

STOP THE TOAD

KEEP VIA CANE TOAD FREE

17 February 2006

Dear Kimberly Toadbusters,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January setting out the solutions proposed at the meeting between representatives of Kimberly Toadbusters (KTB) and Stop the Toad Foundation (STTF) on 19 January 2006. Please be assured that the Foundation understands the value of the efforts of the Kimberly Toadbusters in cane toad control for WA. We hope that through this process you will have a better understanding of the roles the Stop the Toad Foundation can play in helping to deliver a collaborative, strategic and well-funded whole-of-community cane toad campaign. The Foundation is pleased to see that many of the proposals in the letter are in fact matters which the Foundation has been endeavouring to discuss and agree with Ms Scott-Virtue for the past few months.

The Foundation is therefore willing to adopt many of the solutions proposed.

We suggest that a joint KTB/STTF standing committee be established to urgently progress these matters, which will enable funding to flow as soon as possible. We also suggest that, once these matters are agreed, we operate under a Memorandum of Understanding between our organisations.

In respect of each of the solutions, the Foundation's response is:

1 (i) All communication from Foundation to Kimberly Toadbusters to be sent to Kimberley Specialists and four other representatives to be nominated:

Agree

1(ii) All requests for meetings to be in writing via communication process in 1(i):

Agree, subject to the fact that the Foundation believes it may be more efficient to establish a joint standing committee to deal with particular issues (such as input to STTF strategy), subcommittees of which may meet without reference to the formal process.

2 (i) Recognise the Kununurra community's effort in organising cane toad forum on the Foundation website:

Agree

2 (ii) Recognise cane toad forum's role in formation of the Foundation on Foundation website:

Agree

2 (iii) *Material on Foundation website in 2(i) and (ii) above to be agreed with Toadbusters via communication process in 1(i):*

Agree

3 *Foundation provide guidance on whether and what retrospective payments will be made:*

Agree, however, it is difficult for the Foundation to do this without sufficient information from Toadbusters about the nature and extent of the past expenditure by Toadbusters. The Foundation therefore proposes the joint KTB/STTF standing committee develop the guidelines, and therefore deliver funds, as soon as possible.

4 (i) *Foundation provide guidelines, after KTB input, about how funds and equipment can be accessed by Toadbusters in future:*

Agree, and recommend the joint KTB/STTF standing committee develop the guidelines as soon as possible.

4 (ii) *Kimberley Toadbusters and Foundation to be free to conduct own fundraising efforts:*

Agree, but the Foundation believes that once it is providing funds to the Kimberley Toadbusters, it would be counter-productive for the Foundation and the Toadbusters to compete for additional funding. The Foundation therefore recommend that a joint KTB/STTF standing committee develop an agreement to allow the Foundation and the Toadbusters to not compete for funds, but rather, seek funding in a complementary manner.

5 *Foundation retract email sent to Kimberly Toadbusters dated 31 December 2005, apologise for email, and provide Toadbusters with a list of all recipients of email:*

Do not agree. The email was merely a "right of reply" response to claims which had been made about the Foundation in the media by a Toadbuster leader, and a plea for discussions to take place directly between our groups, rather than in the media. As this is now occurring the Foundation does not see any constructive reason why the email should be withdrawn. The Foundation suggests that it would be more productive and energising to send an email (to be agreed with Toadbusters) to all recipients of the email to inform them of developments in the relationship between Foundation and Toadbusters once issues are resolved.

Your letter refers to a reply which was sent to the email and asks for a response. However, the Foundation has never received the reply and so cannot comment on it.

However, rather than focus energies on failed past communications, the STTF believes it would be more productive for both groups to embark on new negotiations (under the communications model you have proposed) in good faith, especially in light of the urgency of the work ahead of us all this year.

6 (i) *The Foundation to contact any website which is currently publishing incorrect information.*

In respect of statements about the relationship between the Foundation and the Toadbusters, we have always worked on the premise that 'a close and harmonious relationship' is the intention of both groups and will deliver the best outcomes in terms of both groups to access funds and

community support, so we recommend that statements about the relationship be reviewed when we have worked through these broader issues.

In respect of other statements, as you acknowledge, information can be misunderstood and taken out of context, so the Foundation cannot accept responsibility for the content of websites of third parties over which we have no editorial control. We will however contact third parties who are currently publishing factual errors and ask them to correct those errors, and provide a list of these to the Toadbusters.

(Please note, however, that we do not agree that all the statements in the list provided to us by Sandy Boulter are incorrect or inaccurate. Therefore if necessary, a joint KTB/STTF standing committee can resolve issues around specific statements.)

6 (iii) The Foundation obtain approval from Toadbusters before referring to them in any publication or media statement:

Agree, provided that there is a similar undertaking from the Kimberly Toadbusters.

7 Representatives from Toadbusters to be able to input into all future on ground directions, strategies and operations of Foundation:

Agree, the Foundation has been seeking this input for some time. This would be one of the primary ongoing roles of a joint KTB/STTF standing committee.

8 Foundation's role, KTB's role and the relationship between Foundation and Toadbusters to be defined (with KTB input):

Agree, this should be a role for the joint KTB/STTF standing committee.

Foundation operational staff report to and seek input from Toadbusters:

Agree, and suggest that in the first instance reporting be to the joint KTB/STTF standing committee.

Foundation's activities which includes Toadbusters to be undertaken only after consultation with Toadbusters:

Agree.

The Foundation believes it is important to now urgently develop a joint KTB/STTF committee, commence work on the above matters, and record our agreement in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Toadbusters and the Foundation. We also believe that it is important to discuss and develop agreement on the following matters:

- 9 Collection and use of information
- 10 Process for STTF and KTB to agree how to refer to each other in any publications to a third party. Eg. Newsletters, media, funding submissions
- 11 Level of administrative support to be provided by the Foundation to the Kimberley Toadbusters.
- 12 A process for resolving potential future disputes

Please note that, while the Foundation agrees with many of the solutions proposed in the letter, the Foundation does not accept that it has acted in a misleading manner or that it has not endeavoured to consult with representatives of the Toadbusters before making key decisions in the past.

However, rather than enter into further discussion about the detail of past correspondence, it recommends we move forward in accordance with the above model to ensure we are collaborative in our efforts to stop toads getting to WA .

Please let us know if you agree to proceed in accordance with the above and nominate representatives for the communications process and the joint KTB/STTF committee. The Foundation proposes its representatives on the committee would be Graeme Sawyer and Derek Monks.

Once again, let me reiterate the Foundation's desire to support the efforts of the Kimberley Toadbusters and our genuine belief that it will take everything that 'all of us' can bring, to successfully 'turn the tide on the toad'.

Robert Edel



Chairperson
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