

Red Box Wildlife Shelter
Director: Nikki Hansen-Medwell
223 Pollards Road
Elphinstone, VIC 3448

25th June, 2021

Re: WILDLIFE ACT 1975 REVIEW

Dear Panel,

- Dr Deborah Peterson – Chairperson
- Associate Professor Ngaio Beausoleil
- Dr Jack Pascoe
- Emeritus Professor Arie Freiberg AM

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer up a submission in relation to the outdated WILDLIFE ACT of 1975.

Australian's are now more aware than ever that our wildlife is under constant threat and that localised extinction is not only real, but happening.

The 2019-2020 fires that ravaged this country drew more donations for wildlife than humans which whilst unprecedented, also showed where our love lies. Not just nationally, but internationally. The world watched and is still watching.

We need to be seen as leaders in the protection of our wildlife that will not tolerate cruelty or allow the complete lack of management in its protection.

Why can a person that poisons our birds of prey by the hundreds over a prolonged period walk away with nothing more than a slap on the wrist?

Or people that are filmed stabbing a gentle and normally silent animal like a kangaroo, heard crying out in fear walk free?

Or the deranged laughter of a person running down and over a family of emus also walk free?

Where is the deterrent for others?

Can you imagine if someone went around doing this to peoples cats? Justice would be swift. So why don't our native animals, our hosts in this country deserve less?

And who is to blame for the mental health issues of wildlife carers that raise to release with the support of their communities and the general public's donations (as no wildlife carer receives any government funding) after returning their patients to their homes only to have a government department issue a permit to shoot them or poison them?

Where are our green corridors for wildlife to safely move through?

Local councils and developers do not consider this as wildlife is viewed as a pest and pushed out of their regions or killed simply for living. An inconvenience. Shame on us.

Why aren't ATCW permit applications thoroughly investigated?

Why isn't proof of non-lethal methods requested?

Why aren't wildlife officers verifying data keyed in by disgruntled (and generally) farmers that are happy to see a species wiped from their farm land. Where is the evidence of supposed damage logged and who verifies this?

Communities are either oblivious their wildlife is being slaughtered under the shroud of darkness or lay in bed listening and knowing what is happening. Unless you have experienced this, you cannot imagine the mental torment.

These are the questions you need to address for the sake of our wildlife.

Please recommended an independent body, via Wildlife Victoria or a similar organisation be formed to ensure changes are enforced and overseen.

I run a wildlife shelter. I spend months hand raising and caring for orphaned kangaroos and I can tell you, they are one of the most affectionate and sweetest of native animals. They are playful, naughty, cheeky and extremely affectionate. If tired or not feeling the best, these sweet animals will worry and fuss over you. No different to a dog or cat. So why are shooters allowed to rip them from their mothers pouch and smash their heads on the ground to be thrown aside like rubbish? Yes, this is the governments "recommended" form of killing baby kangaroos. Where is their protection? With them goes the next generation.

Please spend 2:14 minutes watching a short documentary trailer; Kangaroo A Love Hate Story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPZKtOBIP9k>

Our kangaroos deserve that much of your time. Your names are now connected to the protection and the welfare of our wildlife and your choices now will be looked back on in years to come.

You have a chance to make positive change and offer out precious native animals greater protection than ever before. Our native animals are not refugees and should not feel persecuted or have the need to flee or be killed.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world" – Mahatma Gandhi

With thanks,

Nikki Medwell