

Dear Congress Delegate

Australia has cave dwelling bats at risk if the White Nose Fungus is introduced here.

We as organisers have set up a regime for preventing the the introduction of the White Nose Fungus into Australia by participants in our Congress Excursions. These ask that these participants only bring caving clothing and equipment specified by the Excursion Leaders and that the equipment they bring is clean and preferably has not been used in known area where the White Nose Fungus is known to exist (This is taken to be all temperate caving areas of the Northern Hemisphere). Field Trip leaders will decontaminate cave clothing and equipment at the start of each excursion using either hydrogen peroxide solution for cave footwear or isopropyl alcohol wipes for all other equipment. Excursion Leaders have already informed participants of these procedures.

For Congress registrants not going on Congress Excursions please bring only clean clean clothing and footwear which has not been used in White Nose Fungus Cave Areas. Many registrants will be going on the mid-week Jenolan Caves Excursion during the Congress. In common with other Show Cave areas around the World the managers at Jenolan do not require show cave visitors to arrive with clean boots and clothing. We are not implementing a White Nose Policy for this excursion. We just urge you to have clean footwear for the excursion.

We attach a letter below about White Nose Policy from the Chief Veterinary Officer and we urge you to comply with the his instructions. Additional background information is contained in the attached pdf which has been sent to Field Excursion Participants.

Any further questions do not hesitate to ask.

Nicholas White

biosecurity@speleo2017.com<<mailto:biosecurity@speleo2017.com>>