

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 264:

Contributor: Individual – Beverley Moss

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Offences and penalties relating to wildlife
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage

Comment

I am an animal lover of long standing. I have provided care for rescue animals for 30 years. I believe that we must, as a community and in our legislation, recognise the sentience of all living creatures. I am also concerned at the looseness of many of the regulations eg; the disproportionate sentencing when it comes to cruelty. For example, there are higher fines for wildlife rescuers than that incurred by the perpetrators of cruelty as evident in Duck Shooting. The current Act also has little mention of bio-diversity and the rate of extinction experienced due to loss of habitat and climate change. This should be expanded. It is also far too easy to get permits for recreational Duck Shooting and this must be tightened up if not banned altogether. The Wildlife Management of the Orange Belly Parrot in the northern suburbs of Melbourne is also of concern. It is important to ensure a migratory path is kept free . For example the path should not be compromised by ignoring the risk to this parrot by the existence of a Duck Shooting area.

The Act should now reflect the growing awareness in our community of the unacceptable cruelty experienced by animals; the need to protect habitat for our wildlife; that the language reflect the cruelty eg; 'killing' should replace culling ; that animals should not be used for the purposes of entertainment.

Provided June 30/2021