

## Wildlife Act Review

### Submission Comment 257:

Contributor: Individual – Michael Fuery

#### Primary interests:

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

#### Comment

We face hard problems of ecological imbalance:

1. Wild animals now occupy a trifling 4% of global animal biomass (Bar-On Y, et al 2018);
2. Our ecosystems are in decline, stressed by anthropogenic global warming;
3. Human activity and its need for expansion is driving extinctions

Technology is required to address these hard problems

Introduced and non-native species need to be effectively managed without promoting violence as an ecological virtue, delivered humanely via reproductive disruption. This can only be achieved on this scale and diversity by well-regulated and precision CRISPR-Cas9 gene technology and smart/networked electronic herding/fencing that use numerous noxious stimuli to deter particular species' movements into sensitive areas while minimising the chance of habituation to the stimuli.

To halt the encroachment of agriculture into habitat, policy should prioritise adoption of new agricultural systems and food products that demonstrate more efficient uses of land with greater yield, fewer GHG emissions and less water consumption by several orders of magnitude.

Agriculture, whose participants rely on social license and the strong message for change, requires a major shift in thinking: adopt peaceful co-existence with wild animals that may minimally impinge on its activity. To do this it firstly needs to abandon wildly inaccurate and unscientific stories of competition with livestock and implement practical strategies that minimise damage to farm infrastructure.

Exemptions provided for by the Governor-in-Council to kill wildlife should be abolished.

Those wild animals currently categorized by Industry as a "sustainable resource" are surveyed using a methodology that has not been exposed to the scrutiny of academic peers and rely on assumptions. This 'tail-wagging-the-dog' by Industry needs to cease lest we repeat the incremental mistakes leading to the demise of the thylacine.

Provided June 29/2021