

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 253:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat Wildlife welfare
- Offences and penalties relating to wildlife

Comment

As a wildlife rescuer of more than 15 years, I am regularly called to injured, sick & orphaned wildlife. As a result I have had many interactions with members of public where the conversation is about wildlife.

Based on these years of conversations with people in my local community, I know that they expect the Wildlife Act to protect our wildlife. Here are just a few items that need to be addressed by the Act to provide the protection the community expects:

The Act must:

- Require incidents of deliberate cruelty to wildlife be investigated as a matter of importance & urgency. There have been multiple instances of roos shot by crossbows or rifles and left to suffer in our region without adequate (or in some cases, any) investigation
- Require incidents of unlawful killing of wildlife to be mandatorily investigated - Define much harsher penalties for deliberate cruelty to wildlife, to act as both a punishment & a deterrent
- Require developments to take into account existing wildlife living in the area under development and ensure safe passages are provided for wildlife including green space, wildlife friendly fencing, protection from domestic animals etc
- Specify that ATCW permits cannot be issued without proper assessment of numbers of animals and exhausting all other options.

In addition, it is impossible to ignore the 'Kangaroo harvesting program'. People I have spoken to about this are horrified when they hear our government is supporting the inhumane slaughter of the EG Roo, for commercial gain. This matter falls clearly into the category of protection of wildlife. Apart from the cruelty involved, I believe that with current roo populations, joey mortality rates, human development, climate change, ATCW and the 'Kangaroo harvesting programme', that EG Roos will become endangered in my lifetime. What could possibly be more essential to a Wildlife Act than preventing the animals it protects, from becoming endangered?

Victorians want our wildlife protected.

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