



Baycare News

The voice for an environmental network of SE Qld Community Organisations

"2009 - The Year Moreton Bay Rezoning is implemented for the Future"

Moreton Bay Island Beach Recovery Planning to repair oil spill related damage

Who is Responsible for Wildlife?

Clarification of this issue led to an article by Anne Saunders from the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc (QWRC) in the March 2009 Issue of "RnR Rehabilitate and Release". In order to answer the question a meeting was organised by QWRC to which officers from a number of government departments including the Wildlife Section of the Environmental Protection Agency (Now the Department of Environment and Resource Management, DERM), were invited. It appears that legally no organisation has responsibility to help assist anyone with the protection of native animals. While it was admitted that there may be a moral obligation by departments to assist, due to organisational and financial constraints work must be primarily on the tasks that legally must be addressed.

With many believing that DERM is responsible for the environment and the native animals living therein, it is hoped that it is now better recognised that it is the public that is actually responsible for the care and protection of animals and their habitat. Also, that a need is seen for some advertising to get this message out to both wildlife carers and the community as a whole.

(The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council can be contacted through its Secretary secretary@qwrc.org.au) Following on from this information the Alliance was pleased to receive the following article from the **Pelican and Seabird Rescue organisation.**

"Pelicans and seabirds were added to the EPA "Code of Practice for Wildlife Carers" revised version 2006 as "Animals with special needs". This is totally justified as they require specific housing and husbandry. Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc has held a permit to rehabilitate these special animals since they were upgraded in status.

Unlike facilities designed for perching birds, pelican enclosures must have a specific substrate i.e. sand for

long term or grass for short term. The sand has to be constantly changed as you cannot simply hose it off to clean it of all the food and faecal matter. Pelicans also require ponds or a similar water facility which needs to be changed at least once a day. Their main food supply is fish which is expensive and seasonal, so a search is necessary for a supplier that has your requirements. The above does not apply to birds that require intensive care in a protected and heated environment. Single enclosures for these just have to be large enough to cater for either a pelican or swan .It is a concern that 95% of the birds that are rescued and taken into care are victims of human related activities with fishing tackle and car strikes taking the honours.

With over 1,000 birds rescued last year and over 400 so far this year, present arrangements are stretched to the limit. At present, all the work is being done at a residential property in Brisbane's SE. The need is urgent for a more suitable, dedicated, "State of the Art" seabird rehabilitation centre to be established in SEQ, preferably in Brisbane that would be able to provide a facility for these special animals

Financial assistance is now being sought to upgrade the existing facility or start afresh with a more suitable location. Please contact Hammy Forrest on 0404 118301 if you wish to help or have any further enquiries.