

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the review of the Wildlife Act 1975.

Right now, Victoria's wildlife is in decline. We must take this opportunity to strengthen the laws protecting our wildlife to make sure we do not continue to enable the looming extinction crisis we are facing not only in Victoria, but Australia-wide.

The Wildlife Act must be modernised and reforms implemented to:

- establish clearer objectives of the desired outcomes of the legislation, to ensure the Act's focus on the protection of native wildlife and its habitat
- ensure Victoria's wildlife is protected in its own right, not to exist to protect game species for the purpose of hunting
- increase clarity, transparency and accountability around decision-making, particularly when involving harm to wildlife, based on strong scientific foundations
- ensure robust reporting mechanisms for all decisions, particularly those that involve harm to wildlife
- prevent harm to wildlife rather than facilitate it as is currently happening with wombats, ducks, flying-foxes and many other species
- enable the provision of appropriate independent advice to improve the quality of decision making in the form of an independent statutory regulator to administer the laws.

We must offer nature the strongest possible protection. I am looking forward to seeing the implementation of modern, robust laws to protect our precious wildlife and their habitat.