

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 258:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Eco-tourism involving wildlife
- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage

Comment

I believe the current Wildlife Act is out of date and does not reflect modern views on our native wildlife and how they should be protected, plus does not reflect widespread public views on management of introduced species currently protected as game. Increased protections for native wildlife is essential along with the resources to manage compliance, and appropriate penalties for breaches including intentional killing of native wildlife and poaching. Hunting of native species such as duck and quail have no place as "sport" in our modern society and these species need to be given the protections they deserve as Australia's native wildlife. I support limited harvesting by Traditional Owners for traditional food. Feral species such as deer (and others) must have game status removed and be classified as the invasive pest species that they are, to enable proper control measures to manage populations and reduce the significant damage they are causing. Feral species control by authorities must be given the backing it requires to occur quickly and humanely to reduce impacts on the environment and impacts on native species. Recreational hunting is not an effective control method for invasive species. As an ethical and accredited ecotourism operator, my clients delight in chance encounters with native wildlife while appreciating and learning about the environment and various wildlife habitats, but we do not "use" wildlife in any way. Clients are always disappointed to see the impacts of invasive species and ask why they are not effectively controlled. We need stronger threatened species laws and obligations to take actions to actually protect species, not just write recommendations. There needs to be greater protection against habitat loss for both threatened species and others, with laws strengthened and funded. Please ensure this review results in stronger protection for native wildlife and stronger action on reducing invasive species populations.

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