



Kimberley Toad Busters.
PO Box 738.
Kununurra. 6743

21st April 2006

To All The Members of the Board of STTF:

Summary

The KTB board has decided that we do not wish to apply any further to the Stop The Toad Foundation for funding to support our front line field activities. Any unrestricted donations of financial support for recurrent expenditure or equipment with parameters as set by the KTBs (as indeed has been previously requested) that the STTF chooses to make to the KTBs will of course always be gratefully accepted and received.

Meeting in Kununurra

On behalf of the Kimberley Toad Busters (KTB), we would like to thank you for making time to meet with various members of our board, during your recent visit to Kununurra. We appreciate the fact that you were able to meet with us twice during this visit, and as discussed we have taken all the points raised during these meetings, back to our KTB board for discussion.

These meetings between STTF, KTB and other Kununurra based parties involved positive and encouraging discussions. We were pleased to enter into some face to face discussions with the STTF Board and its employees after a long period of impersonal and often confusing electronic communication from a variety of sources. Our board has spent much time deliberating on all points that were raised at these meetings, which at varying times included: Robert Edel, Luc Longley, Graeme Sawyer, Dennis Beros, Derek Monks,

Lee Scott-Virtue, Dean Goodgame, Sarah Brett, Del Collins, Ade Meredith, Georgina Wilson, Errol Kruger and Gordon Graham.

Sharing of our data is one of the significant points raised during these recent discussions in Kununurra. While this has always been published on our website, we have furthered our commitment to the Department of Conservation and Land Management by discussions undertaken after your visit. We have come to an agreement with CALM that our data will be passed formally on to them to be included with their records, as will their data observations be passed to the KTBs. In this way our data will be included in the whole, and will be incorporated into the overview of any STTF data that will be collated in your liaison with CALM. We are also entirely prepared to share our behavioural observations with STTF, in order for them to be considered by Graeme Sawyer *et al* when preparing various STTF strategies, on the basis that the exchange of data is mutual, open and accountable to the author, and not confidential to others who are interested in the results.

Reasons for Decision

We have considered all issues documented in your letter sent by email communication on 13 April.2006. We have particularly discussed the guidelines for funding (both future and retrospective) reflected in your letter, and considered our position in relation to all areas that were aired. The KTB board has decided that we no longer wish to continue to apply to your organisation for funding to support our field activities.

Our reasons for this decision include:

- our previous requests for equipment made in 2005 have not been granted;
- The criteria (for anyone seeking both retrospective and current funding from STTF) that all applicants for funding had to work within the parameters of the STTF determined field strategies and that all field data be passed onto STTF before funding would be approved
- we do not agree with an alternative trapping and field work strategy being developed from Perth and Darwin that does not sensibly fit with the conclusions drawn from the front line field work data obtained by the only groups doing front line field work – CALM and the KTBs; and even of more concern and what mystifies the Kununurra community most is that the STTF strategies and programs appear to be a doubling up of the work of (and an attempt to reinvent the KSIR and KTB campaign by STTF based in Perth and Darwin) and appear to compete with the KTBs field campaign established over 8 months ago and with the broader cane toad campaign initiated and established by Kimberley Specialists in Research over 2 years ago;
- the time consuming, onerous and unusual conditions that are a prerequisite for the KTBs to obtain funding from the STTF;

- the ongoing negotiations with your representatives and employees have been extremely time consuming and thereby diverting our group as whole from our field work and scientific analysis;
- our focus is on the now 8 month duration field work campaign “busting the toad” and threatened Kimberley biodiversity identification and preservation;
- we are a purely volunteer group and funding made to us will go 100% to field work.

Furthermore, as a result of the critically needed support supplied by Biodiversity Protection WA **simply provided on request** to KSIR and the KTBs for over six months since our toadbusting commenced last September 2005, we have decided to form an agreement with Biodiversity Protection WA, as our primary commercial fundraiser. This gives Biodiversity Protection WA the sole rights to the use of our work, results, name, logo and slogan for commercial fundraising purposes.

To avoid any difficulties between the STTF and KTBs in the future, we request formally that your organisation use the non-specific term Toadbusters and not refer to the work of the KTBs or KSIR, in future media promotion of your fundraising activities.

Moving Forward

We wish you success in your efforts in continuing the ongoing battle against the insidious threat the cane toad poses to our Kimberley country, and will look forward to a positive outcome.

We have great respect for the volunteer efforts by the Board members of STTF and all those committed to the various measures aimed at stopping the influx of the Cane Toad to the Kimberley.

Nonetheless, our Board has decided that we will acquire sufficient funding from other sources to meet our current field work costs. Any unrestricted donations that the STTF chooses to make to the KTBs will of course always be gratefully accepted and acknowledged.

We trust that you will respect our choice to continue our KTB front line field work and scientific analysis independent of the STTF, and which of course we will continue to publish on our website.

As stated we will continue to share our data through our ongoing agreement with CALM, and to liaise with your corporation through the forum of the Cane Toad Working Group.

We wish you all the best in your fundraising efforts and any future trapping program or field work that you might undertake.

Yours sincerely,
Lee Scott-Virtue
President.

Sarah Brett.

Vice President.

On behalf of the,
Kimberley Toad Busters.

www.canetoads.com.au

IF EVERYONE BECAME A TOADBUSTER.
THE TOADS WOULD BE BUSTED!