

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 263:

Contributor: Individual – Mark Shields

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat

Comment

I write with a particular interest in kangaroos.

I am very concerned that at a time when I am worried about the numbers and survival of kangaroos (in particular our local kangaroos) that the Victorian Government is not only not protecting our beautiful kangaroos they are actively moving in the opposite direction. Many kangaroos were slaughtered in the past by farmers but now with first the pet food trial and then the allowance of consumption by humans spot lights and gun fire has become common. I fear that because you can make money from dead kangaroos there is a race to take advantage of this by many opportunistic people. I wonder if when you count kangaroos you take their size into consideration. I have noticed that when I do see a mob of kangaroos they are all small, there just aren't the big kangaroos around anymore. I was distressed to learn from the NSW enquiry into kangaroos that by constantly killing the big males we are weakening kangaroos as a species because the big males are not there to protect the females altering mob structure and allowing the females to be mated by genetically weaker males. I cannot see how if this madness continues that there will be any kangaroos left in the wild at all and the joy they bring to people and their great contribution to our biodiversity will be lost forever. I recently read that kangaroos have sustainably inhabited Australia for at least 16 million years and possibly as long as 30 million years. I feel accordingly they are owed very great respect and should not be wiped out by our generation for short term profit.

I sincerely hope that our policy makers will grant kangaroos the respect and protection that is owed to them and which they absolutely deserve.

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