

## Wildlife Act Review

### Issues Paper questions – Response 14:

Contributor: Individual

#### Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat

#### Question responses

##### **1.1.1 In what ways does the Act succeed or fail in representing contemporary expectations for, and values relating to, wildlife in Victoria? Please provide examples from your own experience.**

Thank you for making an important and necessary change into the Act. I recently became an Australian citizen and I can see how precious our wildlife is. I strongly believe that the majority of Australians don't really comprehend how special and important our native animals are. Maybe being born with it makes it normal and also might seem alright to see them dead on the side of the road or killed. But for someone like me it's a terrible suffering to see beautiful animals like cockatoo or koalas killed by a truck on our roads. Or knowing that culling (shooting/killing) a large part of a community of kangaroos is normal and legal. I wish this Act will represent higher expectations and values from what our community might expect. We wish to see a very strong change in public opinions and awareness into the important and necessary safeguard of Australian wildlife and all wildlife.

##### **1.1.2 Are there conflicts between the interests or expectations of different stakeholders or community members regarding wildlife in Victoria? Please provide examples from your own experience.**

Yes, of course there is conflict. I recently watched a video of a farmer on a tractor swearing and celebrating for the killing of a kangaroo in his field. How can people like that understand the importance of wildlife when for them are just an obstacle in making more money farming or building. How is possible that is allowed the cutting of trees where koalas are living and therefore kill the koalas to make more space to make more money.

##### **1.1.3 How can the Act balance the diverse interests of Victorians in protecting, conserving, managing and using wildlife? How might such competing interests be better reconciled in legislation? Are there examples from other sectors or other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that may be useful?**

I think the Act should act in favour of wildlife. Protecting and conserving, not managing or using. I believe we should look into the latest policy for animals rights and wildlife conservation in those countries (very few, sadly too few) that have more understanding and respect for their own wildlife. In the top ten countries for best conservation of wildlife there is: Botswana, Namibia, Tanzania, Bhutan, Zimbabwe, Norway, Canada. Countries that are creating legislations and spending in favor of the conservation.

##### **1.2.1 Are the current purposes of the Act satisfactory? If not, what should the desired outcomes, objectives or purposes of the Act be? How should the objectives and purposes of the Act relate to the desired outcomes? How would they ensure desired outcomes are achieved?**

It's great that the Act is changing and improving. More and more Australians loves animals and want to see them safe and protected. The current purposes are good but can be better. We really need to put our foot

down for the interest of wildlife not for economic interest It's great that the Act is changing and improving. More and more Australians loves animals and want to see them safe and protected. The current purposes are good but can be better. We really need to put our foot down for the interest of wildlife not for economic interest

### **1.2.2 If objectives and purposes are likely to be competing, how could the tensions be resolved?**

Creating awareness of how bad the situation in this country is. We are the first country in the world for numbers of animals getting into extinction. People must understand that. Farmers, hunters or developers but also councils around Australia they need to realise how dramatic is the numbers of animals killed in this country every year, and how little we got left to preserve.

### **1.2.3 Are there examples of well designed legislation from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) with clearly stated objectives and purposes that could inform Victorian law?**

Like I was saying before, some of the African countries are creating huge national parks and reserves for conservation and tough laws against killing of wildlife. Canada and Norway are at the top of the western civilisation for laws and legislation in this regard. Definitely we should take example from them

### **1.3.1 Is the Act a barrier to self-determination for Traditional Owners or Aboriginal Victorians? If so, what specific elements give rise to barriers and how might these barriers be reduced or eliminated?**

That's hard to say

### **1.3.2 Should the Act recognise the cultural significance of Country and wildlife to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians? Should the Act explicitly recognise the value of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge for the stewardship of Country and the conservation of wildlife?**

Yes, it should. The Australian indigenous lived in balance with the Australian wildlife for tens of thousands of years. The British and European colonisation of this continent destroyed the majority of Australia ecosystems.

### **1.3.3 Should the Act prescribe a role for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians as key partners in decision making about conserving wildlife? What could that role look like?**

We should look into that knowledge left and consider them as advisors

### **1.3.4 Should the Act afford additional protection and the ability to return species to country because of their cultural significance?**

Of course, managing returns or reintroduction of species is something that should be done taking in consideration more experts is possible

### **1.3.5 Does the Act provide appropriate mechanisms for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to use wildlife? Should the Act support commercial use of wildlife by Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians?**

Not as today, in 2021 we don't need to give support to anyone for commercial use of wildlife

### **1.4.1 Should the Act prescribe a general duty of care related to wildlife conservation or biodiversity protection more broadly? Why or why not? How could it work in practice?**

Yes it should, every Australian should be involved into wildlife conservation. And majority of Australians that want to help don't know what to do. Probably should start with campaigns of awareness raising. Definitely some practice should introduce in school. Also the big companies like mines, that are destroying the most of our biodiversity they really should have laws in place for restoring conservation

**1.5.1 Are there any definitions that are unclear or confusing or that cause problems for achieving the outcomes and objectives of the Act?**

Obviously some

**1.5.2 Should any additional animal species or taxa (groups of species) be included in the definition of 'wildlife' or 'protected wildlife'? Should any species or taxa be excluded and therefore be exempt from some provisions in the Act?**

Definitely game animals should be protected wildlife

**1.5.3 Should 'game' animals be defined as wildlife in the Act or defined some other way or excluded from the Act entirely?**

Yes, it should be consider wildlife

**2.1.1 Do you have any comments on the interactions between the Wildlife Act and other legislation?**

Hopefully the Wildlife act will be taken in consideration as an important legislation

**2.1.2 Should wildlife, flora and fauna generally be regulated by a more inclusive statute?**

Yes, it should

**2.1.3 Should game management be regulated under its own Act? What are the advantages and disadvantages of such an approach?**

Game management should be part of the wildlife Act, the advantages will be more control and better protection of animals species. On his own might incurred into some external control and pressure down by guns lobbies and hunting groups

**2.2.1 How do regulatory differences between states help or hinder wildlife management? Please provide examples from your own experiences.**

The different states wildlife management should work closely where the issues are and take decision together taking into consideration both regulations

**2.2.2 How can the review of the Act address differences in regulation across land tenure regimes?**

Hard to say

**2.3.1 In what ways does the Act succeed or fail in protecting and conserving wildlife habitat? Please provide examples from your own experience.**

It will succeed if widely accepted and embraced by the majority of Victorians. Everyone must be aware of the necessity of protecting and conserving wildlife habitat. Everyone should be aware of the changes of the Act that's the only way to make it successful

**2.3.2 How should the Act provide for the protection and conservation of wildlife habitat?**

Giving more land to wildlife, and more control from the experts of the status of wildlife

**2.3.3 Should the Act prescribe duties for landowners about protecting and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on their land? What could those duties look like?**

Landowners should be way more responsible and respectful about wildlife conservation. Sometimes look like greediness have no limit.

**2.4.1 Do property rights related to wildlife need clarifying? If so, how?**

In Australia there are already too many rights for property and not enough rights for wildlife

**2.4.2 Should private landowners have greater rights to use of wildlife on their property?**

No they shouldn't. The "use" of wildlife it shouldn't be allowed

**2.4.3 Should the Act recognise sentience of some wildlife and, if so, what would this achieve? How would this recognition affect the rights and responsibilities of governments, businesses and individuals?**

We should really understand that animals and wildlife have feelings and rights to be protected. Showing to people with ads and documentaries the suffering and the pain that wildlife experience will create more bonding with the animal world

**2.4.4 What rights and responsibilities should Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians have related to wildlife?**

Exactly the same of every other Victorians

**3.1.1 Should the Act include statements of principle and criteria to guide regulators, duty holders and the public? Why are such principles important? If you do support including principles, what do you think they should be and why?**

Principals of respect, kindness and protection for what is ours, Australian wildlife

**3.2.1 Should the Act include provisions for consultation with the community on certain issues? What issues should undergo community consultation?**

Yes, every issue should undergo community consultation

**3.2.2 How can community involvement in decision making under the Act be improved?**

With more involvement of the community

**3.2.3 Are there currently barriers to private sector actors having meaningful involvement in wildlife management and conservation in Victoria? What are those barriers and what problems do they create for achieving the objectives of the Act? How might any such barriers be removed or minimised?**

Hard to say

**3.3.1 Should the Act enable wildlife management plans? What provisions should be included for such plans?**

Yes

**3.4.1 Should the Act simplify and clarify the provisions relating to the various licences, permits and authorities? Is there scope to reduce regulatory burden without undermining the intended outcomes of the Act?**

Of course should simplify and clarify

**3.5.1 Is the Act transparent about who pays for regulatory services?**

Not sure

**3.5.2 Is full cost recovery appropriate, or should fees for some licences and activities be subsidised? What role is there for user pays or beneficiary pays principles? What, if any changes, should be made and why?**

Not sure

**3.6.1 Should the Act contain provisions that allow for issuing mandatory codes of practice, standards or guidelines?**

Yes it should

**3.6.2 What activities could most benefit from the development of mandatory codes or standards?**

Most activities

**4.1.1 Does the Act require an adequate degree of transparency about, and accountability for, decision making on matters relating to wildlife? If not, how could this be improved? For example, which activities/decisions/criteria should be more transparent? Which parties should be more accountable and for what?**

Yes it does

**4.2.1 Should the Act include provisions that require and enable establishment of a scientific advisory committee or advisory panels to provide expert guidance to key decision makers such as the Minister, the Secretary or the regulator on specific matters relating to wildlife? Why or why not? What other approaches are available?**

Should take into strong consideration multiple scientific advisory

**5.1.1 Should the Act include other offences?**

Probably

**5.1.2 Should any offences be repealed?**

Probably not

**5.2.1 Are the maximum penalties in the Act adequate to punish and deter offenders? If not, what should they be?**

They should be harsher, make an example of the offenders

**5.3.1 Should the Act contain general provisions creating continuing offences and allowing for additional penalties?**

Yes

**5.4.1 Should the Act contain provisions to permit community impact statements relating to the harm caused to wildlife?**

Yes

**5.4.2 Should the Act contain specific provisions to guide sentencing of offenders convicted under the Act?**

Yes

**5.5.1 Should the Act contain civil penalty provisions? If so, what penalties should be included? Are there examples from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that could also apply in Victoria?**

Yes, there must be multiple examples from other jurisdictions that we can take in consideration here in Victoria

**5.5.2 Should the Act allow for infringement notices for minor offences? Are there examples from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that could also apply in Victoria?**

Yes

**5.5.3 Should the Act contain provisions enabling regulators to enter into enforceable undertakings? Are there examples from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that could also apply in Victoria?**

Not sure

**5.5.4 Should the Act contain provisions allowing for compensation orders or mandated bonds/financial assurances? Are there examples from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that could also apply in Victoria?**

Not really

**5.5.5 Should the Act contain provisions allowing for the making of costs orders? Are there examples from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that could also apply in Victoria?**

Don't know

**5.5.6 Should the Act contain provisions allowing for the making of a monetary penalty order? Are there examples from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that could also apply in Victoria?**

Probably

**5.5.7 Should the Act contain specific provisions to allow for the forfeiture of property used in the commission of an offence under the Act? Are there examples from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that could also apply in Victoria?**

Yes

**5.5.8 Does the Act contain adequate regulatory tools, sanctions and remedies to punish and deter wildlife crime? If not, what additional tools, sanctions and remedies should be included within the Act?**

Not really

**5.6.1 Does the Act contain the necessary powers and provisions to enable authorised officers to enforce the Act? What powers and provisions should be available to authorised officers? Are there examples from other jurisdictions (both in Australia and internationally) that could also apply in Victoria?**

They should have all the necessary powers in conjunction with Police and other authorities

**5.7.1 Does the Act provide appropriate provisions for the review and appeal of decisions?**

Yes

**5.8.1 Should the Act provide for third-party civil enforcement under the Act? How might this make a difference in achieving the intended outcomes of the Act?**

Not sure

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