

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 226:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat

Comment

I have worked for over a decade protecting shorebird habitat and nesting on the Victorian coast. Like other species, I have watched numerous combined threats decimate breeding success because human greed and ignorance fail to recognise that the coast is habitat, that it is a system with many vital components and our governments write numerous laws and papers for land managers and users to protect them, but in effect, make it almost impossible to enact those protections. Compliance officers are unfunded, laws protection vulnerable species are a farce, habitat is under so many threats that lacks controls, science and knowledge is ignored for political and monetary gain. It's literally death by a thousand cuts for wildlife. Wildlife laws should be state/federal based and not broken into a myriad of coast plans, especially council managed areas where politics over ride legal obligations. Cowboy councils simply shelve their coast plans and do their deals for so-called 'development'. There is absolutely no real investment in restoring and maintaining the habitat to ensure the future of wildlife. Beaches are sold-out to the racing industry, entertainment, lack of dog and vehicle control, seaweed & shellfish removal, pollution, plastics, sewage, hunting & inappropriate development. Sand dunes are washing into the sea and still humans rush to build houses and infrastructure in diminishing coastal strips. Fatal rodent baits are legalised- no effort to ensure protection of BirdLife in the rush. Volunteers who dedicate themselves to protecting wildlife have become exhausted and dispirited with what we see as species slip away. Government and land managers (those charged with protecting wildlife) are so influenced by politics and the greed of humans (progress)(the pursuit of wealth and indulgence) that the protection of wildlife, habitat and the environment has been reduced to 'appearance', 'white-washing' and farce. Our wildlife needs serious protections that work.

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