

# **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Prohibition of Live Imports of Primates for Research) Bill 2015**

**Public Hearing, Friday 5 February 2016**

## **Questions on Notice**

### **Department of Environment responses**

#### **Senator Rhiannon asked (Hansard Page 34):**

With regard to the import of primates for the research institutions in Australia, has there been any occasion where concerns have been raised? You mentioned, I think, three levels at which concerns could be raised. Has there ever been occasion for that to happen?

Could you take it on notice so it is not just your knowledge but the department's knowledge?

#### **Answer:**

Internationally, concerns about trade in *Macaca fascicularis* in South East Asia have been raised at various CITES meetings since 2011, both by other CITES Parties through the Review of Significant Trade in Specimens of Appendix II species and via documents submitted by non-Government organisations. Concerns about international trade in this species have most recently been raised at the 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to CITES in January 2016. At this meeting the CITES Standing Committee agreed to impose a ban on trade in *Macaca fascicularis* from Laos on the basis that Laos has not met CITES requirements in international trade in this species. The CITES Standing Committee also requested the CITES Secretariat to further investigate concerns about international trade of *Macaca fascicularis* from Cambodia and Vietnam.

Domestically, the Department has received and responded to correspondence from the public (primarily between 2011 and 2013) raising general concerns about international trade in primates for research purposes. The concerns mostly related to animal welfare and the source of animals used for research. No concerns have been raised with the Department about specific imports of primates for research institutions in Australia.

We have considered these concerns in supporting actions to address potential illegal trade through Australia's participation in the CITES Standing Committee and other CITES forums.

#### **Senator Rhiannon asked (Hansard Page 35):**

So to the best of our knowledge at the moment there have not been the concerns from Australia, but you are aware that other countries have raised them and the IUCN. So you have that awareness of the other countries and the IUCN, has that prompted any investigation from Australia with regard to the veracity of the export permits that you have just stated are required before these animals can be imported into Australia?

#### **Answer:**

The Department has no record of any Departmental investigations into export permits for trade in primates for research purposes issued by other countries.

**Senator Rhiannon asked (Hansard page 36):**

What primate species could be imported into Australia under the current system?

**Answer:**

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), live specimens may only be imported if they are listed on the List of Specimens Taken to be Suitable for Live Import (Live Import List). Any imports must be in accordance with any restrictions outlined on this list. At present there are 37 species of primate on the Live Import List that may be imported for eligible non-commercial purposes. These primate species can also be held in zoo collections for exhibition or conservation breeding purposes. The full list is provided in Table One at **Attachment A** of this document.

**Senator Rhiannon asked (Hansard page 36):**

Can you take this on notice: in that same section, you said 'between 2000 and 2015'. Can you give the year that those imports occurred, please?

**Answer:**

Please refer to Table Two CITES import permits for non-human primates for research purposes, 2000 – 2015 at **Attachment B** of this document.

**Senator Urquhart asked (Hansard page 37):**

Do you know how many non-human primates have been imported in the last five years for research purposes?

**Answer:**

Since 2011, permits have been issued for the import of 69 non-human primates for research purposes.

**Senator Reynolds asked (Hansard page 37):**

Could you take this on notice then: perhaps a broader question is whether you have had any formal complaints made, and what the process has been for each of those complaints?

**Answer:**

The Department has not received any formal complaints.

**Senator Rhiannon asked (Hansard page 37):**

Who is responsible for administering the International Air Transport Association Live Animal Regulations and how is it given effect by the relevant part of government.

**Answer:**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is responsible for administering the IATA Live Animals Regulations (IATA Regulations). IATA is a trade association that currently represents 260 airlines. IATA is not a government agency.

The IATA Regulations are not a CITES or EPBC Act requirement, however they are given effect under the EPBC Act by applying conditions on permits which require that all live mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians are transported in accordance with these regulations. Specifically, the

condition reads ‘for live animals, this permit or certificate is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the IATA Live Animals Regulations’.

EPBC Regulation 9A.05(3) imposes a further permit condition that requires ‘the specimen(s) will be prepared and transported in a way that is known to result in minimal stress, risk of injury and adverse effect on the health of the specimen(s)’.

**Senator Rhiannon asked (Hansard page 38):**

I just wanted to clarify. Do you have any concerns regarding the treatment of primates while they are in transit? Has there been an incident where a primate has arrived here and it is dehydrated and it has died—there are problems? Have you documented any of those issues?

**Answer:**

The Department is not aware of any incidents regarding the treatment of primates in transit.

**Attachment A**

**Table 1: Primates on the List of Specimens taken to be suitable for live import**

| Common name                                                | Scientific Name                | Conditions for import                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lemurine Night Monkey (owl monkey)                         | <i>Aotus lemurinus</i>         | Eligible non-commercial purposes only, excluding household pets. High security facilities only |
| Ma’s Night Monkey (owl monkey)                             | <i>Aotus nancymae</i>          | Eligible non-commercial purposes only, excluding household pets. High security facilities only |
| Northern Owl Monkey (owl monkey)                           | <i>Aotus trivirgatus</i>       | Eligible non-commercial purposes only, excluding household pets. High security facilities only |
| Black-handed Spider Monkey                                 | <i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>        | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| Common Marmoset                                            | <i>Callithrix jacchus</i>      | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| Pygmy Marmoset                                             | <i>Callithrix pygmaea</i>      | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| Black-capped Capuchin, Tufted Capuchin Monkey              | <i>Cebus apella</i>            | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| Debrazza Monkey (Guenon)                                   | <i>Cercopithecus neglectus</i> | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| Grivet Monkey, Savanna Monkey, Green Monkey, Vervet Monkey | <i>Chlorocebus aethiops</i>    | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| Black and White Colobus                                    | <i>Colobus guereza</i>         | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| Gorilla                                                    | <i>Gorilla gorilla</i>         | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| White-cheeked Gibbon                                       | <i>Hylobates leucogenys</i>    | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |
| Moloch Gibbon                                              | <i>Hylobates moloch</i>        | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets.                                |

| Common name                                 | Scientific Name                   | Conditions for import                                           |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Siamang Gibbon                              | <i>Hylobates syndactylus</i>      | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Ring-tailed Lemur                           | <i>Lemur catta</i>                | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Black Lion Tamarin                          | <i>Leontopithecus chrysopygus</i> | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Golden Lion Tamarin                         | <i>Leontopithecus rosalia</i>     | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Cynomolgus Monkeys (Long-tailed macaque)    | <i>Macaca fascicularis</i>        | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Pig-tailed Macaque                          | <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>          | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Celebes Black Ape (Celebes crested macaque) | <i>Macaca nigra</i>               | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Southern Talapoin, Talapoin Monkey          | <i>Miopithecus talapoin</i>       | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Chimpanzee                                  | <i>Pan troglodytes</i>            | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Hamadryas Baboon                            | <i>Papio hamadryas</i>            | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Mandrill                                    | <i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>          | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Sumatran Orang-utan                         | <i>Pongo pygmaeus abelii</i>      | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Orangutan                                   | <i>Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus</i>    | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Banded Leaf-monkey                          | <i>Presbytis femoralis</i>        | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Emperor Tamarin                             | <i>Saguinus imperator</i>         | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Red Handed Tamarin                          | <i>Saguinus midas</i>             | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Cotton-headed Tamarin, Cotton-top Tamarin   | <i>Saguinus oedipus</i>           | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Bolivian Squirrel Monkey                    | <i>Saimiri boliviensis</i>        | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Squirrel Monkey                             | <i>Saimiri sciureus</i>           | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Malaysian Leaf-monkey                       | <i>Semnopithecus obscurus</i>     | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Ebony Langur                                | <i>Trachypithecus auratus</i>     | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Francois' Langur                            | <i>Trachypithecus francois</i>    | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Dusky Leaf-monkey, Spectacled Leaf-monkey   | <i>Trachypithecus obscurus</i>    | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |
| Ruffed Lemur                                | <i>Varecia variegata</i>          | Eligible non-commercial purpose only, excluding household pets. |

## Attachment B

**Table 2: CITES import permits for non-human primates for research purposes, 2000-2015**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Species</b>             | <b>Common name</b>  | <b>Number Animals approved for import</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2000        | <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>   | Pig-tailed macaque  | 60                                        |
| 2001        | <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>   | Pig-tailed macaque  | 48                                        |
| 2003        | <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>   | Pig-tailed macaque  | 60                                        |
| 2003        | <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>   | Pig-tailed macaque  | 7                                         |
| 2005        | <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>   | Pig-tailed macaque  | 36                                        |
| 2005        | <i>Aotus nancymae</i>      | Owl monkey          | 21                                        |
| 2008        | <i>Aotus nancymae</i>      | Owl monkey          | 25                                        |
| 2009        | <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>   | Pig-tailed macaque  | 44                                        |
| 2014        | <i>Callithrix jacchus</i>  | Common marmoset     | 37                                        |
| 2015        | <i>Callithrix jacchus</i>  | Common marmoset     | 22                                        |
| 2015        | <i>Macaca fascicularis</i> | Long-tailed macaque | 10                                        |