

## Wildlife Act Review

### Submission Comment 276:

Contributor: Individual

#### Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Wildlife welfare
- Eco-tourism involving wildlife

#### Comment

Dear Expert Advisory Panel,

Re: Review of the Wildlife Act 1975

\*The Wildlife Act 1975 should fully protect all native fauna, including native ducks whose numbers have declined by as much as 90% since aerial surveys in Eastern Australia by the University of NSW began in 1983. Attitude surveys, such as the ones done by the RSPCA in 2020, suggest most Victorians want wildlife to be fully protected and that they are increasingly concerned about the threats to wildlife from hunting, habitat loss, climate change, pollution, drought and bushfires.

\* The Wildlife Act 1975 should ensure that populations of native wildlife have sufficient population size, diversity, and suitable habitat to maintain or improve the capacity of species to persist and evolve in the wild. Estimates of sufficiency and suitability must take into account that some species, like ducks, are migratory.

\* The Act should ensure adequate monitoring of native wildlife populations and habitats, particularly those of threatened species, species likely to be in decline, and species subject to a control authorization.

\*The Authority to Control Wildlife system needs to be reformed so that clear principles are followed, threatened species are properly considered, and so that there is far greater transparency and monitoring.

\*The Act should guarantee that species of cultural significance to Traditional Owners are treated in accordance with indigenous traditions. The mass killing of kangaroos for commercial gain as it is now so widely practiced is inconsistent with the respect and connection that many indigenous people have for this Sacred Totem Animal.

\*The ability to declare any native wildlife species as “unprotected” at any time should be removed.

\*An independent statutory regulator should be established to enforce, monitor and report on the administration of the Act, monitor decision making processes and report on outcomes, as well as enforce stronger penalties.

Thanking you,

Provided June 30/2021