

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 273:

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Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Wildlife welfare
- Rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife

Comment

The perspective that people have about wild animals in Victoria, and in Australia in general, is impacted by their experiences and their beliefs. In my case I believe in climate change and I was involved in the horror of the Black Saturday and Black Summer bushfires. Since then I have been involved in wildlife care on a weekly basis.

Some overarching views that I have are:

- * all animals need to live a life that reflects the 5 freedoms: Freedom from hunger or thirst; from discomfort; from pain, injury or disease ; from fear and distress and freedom to express (most) normal behaviour.
- * the existence of some animals has a negative impact on other animals: humans, for example have a huge negative impact on many species, both vertebrate and invertebrate. Introduced species such as feral deer, horses, pigs, indian mynas, buffalo, goats, camels, cats, foxes, etc. have also compromised the habitat of indigenous species.
- * combining those two points means, to me, that
- * the Act should delineate indigenous from non indigenous wild animals
- * the Act should declare ALL non indigenous wild species as feral, to be humanely euthanased (eg deer, foxes) or permanently contained (eg cats).
- * human contact with indigenous animals should be strictly regulated to prevent impact on their habitat, their 5 freedoms. Certain people can be licensed to rescue and rehabilitate injured indigenous species, to conduct necessary approved research and to monitor their quality of life
- * human/ indigenous animal interaction should be based on science e.g. any proposed human development should require indigenous animal impact studies. For example many new suburban developments have indigenous creatures trying to live there on their territory despite the development. Current and future developments need to recognize this situation and be legally forced to plan with indigenous species preservation in mind eg green corridors that allow animals access to food, water, shelter and quiet.

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