

Ref: 26-00878

Mr Allan Bennett
Assistant Secretary
The Koi Society Of Western Australia
20 Rosetta Rise
GNANGARA WA 6065



Dear Mr Bennett

INCLUSION OF DOMESTICATED KOI CARP ON THE NATIONAL ORNAMENTAL FISH GREY LIST

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Koi Society concerning the status of domesticated koi carp, as listed in the national strategy, *A Strategic Approach to the Management of Ornamental Fish in Australia*.

The Ornamental Fish Management Implementation Group, which has been established to progress the actions identified in the national strategy, has been progressing with the review of the "grey list" species. As you know from the Koi Society's prior involvement with the national strategy, where there was not unanimous agreement for noxious listing (as was the case with domesticated koi carp), species were added to the "grey list" to be reviewed in the future. The review of the "grey list" species was identified as a national priority.

In October, an expert workshop, including scientists and industry representatives from around Australia, was convened to review species on the "grey list" and consider their risk of establishing in the wild and their potential environmental impact. The workshop identified species that were considered high and low risk; as well as species that were of direct importance to the aquarium trade and hobby sector.

The results of the workshop were considered by the Implementation Group at its meeting on 7 November 2008. There were several important recommendations from the meeting:

- those species identified as potentially of high risk and unlikely to be of direct importance to the trade and hobby sector will be released for a public comment period in early 2009 before further consideration is given to listing them as noxious under the national strategy;
- those species identified as potentially of high risk and of importance to industry and the hobby sector will be subject to further stakeholder consultation to discuss the different management options. Domesticated koi carp have been classified in this group; and

- a stakeholder workshop will be run in 2009 to better consult stakeholders and progress these issues.

Further information can be obtained at the following website:
<http://www.daff.gov.au/brs/fisheries-marine/environment/ornamental>

I would like to reassure you that a decision to list any "grey list" species as noxious has not yet been made and this will not occur without stakeholder consultation. The final decision to list any "grey list" species as noxious is the responsibility of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, which is representative of all governments in Australia. Based on the decisions of the Ministerial Council, a nationally agreed approach would be implemented by each state and territory as has occurred under the national strategy to date.

I understand that the Department's representative on the Implementation Group has requested that there should be additional representation from the industry and hobby sector on the Implementation Group to improve consultation and input to management discussions. This was supported, with in principle agreement that there should be representation from Western Australian hobbyists. The Department will shortly contact you and others to progress selection of an appropriate representative from Western Australia.

I trust that these recent outcomes will address a number of the issues that you have identified in your letter. I confirm that the Department is committed to working with yourselves and other key stakeholders in the implementation of the national strategy within Western Australia.

For further information, please contact Mr Bill Bardsley, Senior Management Officer, Biosecurity at the Department of Fisheries on 9482 7385.

Yours sincerely



Hon Norman Moore MLC
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

2 DEC 2008