

## Wildlife Act Review

### Submission Comment 63:

Contributor: Individual

#### Primary interests:

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

#### Comment

The decline of Australian native fauna through land-clearing and climate change is now at a crisis point, continuing to push our iconic and once-abundant native fauna ever more rapidly toward extinction. The proposed overhaul of the woefully outdated Victorian Wildlife Act of 1975 almost half a century on presents a valuable opportunity to address this issue, not to mention to seek to better align itself with current community expectations, concerns and increased awareness around such matters. Of course, it is imperative that laws around the humane treatment of all animals, both native and non-native be improved and strengthened, with the protection and prioritization of animal welfare placed above human advantage at all times. These changes need to genuinely shift original (1975) focus from introduced animals to the prioritization of our native wildlife. Here is a golden opportunity to 'turn a sow's ear into a silk purse' by generating a legal instrument of contemporary relevance and value to the community it is intended to serve.

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