

## Wildlife Act Review

### Issues Paper questions – Response 16:

Contributor: Individual

#### Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage
- Wildlife welfare

#### Question responses

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

As a licensed wildlife controller operating under Wildlife Regulations, Division 2, section 63, Conditions of any Wildlife Controller License, It is a condition of any Wildlife Controller Licence that the licence holder must— Reg 63(1)(f) not display to the public the wildlife or the operations undertaken in accordance with the licence". This condition also means I/we are also restricted from uploading any content via any on-line or social media platform where wildlife control is being undertaken. The work of a wildlife controller is broad, and encompasses many facets of wildlife welfare. This includes public safety, the protection of commercial infrastructure, wildlife welfare as well as the promotion of the conservation and protection of habitat and environment. Of all the modern methods of promoting awareness, social media is undoubtedly one of, if not the most, efficient vehicle of providing information that helps foster an appreciation of wildlife. In many instances, this also includes the work undertaken during the act of controlling wildlife, e.g. Removing and relocating of problem/venomous snakes. Currently, it is an offence under wildlife regulations to display wildlife being controlled or the operations of wildlife control, which includes video of such activities being uploaded and published to platforms such as YouTube/Facebook/Twitter/Instagram etc etc: The Wildlife Act, with regards to the interaction with other legislation such as, Wildlife Regulations, should consider the role that Social Media plays in enabling Wildlife Controllers to promote the protection and conservation of wildlife. For it to be an offence to "display to the public the wildlife or the operations...", through the promotion of control via social media platforms, appears to be outdated and out of step with modern practices.

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