

- 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.

I believe the act fails in representing the contemporary view that hunting should not be considered a sport. Hunting for sport does not foster an appreciation for wildlife, conversely it more often fosters one for destruction, cruelty, and competition. Current monitoring of this "sport" is failing partly due to the rural and remote areas that hunting is often carried out in.

I am a landowner who witnesses these hunting activities being carried out on my foreshore. My reports of illegal hunting to both the GMA and Police have not been followed up. I witness injured wildlife on my property because of hunting. I also witness rubbish such as shot gun cartridges and plastic decoys on our foreshore. I witness hunting dogs attacking protected wildlife.

Should culling of our wildlife be necessary it should not be left in the hands of unsupervised sporting shooters.

- 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.

There appears to be conflicting interests between hunters, campers and landholders.

My own experiences of growing up on a farm and now owning rural property is that most small landowners feel they have a duty to protect the ecosystem and environment in which they live and obtain a livelihood from. I realise this is not always the case, but I am speaking from my own experience. I often notice that tourists and other visitors have less of a duty of care towards the environment they are visiting as they have no long term vested interest, they are fulfilling their own short-term needs. Examples of this are boats speeding causing erosion. This erosion does not affect the boating visitor at the time, but it does affect the landowner. Rubbish left behind by campers does not affect the visitor at the time, but it does affect the landowner. Weed seeds brought in by visitors does not affect the visitor at the time but does affect the landowner.

- 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?

Education and legislation. Ducking hunting for sport in other states is banned.

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

I don't believe any wildlife should be considered "game" animals. Any sport that results in cruelty and suffering to animals should not be permitted.

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

The biggest threat to our wildlife habitat is the rate of urban development to accommodate a growing population and support economic growth. The solutions to these issues are outside the bounds of the wildlife act. However new development should be legislated to include mandatory biodiversity in green spaces and home gardens.

Market mechanisms that support diverse and sustainable farming techniques. Incentives for landholders to create wildlife corridors and preserve habitat and ecosystems.

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?

Yes. There should be legislation regarding how vermin and noxious weeds are controlled. For example, secondary poisoning to native wildlife is a concerning issue such as that caused by rat poison and insecticides for example.

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

No.

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

The same as any person.

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

Yes. There is good local knowledge in the community with regard to issues such as land conservation, management of erosion and bushfires, wildlife behaviours.

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?

Cost can be a barrier for small farming enterprises to invest in wildlife management. Boutique farming is low profit and labour intense so investing further time and money into wildlife conservation can be challenging. Grants for farming operations to protect and develop local wildlife ecosystems should be available.

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

Yes.

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

Urban development

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