

Submission to the Review of the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975

The Friends of Drouin's Trees

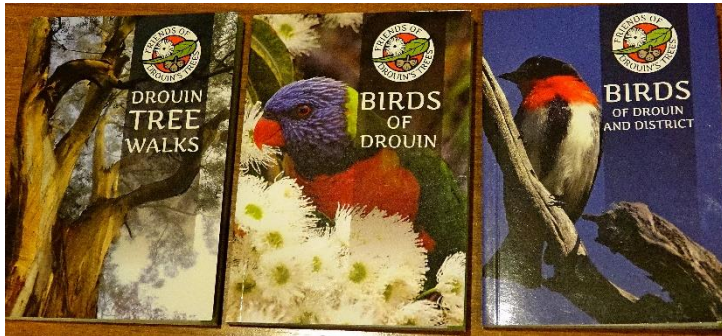
Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Review of the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975. The Friends of Drouin's Trees is a community group formed under the auspice of the Committee for Drouin.



The broad aim of the Friends of Drouin's Trees is to preserve and enhance the indigenous and exotic canopy cover of our town which integrally relates to the conservation of wildlife. The lack of robust tree protection regulations in Baw Baw Shire is of great concern.

Regular bird surveys, working bees, walks and talks, production of education materials, liaising with regulatory authorities, etc, are some of the activities conducted by the Friends of Drouin's Trees.



Submission

The Friends of Drouin's Trees submits that the rapid urban development of our town is proceeding with little heed of the need for preservation of significant native flora and fauna.

Roadside corridors of wildlife-valuable and highly protected trees are removed with impunity. The mandatory requirements within the Precinct Structure Plan for our town are clear and concise and simply ignored.

Wildlife habitat is being destroyed with little attention being paid to the preservation of biodiversity through corridor connections. The 'natural' environment of our town is being damaged at an alarming rate.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees submits that there are clear *'conflicts between the interests or expectations of different stakeholders or community members regarding wildlife'* - (Issue Paper 1.1.2).

The Friends of Drouin's Trees further contends that the Act should *'provide for the protection and conservation of wildlife habitat'* - (Issue Paper 2.3.2) - on both public and private land.

Further, despite a local law within our shire declaring a 24hr cat curfew and dedicated 'dogs on leads' areas, many residents do not comply.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees submits that the Act should *'contain civil penalty provision'* - (Issue Paper 5.5.1)

In general, the Friends of Drouin's Trees suggests that compliance, enforcement and penalties in relation to the protection of wildlife should be dramatically increased.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees
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