

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 254:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

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

Comment

The granting of game licences to hunt native species, such as ducks, is outdated and barbaric. It is extremely out of touch with contemporary attitudes and expectations to the protection and conservation of native wildlife. It's also irresponsible according to the research of some declines of native duck species (2018 Aerial Survey of Wetland Birds), and the other environmental pressures on these birds including prolonged drought and bushfires. Regarding Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians, I support the Act to recognise their rights and interests regarding native animals. However, I, like many others (including the RSPCA, Wombats SA, and Ngarrindjeri elder Major "Moogy" Sumner) was appalled by the actions of a South Australian police officer throwing rocks at a wombat in 2019. Victorian legislation should not allow any treatment of animals that would cause them unnecessary pain or suffering, irrespective of traditional Indigenous hunting methods.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-06/sa-police-officer-who-stoned-wombat-allowed-to-stay-in-job/11775036>

The legislation needs to be supported by practical and strong compliance and enforcement mechanisms, and significant funding to support our declining species and biodiversity.

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