

Australian Capital Territory

Animal Welfare (Private Keeping of Native Reptiles) Mandatory Code of Practice 2023

Disallowable instrument DI2023–5

made under the

Animal Welfare Act 1992, Section 23 (Mandatory code of practice)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Summary

The *Animal Welfare (Private Keeping of Native Reptiles) Mandatory Code of Practice 2023* (Code) outlines the welfare needs of reptiles kept in captivity.

The Code was prepared to address a gap in the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* and its associated legislative instruments relating to native wildlife.

Mandatory Standards

The Code is a mandatory code of practice under section 23 of the Act. Mandatory standards are numbered and are contained in boxes under the headings ‘Mandatory standards’.

Scope

The Code provides information and describes minimum standards of care for keeping reptiles in captivity by private keepers, and to complement measures to protect wild populations of reptiles from illegal harvesting and introduction of disease and genetic contamination.

The scope of the Code is limited to Australian native reptiles kept privately and does not extend to exotic reptiles, or to any reptiles held primarily for the purposes of display, such as those in zoos and reptile parks.

The mandatory minimum standards in this Code apply to anyone in the ACT who keeps a reptile privately. The standards have been kept to a practical and achievable level whilst maintaining acceptable animal welfare outcomes.

Development of the Code

The Code was developed in consultation with reptile organisations located within the ACT and its surrounds.