

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 224:

Contributor: Individual – Fiona Bell

Primary interests:

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

Comment

I am very concerned that species such as kangaroos are currently killed unnecessarily because their presence in an area is inconvenient (for housing developments etc.) The Wildlife Act needs to include a stronger duty of care for our native species and any 'management' must preference non-lethal means, e.g. preventing development in wildlife habitats, moving the animals to another area, and/or using contraceptives to control the population. Funding and training must be provided to support non-lethal wildlife management. Healthy native wildlife should not be killed, except for euthanasia if the animal is in pain and there are no other options. Commercial 'kangaroo harvesting' is a national disgrace and must end immediately. The perception that Australia is overpopulated with kangaroos is grossly incorrect and at the current rate of slaughter, there is real concern that they are being wiped out from many areas of the country. Please end this immediately. Wildlife carers make an amazing contribution to the community by looking after our precious native animals. As many carers work on a voluntary basis and are largely self-funded, greater financial support is urgently needed. More efforts and resources should be directed to protect wildlife from infrastructure. Barbed wire fences should be banned and funding provided to implement wildlife-friendly options. On rural and outer metropolitan roads there should be adequate fencing and other means to keep animals safe from roads, such as sonic repellers. There should be regulatory requirements for every Planning Scheme to carefully consider and provide for conservation of wildlife habitat and corridors, to ensure new developments do not negatively impact wildlife. Finally, there must be a longer statute of limitations on breaches of the Wildlife Act and harsher penalties imposed. Recreational shooting of all wildlife must cease and 'Authority to Control Wildlife' permits must also be scrapped.

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