

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts to the Independent Review of Victoria's Wildlife Act 1975.

1975! It is hardly surprising that the Act seems a little outdated.

Our native wildlife has suffered greatly in the last 45 years and species continue to tumble from "common" through "threatened" and "endangered" to "extinct in the wild".

There are many factors at play but not all fall within the scope of the Act. Climate change is bringing about more frequent and more severe fires, droughts, floods and storms. These all have an impact on our wildlife and, although this Act may not be able to address the causes of climate change, it is important to remember that this is the background, increasing threat to everything else. So it is even more vital to change for the better what the Act can change.

Improvements I would like to see

- Stop treating native wildlife and introduced animals under the same heading. Native wildlife needs protection (all of them). Introduced animals need controlling.
- Stop native forest logging. Not in 2030. Now. VicForests' exemption from the EPBC Act is a travesty. I spend time in these forests and I see the destruction. And no, what grows back is not the same. Often it's not even eucalypts. And it certainly isn't habitat for hollow dependent species.
- Duck shooting should be outlawed.
- It shouldn't be possible just to apply for and get a permit to cull kangaroos, let alone wombats.
- There should be an independent regulator to deal with offences against wildlife and these need to be taken more seriously and punished effectively. A \$25,000 fine for deliberately killing 420 Wedgetail Eagles does not send the message that the government cares about wildlife.
- Better control measures are needed for the control of deer. They should not be protected.
- Feral horses need to be controlled humanely. Their rights should not outweigh the rights of wildlife whose habitat they are destroying.
- Stop aerial baiting of dingos.
- Anyone who hits an animal or bird on the road should be legally obliged to stop and arrange for appropriate help. There should be better communication regarding what to do. Perhaps as part of Learners Permit.