

Wildlife Act Review

Issues Paper questions – Response 24:

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Primary interests:

- Rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife
- Wildlife welfare
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage
- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Licenses and authorisations

Question responses

1.1.1 In what ways does the Act succeed or fail in representing contemporary expectations for, and values relating to, wildlife in Victoria? Please provide examples from your own experience.

As the current wildlife act stands it does very little to ease people's unfounded fear of venomous snakes, as a licensed wildlife controller I am unable to educate the public about these misunderstood creatures.

Namely through this clause;

Part 6 - Commercial Wildlife Licences Division 2 - Conditions of Wildlife Controller Licences Section 63 - Conditions of any Wildlife Controller Licence (1) - It is a condition of any Wildlife Controller Licence that the licence holder must - (f) not display to the public the wildlife or the operations undertaken in accordance with the licence

If this clause was to be removed it would allow wildlife controllers to demonstrate the characteristics of these misunderstood creatures and through film it can reiterate the point that snakes want nothing to do with us as well as other vital educational messages and debunking myths surrounding snakes.

The act also restricts wildlife conservation efforts for venomous snakes.

There is not many wildlife shelters in Victoria and even less ones that have the ability and skills to rehabilitate snakes.

Under the act I would not be allowed to rehabilitate snakes. as per the act and I have also been told that if a shelter not be found I am to kill the snake if it is unable to be released (although snakes are protected) this is not right, I propose that all wildlife controllers be able to take home and rehabilitate all wildlife that the licence holder is authorised to control.

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