

Victorian Wildlife Act 1975 – Submission by Bronwyn Hookey (Teacher of Conservation and Land Management)

Permits to Cull

Given the state of the environment post catastrophic bushfire, wild weather systems causing major flooding, the permits for culling are not acceptable. Culling is killing and the wildlife in Victoria are really up against it most natural habitat disturbed, destroyed and fenced off from wildlife.

Permits to kill wildlife that annoy land holders, outdated legislation to reflect current habitat and wildlife conservation concerns.

More enforcement of fines required for cruelty and killing wildlife

Transparency required for any resultant killing is required.

Assessment by Wildlife Victoria on properties to find alternatives for wildlife management to avoid killing.

More humane approaches if no other option to kill wildlife.

Community consultation is a definite requirement to allow for better transparency and to allow for a better solution wherever possible to avoid killing wildlife. We have species being added to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act every year so something needs to change.

Penalties

These need to be realistic for the crime and enforced. An example of inadequate penalties is the light penalties for illegally poisoning Wedgetail Eagles in Gippsland Victoria.

CAT Laws

Considerable impact of roaming cats and dogs on our wildlife requires all of these animals must be maintained on the owners properties. Cats to be kept indoors 24 hours per day in the whole of Victoria.

Duck Shooting

Impacts to populations of ducks is huge and the fact that when these laws were made there were more abundances of ducks. Also you allow duck shooting in an Endangered species migratory route, namely the Orange-bellied parrot.

Impacts of Recreation on natural areas

The erosion and trampling effects of 4WD and mountain bikes should be minimized and excluded entirely from State Parks. These areas have enough pressure from logging, tourism and feral animals and should be excluded from further impacts to reduce species trampling, extinction and degradation of what is left of habitat in Victoria.