

Australian Capital Territory

Animal Welfare (Welfare of Native Wildlife – Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release) Mandatory Code of Practice 2023

Disallowable instrument DI2023–6

made under the

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

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Summary

The *Animal Welfare (Welfare of Native Wildlife – Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release) Mandatory Code of Practice 2023* (Code) sets out animal welfare standards for the rescue, rehabilitation and release of native wildlife.

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 to achieve acceptable animal welfare outcomes for orphaned, sick and injured native animals being held for rehabilitation and for release to the wild as well as outlining responsibilities of licensed organisations and licensed persons involved in their care.

The mandatory minimum standards in the Code apply to carers during the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured, sick or orphaned native animals in the ACT and to carer organisations more generally. These standards set out acceptable welfare standards that are practical and achievable.

The Code does not extend to members of the public rescuing wildlife or transporting rescued wildlife to a veterinarian.

Development of the Code

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