

**From:** Martin Rocliffe [<mailto:mrocliffe@amsl.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 March 2018 11:59 AM  
**To:** Sterle, Glenn (Senator)  
**Subject:** National Carp Control Plan - CyHV-3 release

Dear Senator Sterle,

Ref: NCCP planned release of CyHV-3 virus to control Feral Carp

Like many Australians, I am extremely concerned about the intended release of Cyprinid Herpesvirus 3 (CyHV-3 or Koi Herpes Virus KHV) and the devastation it will cause to our environment.

My initial concerns stemmed from a lifelong hobby of keeping Koi, and the likely suffering and death that the virus would bring to pets like mine.

However, the more research that I have done, the more concerned I have become from an almost certain wide scale adverse environmental impact the project will have.

Over the past 3-4 years I have had numerous conversations with Matt Barwick from the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) face to face, via Social media and email.

Despite repeated requests by myself for data, hard facts and peer reviewed papers to support CyHV-3 as being the best method of controlling feral carp, nothing has been forthcoming from NCCP / FRDC.

An email that I received today from Matt Barwick basically says "we are looking into it and will get back to you".

Considering the fact that the proposed release date for the virus was early 2019 it is incredulous that NCCP / FRDC has nothing tangible to offer now to members of the public or indeed the Senate to prove categorically that CyHV-3 is the way ahead for carp control.

Several colleagues have attended NCCP public consultation meetings at Penrith, Taree and Lismore. These have all been extremely disappointing, lacking factual information and in many instances 'misleading'.

Sweeping statements were actually made in the open forum such as:

- "100% of dead carp will float, so cleaning them up will be easier"
- "virus will be released when water flow is high to prevent carcasses polluting the water"
- "a controlled release of the virus will allow the clean up to be handled".

For the record I would like to state that I am a qualified Microbiologist. Two things I can tell you about Viruses:

- Releasing a virus into large volumes of fast moving water will dilute its efficacy and significantly reduce the kill rate (60-80% in laboratory conditions).
- In an open system, Viruses (and Bacteria) DO NOT stay where you put them ! The Ministry of Agriculture estimated that when calicivirus was accidentally released in 1995, it was spreading at more than 200Km per day due to various vectors.

NCCP and CSIRO have initially focused their efforts on establishing whether CyHV-3 will infect other (native) Fish species.

Even when the work conducted by Dr K McColl showed that nearly 60% of the control fish (i.e. non-Carp species) died in their experiment, this conveniently brushed aside as 'poor animal husbandry', rather than perhaps something else killing the fish (e.g. poor water quality caused by the dead carp ?).

Removing dead or dying carp from rivers, lakes and dams is without doubt the most important element of this project.

And yet it is only now getting any real attention.

A little over a year ago the former Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce was suggesting that members of Angling Clubs would pick up the dead carp !

I'd like to offer the following facts to demonstrate how ludicrous this is:

- Cleaning up dead and rotting fish is highly unpleasant, involving considerable health and safety risks from pathogens such as Clostridia, Aeromonas and Vibrio which can proliferate in dead carcasses.
- Assume 1.5 million tonnes of dead carp will need to be cleaned up ( That is only 50% of Barnaby Joyce's estimate of 0.5 - 2.0 million tonnes of carp).  
...as a comparison
- Since 'Clean Up Australia Day' started 27 years ago, more than 32 million volunteer hours have only removed 344 thousand ute loads of rubbish (just under 14,000 tonnes) from over 171,000 sites across the country.
  - **That's equivalent to less than 1% of the amount of dead carp being predicted**
- Costs have been estimated at \$600 million if contractors were used (approx. \$1,000 per tonne dead fish)

Attached is a copy of a letter sent to all MP's and Senators last year by myself and colleagues from the Koi Society of Australia (KSA).

It highlighted many of the points that I have raised in this email, as well as others (e.g. why we are not using carp as a resource and generating jobs, whilst controlling their numbers in an environmentally sustainable way?).

From my international connections through the Koi hobby and my work as a Medical Sales Manager, I can state that Australia is being viewed as foolhardy, blinkered and unscientific in its consideration of releasing a virus that every other country in the World would gladly get rid of (if that were even possible).

Can I please ask that you consider the points raised here, and challenge the members of the NCCP rigorously at the next Senate hearing. I am more than willing to provide more information and assistance to you if required.

My thanks in advance,

Best Regards

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