

# Help shape the future of the Wildlife Act

## Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians



The *Wildlife Act 1975* (the Act) sets the rules around how native animals are protected, managed or used in Victoria

In Victoria, two pathways allow Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to use wildlife. *The Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), for example, allows Native Title holders to hunt, fish, gather or conduct cultural activities. And Traditional Owners acting under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic) may be authorised to take native wildlife and game resources without an authorisation or licence and are exempt from most offences under the Wildlife Act.

However, these pathways do not cover the wildlife related cultural activities of all Traditional Owners or Aboriginal Victorians. Nor do they support commercial use of wildlife.

Are these rules right for the future?

Are there barriers/problems that we need to think about?



### HAVE YOUR SAY

- What values and expectations of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians need to be addressed in a new Wildlife Act?
- How can a new Act work well with other legislation, like the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*?
- How can a new Act recognise the important role of wildlife in your cultural practices and beliefs?
- How can a new Act recognise and protect the cultural and commercial rights and interests of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians around wildlife, and their role in decision-making?
- What else should a new Wildlife Act consider?

### WHAT'S THE REVIEW PROCESS?

An independent Expert Advisory Panel will carry out the review and provide recommendations to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change on changes to the Act.

The Panel are seeking your input now until July 2021. They will send recommendations to the Minister in August 2021.

After this, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will continue to engage with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians. Findings and recommendations for changes to the Act will be provided to the Minister in mid-2022.

For more information visit

[www.engage.vic.gov.au/independent-review-victorias-wildlife-act-1975](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/independent-review-victorias-wildlife-act-1975)

to download the Panel's Issues Paper and share your thoughts with the Panel online.

### WHAT ELSE SHOULD A NEW WILDLIFE ACT CONSIDER?

