

## Wildlife Act Review

### Submission Comment 238:

Contributor: Individual – Francesca Hunter

#### Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat

#### Comment

I wish to comment on whether the Act's objectives and scope are appropriate and comprehensive. The Wildlife Act 1975 promotes the protection and conservation of wildlife and the prevention of wildlife extinction but I am seriously distressed at the rate and manner of urban development in Melbourne's fringes and across Victoria having an adverse, inhumane and permanent impact on the wildlife populations that are impacted by this development. There appears to be no real, serious consideration and planning for retaining wildlife habitats and movement corridors. All I can see is brutal destruction of these habitats and corridors to make way for new dwellings. I would like to see the Wildlife Act being more effectively used to prevent wildlife habitat and corridor destruction in urban development. My other comment is to note my passionate disagreement to culling of wildlife and the cruel shooting of wildlife for trade and profit. This aspect of Australian 'culture' is deeply shameful to many Australians. There needs to be more consideration through the Wildlife Act to prevent the widespread and unspeakable suffering of our wildlife, as well as recognition of their physical, social and emotional needs as highly sentient beings with rich social and familial bonds. It would be great if the Wildlife Act helped people to see wildlife as more than 'pests', 'meat' or 'property'. Wildlife are non-human animals native to our country and deserve to be treated so much better under the Wildlife Act by the country generally. Many, many Australians feel deeply passionate about protecting wildlife, but their kind voices seem to be drowned out again and again by the 'rights' of shooters and hunters to kill these beautiful animals.

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