

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 259:

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Primary interests:

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

Comment

At the moment, helping injured wildlife depends on volunteer rescuers mostly. What is it like to be a rescuer? As in many other typical days, the phone rings early in a school morning, big male kangaroo hit by a car in the middle of St Andrews-Panton Hill Rd, a couple of cars stopped and they are helping to direct the traffic, warning people. I arrive and this is a very big kangaroo with two broken legs, he can't stand up but is good with his claws, growling in fear. You need to know what you are doing to come close to him. He is terrified, in pain, needs urgent help. That's why we need trained rescuers. Nobody can shoot in the middle of the road, and whoever is going to move the poor kangaroo needs to think of their own safety first. It is definitely not an easy job. It is not a police job, not a vet's job. Wildlife rescuers are volunteers who provide a community service that is essential both to the animals and the people in the community that care about them. A Wildlife Act should ensure there is enough support for rescuers so they can continue with their task. Rescuers and carers are volunteers who also have jobs, families, etc. They rescue and care because they know our wildlife is not supported and we are losing way too many precious lives. This support should include veterinary assistance. At the moment, carers need to pay for xrays and blood tests out of their own pockets most of the time; and it is extremely difficult to get access to the vet medications needed on a daily basis. A Wildlife Act that really protects wildlife should consider these issues as important cogs in the whole wheel.

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