

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 142a:

Contributor: Individual – Lisette Mill

Primary interests:

- Non-native wildlife

Comment

The definition of wildlife and protected wildlife in the Wildlife Act must only refer to species indigenous to Australia.

-The objective of Victoria's Wildlife Act should be about protecting Victoria's native wildlife not introduced animals for game.

-Feral animals such as deer and introduced birds must not be protected under the Wildlife Act.

-Feral deer should be declared pest animals in Victoria so they can be effectively controlled and their impact reduced.

When the Wildlife Act was created in 1975, Victoria's feral deer population was small and confined to a few small areas. Forty-five years later, there are now more than 1 million feral deer spread out across the state. These animals are having significant impacts on nature, agriculture and community safety, despite being regulated through game management and hunting.

The Wildlife Act has failed to adapt to increasing numbers and impacts of deer across Victoria and there is no justification now for feral deer to be classified as protected wildlife.

Just months ago a ground-breaking Senate report into the impacts of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia recommended that all Australian jurisdictions make any necessary changes to their existing legislative and regulatory frameworks to:

Ensure that wild deer are treated as an environmental pest. Maximise the ability of landholders to control feral deer on their land. Maximise the ability of park managers to control feral deer in World Heritage Areas and national parks.

Summary:

Feral Deer should no longer be "protected wildlife" in Victoria. Remove them from the Wildlife Act and declare them a pest animal.

Provided June 16/2021

Submission Comment 142b:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Traditional owner cultural values and use of wildlife

Comment

I would like to see the following:

The definition of wildlife and protected wildlife in the Wildlife Act must only refer to species indigenous to Australia.

The objective of Victoria's Wildlife Act should be about protecting Victoria's native wildlife not introduced animals for game.

Feral animals such as deer and introduced birds must not be protected under the Wildlife Act.

Feral deer should be declared pest animals in Victoria so they can be effectively controlled and their impact reduced.

While on a multi day hike in the Grampians I saw many more deer than native animals. To be honest this shocked me as 15 years ago I couldn't drive from Horsham to Hamilton without literally seeing hundreds of Roos. This is obviously anecdotal, but while hiking in the high country I see deer, signs of deer and deer hunters more regularly than native animals. This concerns me and my 6yo daughter who is beginning to enjoy and understand the value of the bush - seeking to become an environmental scientist when she grows up. I hope she isn't still dealing with insufficient laws and significant feral animals if she's lucky enough to join the scientific community.

Thanks heaps.

Provided June 20/2021