

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 137:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Wildlife welfare
- Rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife

Comment

Our native wildlife are fighting an uphill battle against uncaring bureaucrats, farmers, developers and others who exploit or slaughter it for profit or pleasure.

We urgently need an unbiased and independent authority in charge of wildlife welfare and management in this state, one that deals exclusively with its protection and conservation. We also need a complete overhaul of Victoria's native wildlife rescue, care and rehabilitation system, without the involvement of an authority that has a fundamental conflict of interest where saving/rehabilitating wildlife is concerned.

We need much tougher penalties for cruelty to wildlife offences, and stronger, more far reaching laws to prosecute and deter offenders. That includes tougher penalties for farmers, many of whom consider our native wildlife to be "vermin" and treat them accordingly. They are not, and have never been, "vermin". Victoria's native wildlife is one of our greatest assets and it's long past time that we stopped culling them, slaughtering them for pet food and shooting them as a "recreational activity". At the very least, there needs to be far greater oversight of these activities by a proactive, competent - but most importantly, independent and unbiased - management authority.

The internet/social media has made a huge difference in the dissemination of information about native wildlife issues. Many more Victorians are now aware of how our wildlife are being treated by farmers, developers, DELWP, state and local governments, and they don't like what they see. The Wildlife Act 1975 is long overdue for revision and I hope that rapidly changing attitudes when it comes to cruelty to, and the destruction of, our wildlife will be reflected in the new Act. The majority of Victorians care about our native wildlife and want to see it afforded far MORE protection, not less.

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