

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 275:

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Primary interests:

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

Comment

Victoria's Wildlife Act is a toothless tiger and is failing to protect wildlife from commercial, agricultural, town planning, mining, logging and recreational threats. As we witness the Sixth Mass Extinction Event and as the impacts of climate change start to unfold, every measure should be taken to protect and preserve native wildlife and its habitat. 96% of the Earth's mammalian biomass is comprised of humans and their livestock and only 4% is animals left in the wild. (Yinon M. Bar-On, Rob Phillips, and Ron Milo - PNAS June 19, 2018) This imbalance needs to be redressed immediately. Native animals are sentient beings who should have a right to exist in their own right and not be owned nor exploited by property owners and commercial harvesters. The Environment Department and Wildlife Act have protected the "rights" of commercial and recreational hunting and have failed abysmally to protect native animals. There is a clear conflict of interest within the department and the Act as the wildlife officers who are supposedly employed to protect wildlife and oversee wildlife shelters are the same officers who routinely issue harvesting and ATCW permits. There are no advocates for animals within DELWP and the Wildlife Act has too many exemptions to allow native animals to be harmed.

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