

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 222:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat

Comment

The Wildlife Act 1975 is in dire need of review mainly because there have been so many changes in the world over the last forty six years and this is the perfect opportunity to not only update it but to redefine it.

Having worked as a volunteer for the environment for over 25 years I can appreciate the complexities that governments and agencies face in managing the natural world BUT I had to refer to a dictionary explanation of "wildlife" in order to try and understand not only the 1975 Act but what reviewing it would need to do. "wildlife noun wild animals collectively; the native fauna (and sometimes flora) of a region. Definitions from Oxford Languages"

This definition is definitely not the one used for the 1975 Act and I would suggest that the expression "wildlife" would mean something different to each person in the community when asked. For me to read that deer are regarded as "game" and not as a pest animal is truly horrifying.

If the Oxford Languages definition is the definition to be used for the new Wildlife Act then I would have every confidence in the panel, with input from the public, having the ability to create an act that would not only protect and manage our native wildlife but would also take into account the impacts of climate change as well as pest plants and animals. Extreme conditions are becoming the norm - fire, storm, flood, drought all impacting on our natural world without listing off the human impacts of development and over use of resources. It comes back to getting some kind of balance for what we as a community regard as significant and valuable that will help us to lead a healthy and happy life into the future and what we are prepared to accept.

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