

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 300:

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Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Wildlife welfare
- Eco-tourism involving wildlife

Comment

Protection of our unique, endemic native fauna—and their ecosystems—should be front and centre of our (Native) Wildlife Act. It must robustly protect all remaining native fauna, and identify/mitigate threats before species become vulnerable, threatened, endangered or extinct, as so many have already done. The Act needs to be underpinned by a deep respect and reverence for native wildlife, and draw on both First Nations peoples' experiences, philosophies, and practices, as well as leading ecological and environmental research. The Act should incorporate protection of habitats and biodiversity, not just individual species, in recognition of the inherent inter-connectedness of these creatures with their environment. Protection of our native wildlife should take precedence over planning and financial considerations when looking to develop or build infrastructure and housing. The Act should oblige governments to consider expert advice on administering the Act, and it should establish a suitably-resourced independent statutory regulator to enforce, monitor and report on the administration of the Act. It should be empowered to enforce the Act through increasing penalties for poaching, harming, killing wildlife as well as harming significant habitats, commensurate with the priceless nature of our irreplaceable native wildlife. It must ensure that our native wildlife has sufficient population size, diversity and habitat to vastly improve their capacity to live in the wild. It should reform the Authority to Control Wildlife system to properly consider threatened species (especially in light of extreme events brought about by climate change), and guarantee the protection of species of cultural significance to Traditional Owners. Protections for exotic invasive species such as feral deer, cats, and wild horses need to be removed. Livestock industries should be required to properly and reasonably provide for native wildlife to forage on private as well as public land.

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