

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 249:

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Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Wildlife welfare
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage

Comment

I give strong support in all that has been put forth in the submissions on the Independent review of Victoria's Wildlife Act 1975 by; Environmental Farmers Network, Hamilton Field Naturalist Club and Friends of Lorne. Especially in the push to change the Act's definition of Wildlife. I believe for Wildlife protection that Habitat protection, restoration and conservation is imperative (including climate change mitigation strategies), and therefore the definition of wildlife must change to include all biodiversity, that in all habitats, including waterways and seas/oceans.

The Act must work hand in hand with environmental laws to strengthen the protection of our environment and all life, as for the health of what is left of our natural world depends on balance and the relationships within the biodiversity of an area, for example - we can't just protect a vertebrate like the Lead Beater Possum, we must protect their habitat, which included what they eat and where they procreate.

The Act must look at private and companies use of herbicides and pesticides, and vermin management - and how that can effect Indigenous species who may eat the poisoned vermin species, as well as chemical run off into waterways. Government help will need to be given to farmers to transition their farming practices to safer more sustainable one.

Despite Native Title grants, Local First Nations Peoples, and Traditional Land custodians must be involved on decision making on their sovereign Countries and have the final say. More paid positions for First Nations community members in this role of consulting will need to be made.

45 years is a long time since the Act's last review, and so much has changed on a societal level as well as environmental, including the climate. The backbones of this Act must be protection of our natural world and all that makes it up and Earth Jurisprudence, and must give voice to Traditional Custodians. I thank you for all your hard work in reviewing this Act

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