

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

List of Specimens taken to be Suitable for Live Import Amendment (domestic ferret) Instrument 2020

Instrument under subparagraphs 303EC (1)(a)(i) and 303EC (1)(a)(iii)

Issued under authority of the Minister for the Environment

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), a live specimen is allowed to be imported only if it is included on the *List of Specimens Taken to be Suitable for Live Import* (Live Import List).

The Live Import List was established under section 303EB of the EPBC Act and has two parts. Part 1 comprises of unregulated specimens exempt from the requirement for an import permit under the EPBC Act. Part 2 comprises allowable regulated specimens that can be imported with a permit under the EPBC Act.

The effect of this instrument is to amend the Live Import List to include *Mustela putorius furo* (domestic ferret) in Part 2 with the conditions: “Research only. High security facilities only”.

Amendments to the Live Import List can be made either on the initiative of the Minister or by application. This amendment to add *Mustela putorius furo* was initiated by an application made to the Minister under section 303EE of the EPBC Act.

In accordance with subsection 303EF(2)(b) of the EPBC Act, the draft risk assessment report was published on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment’s website and public comments sought between 17 March to 16 April 2020. Three responses were received. Two were concerned with the risk of the ferrets escaping. The other was from a group that were against the use of animals in research.

Consultation was also carried out in accordance with subsection 303EC (3) of the EPBC Act. In this case, the Department Agriculture, Water and the Environment consulted with relevant Commonwealth, state and territory agencies for the environment, conservation and agriculture. Two states and the ACT responded, supported amending the Live Import List to include *Mustela putorius furo* for research purposes in high security facilities only.

The final report was provided to the Minister. In accordance with paragraph 303EC(5)(a) of the EPBC Act, the Minister considered the report before deciding to amend the list to include *Mustela putorius furo* in Part 2 of the Live Import List.

This instrument is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003*. It commences the day after registration.

Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011

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This Legislative Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

Overview of the Legislative Instrument

The purpose of this instrument is to amend Part 2 of the List of Specimens taken to be Suitable for Live Import to include *Mustela putorius furo* (domestic ferret).

Human rights implications

This Legislative Instrument does not engage any of the applicable rights or freedoms.

Conclusion

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with human rights as it does not raise any human rights issues.

The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Minister for the Environment