

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 313:

Contributor: Organisation

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage
- Compliance and enforcement

Comment

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming review of the Wildlife Act, it is of significant importance that the regulations surrounding the Wildlife Act does not further impact on the jobs and livelihoods of the timber industry workers, given that the Timber Industry is already operating under very strict laws, regulations and codes the forestry industry should be exempt from further conditions surrounding the Wildlife Act. Small towns like ours in Corryong rely on the resource of saw-log from State Forests and further restrictions will decimate the industry and we will have job losses that cannot be replaced within our rural community.

We are very committed to sustainability in our forests and because we are located close to National Parks and State Forests we have grown up living with nature and the wildlife at hand, we have always had its protection at the forefront of any decisions regarding our business and livelihoods.

The State governments over the past 3 decades have neglected the forests badly like ours that are 400km away from the city lights, with feral deer, wild pigs, foxes, kangaroos and wombats now in plague proportions and they are doing immense damage in our native bush and National Parks. They are causing erosion, muddying waterways and destroying flora, whilst the blackberries and other noxious weeds are growing wild in an uncontrolled environment creating a huge fuel load for future bushfires.

Perhaps DELWP should focus more in getting these problems under control, making it a crucial part of the Wildlife Act so that a more work is done protecting the habitat through management of forests instead of targeting the logging industry which is already very regulated, very sustainable and we care for the forest more than we are given credit for.

The current mismanagement of our forests has led to a plague of feral animals and the recent bushfires in 2020 have destroyed more wildlife than any industry could ever have done.

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