

## Wildlife Act Review

### Submission Comment 233:

Contributor: Individual

#### Primary interests:

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

#### Comment

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this overdue review. I would like to address several issues in relation to it.

Firstly, in regards to the killing (I will not use the euphemistic term "culling") of wildlife (referring to ATCW permits), evidence that the "damage" caused by wildlife is flimsy at best. I am not convinced that non-lethal methods have been employed to the extent that they could be. This killing of wildlife needs to be justified robustly but it simply isn't. The easy way is always taken, to the detriment of wildlife. (Deer, although introduced, fall under wildlife, and based on their species, and the ignorance and selfishness of humans in introducing them in the first place, should not be targeted for destruction.)

Secondly, regulations around cruelty to wildlife need to be tightened and fines increased. The burden of proof regarding cruelty needs to be lowered. Also, during duck season, rescuers are fined disproportionately for simply entering the water to assist injured birds. And, take the case of the massacre of wedged-tailed eagles a few years back. The "value" of each eagle came down to \$6.00 if you consider the penalty handed out. Such small fines are an abomination.

Thirdly, removing animals from the wild for confinement for the "wildlife tourism" trade needs better regulation. Better still, wildlife should be left where it belongs. We have damaged the flora and fauna of this country enough. It's high time we stopped interfering.

Fourthly, we must respect First Nations people's perspective. This should always be considered in such matters.

Finally, it's imperative that biodiversity loss and extinction rates be addressed. We have caused destruction and havoc on wildlife. It needs to stop. I live on the Mornington Peninsula and it is heartbreaking to see kangaroos being pressured here because of people's proclivity for destroying their habitat. I kindly ask my comments be taken into consideration.

Provided June 27/2021