

## CUSTOMS HOTLINE HELPS CRACK WILDLIFE CASE

Reports to the Customs Hotline from concerned members of the community have led to Western Australia's largest seizure of native wildlife - over 240 lizards, frogs and snakes - some of them shown on this page.

Two concerned individuals alerted Customs when they noticed a man behaving suspiciously around the Cervantes area, 255 kilometres north of Perth.

One, a local business owner, was able to pass on details, such as the man's car registration number, which enabled Customs to track him down and stop him on his arrival at Perth Airport.

A search of the man's luggage revealed the animals, worth thousands of dollars on the black market, concealed in plastic containers and pillow cases.

Michael Linley, a British zoologist and film producer, was found guilty of exporting, and attempting to export, restricted native species. He was also charged with attempting to export native animals in a cruel manner. The results of these charges are still pending.

Customs encourages members of the community to contact the Customs Hotline on 1800 06 1800 if they see anything suspicious or unusual in their local area.

