

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 272:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage
- Rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife

Comment

All native wildlife should be included and protected under the Act.

By recognising sentience and understanding that all animals experience pain, distress and positive emotions helps to hold people to account for human activities which negatively impact these animals. Land clearing, burning, logging, culling, commercial killing, removal from the wild, hunting, vehicle collisions, exclusion fencing are all detrimental to wildlife and have huge consequences to individual animals, family groups and larger colonies.

Habitat must be protected. The loss of hollow bearing trees must be minimised as so many of our wildlife are dependent on them. Incentives to revegetate, provide wildlife corridors and set aside parcels of land for displaced wildlife must mandatory for all farmland, plantation, mining and property development.

Permits to control wildlife (ATCW) by lethal methods must be a last resort and other non lethal methods must be considered first.

This ATCW system needs to be administered by an independent committee or regulator. There needs to be on site visits to determine the need and followup to ensure compliance. This cannot be self regulated. The community, including neighbours, nearby wildlife shelters and tourism operators must be considered when granting ATCWs.

Registration should apply to wildlife rescuers as well as carers and shelters. An independent body developed to oversee the development and issuing of mandatory codes of practice or minimum standards.

Penalties for offences against wildlife are not severe enough and as seen in recent cases, the courts appear to be reluctant to apply the upper range of penalties for serious offenders.

More needs to be done to educate the public regarding offences to wildlife , including dog attacks and chasing of wildlife, terrorising wildlife with cars and or motorbikes.

The use of Bows and Arrows need to be licensed due to a spate of wildlife attacks.

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