the contact details for key HSI staff working on these issues. Please call at anytime to seek information on the above or guidance on any conservation issue that is of concern to you or your constituents.

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For more information on Humane Society International's activities

Visit the Humane Society International (HSI) Australia website at www.hsi.org.au

Follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/hsi_australia

Visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HSIAustralia>

Further links:

Humane Society International Global: www.hsi.org

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS): <http://www.hsus.org/>

Wildlife Land Trust Australia: www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au

Species Survival Network: <http://ssn.org/>

Places You Love alliance: <http://placesyoulove.org/>

The HSI Parliament Briefing is provided to all members of the Federal House of Representatives, the Senate and press gallery. Separate briefings are now provided on animal welfare and on wildlife conservation issues.