

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 295:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Private and/or commercial keeping, breeding, trading, displaying and/or processing of wildlife or wildlife products
- Hunting of wildlife

Comment

Dear Panel members,

I would like to ask that the following two points be considered for review of the Wildlife Act 1975 please. A significant volume of research has been done on Australian wildlife and our natural ecosystems since 1975 and we need to act on current science to create better protections for our native animals.

1. A BAN ON HUNTING AND HARVESTING OF NATIVE WILDLIFE. There is an urgent need in particular to ban hunting of ducks in Victoria. It is well documented that wetlands are declining under the pressures of climate change and land changes. Since colonial settlement, at least two thirds of wetlands have degraded or dried up (Environment Defenders office 2012). Wetlands are vital for native ducks, it is where they feed and breed. Allowing hunting of ducks is creating added pressures on these birds for survival. We need to create laws that protect native ducks and their habitats. Also in the advent of climate change, we are seeing breeding of some wetland birds occurring earlier than usual, which may mean that the hunting season begins to overlap with the breeding season. When there are so many resources put towards protecting biodiversity, it just doesn't make sense to allow this cruel sport to continue.

I would also like to ask that harvesting of kangaroos is stopped.

2. A BAN ON BREEDING AND KEEPING OF NATIVE BIRDS FOR THE PET TRADE

There is a huge volume of research now on the incredible lives and behaviours of native Australian birds. They have lives very similar to ours, they have amazing communication systems, forage for food, form pair bonds, create nests and have families. And their most natural behaviour is to fly. All of these behaviours are inherent to them, but keeping birds as pets in cages prevents them from expressing any of these behaviours and denies them of their natural life in the wild. It would be like keeping a person a prison cell for no reason at all. I ask that there may be a ban on keeping native birds as pets please.

Provided June 30/2021