

To: The Honourable Stephen Dawson
Email: Minister.Dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au
Or address: Office of the Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Environment
Level 12, 2 Havelock Street,
West Perth WA 6005

Subject: Monkey Mia's recruitment of dolphins

Letter: *(copy and paste the below)*

To the Hon Stephen Dawson,

As a worried, animal-loving citizen, I am writing to express my concern over the Government of Western Australia's decision to allow the hand-feeding of new wild dolphins in Monkey Mia Reserve.

Hand-feeding wild dolphins is bad for their [health](#) and [survival](#). Scientific research has found hand-fed mothers typically wean [half](#) as many calves as their wild feeding counterparts, and can start showing behaviours which are negative for their [welfare](#) (such as begging and scavenging).

As such, I am extremely concerned about Monkey Mia's plan to recruit five new dolphins into their hand-feeding programme.

Their decision to target adult females is extremely troubling, as recent evidence shows the strict feeding procedures introduced to stop these harmful effects are no longer working. I was especially saddened to learn that calf survival has been decreasing again since 2015.

If this recruitment drive goes ahead, wild dolphins could be harmed in the name of tourism, something which I find completely irresponsible.

For this reason, I am asking that the grandfather clause exempting Monkey Mia from the state-wide ban on hand-feeding wild dolphins not be extended to include additional wild dolphins.

Thanks for your time with this and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,