

## Wildlife Act Review

### Submission Comment 240:

Contributor: Individual – Lauren Forner

#### Primary interests:

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

#### Comment

As an individual who has always lived in rural areas, one of the very concerning aspects of wildlife welfare to me has always been the road toll. Previously, in the Riverina, NSW, driving from town to town, I could see upwards of 20 dead kangaroos on the road side. I have also come across several scenes in which kangaroos, echidnas, eagles and wombats have been hit by cars or trucks and left to suffer with their injuries, which is a painful and inhumane death. I propose that there be a penalty attached to what is essentially a 'hit and run' on wildlife. WIRES, a council ranger, a Parks and Wildlife worker or even police, should be called to these accidents to decide how best to treat or euthanize the suffering animal, be it a marsupial or a bird. These organisations should receive training (especially police, as they will be available the most often out of these designated groups) about the value of wildlife and its importance in maintaining a diverse and functioning ecosystem, as well as needing the same compassion and empathy that we show to other living beings.

Further, the Act as it stands does not mandate proactive strategies for managing and preventing the road toll of wildlife. It would be advisable that these strategies be incorporated into the Act itself in order to make these practices sustainable and not politicised. Strategies might include redirecting roads to ensure densely populated areas of wildlife are not disturbed, implementing speed limits that enable drivers to see and respond to wildlife, using appropriate fencing techniques around farming areas near roads and using tunnels and other forms of crossings for animals in high traffic areas.

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