

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 40:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Wildlife welfare
- Other: Photojournalist

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I have 2 observations:

a) Clarity and ease of understanding

There is one thing that stands clearly out to me, and that is the current legislation, guidelines, and responsibilities, are confusing, messy, too narrow or too broad, and apparently overlapping. As such they are clearly not appropriately functional. I have a Masters of Environmental policy, and I struggled trying to get my head around how all the things noted in the issues paper fitted together and why some were issues and some issues were not mentioned, so for the majority of Victorians, I can't imagine how this would be overwhelming and so disengaging.

Might I strongly suggest simply starting again.

Maybe by the creation of a Biodiversity Conservation Act.

2) Habitat protection and animal welfare

It is important to highlight that virtually all negative habitat impacts (whether deliberate or by secondary consequence - such as climate change driven events like, heat stress, bush fires, floods etc), also directly create significant animal welfare issues. Legislation requires protection not only for animals directly and how they are treated/impacted, but related to that, the habitat in which they live. For without that, the rest is futile. The bushfires and 3 billion animals being impacted (with many burnt to death - what a horrible way to die), highlighted that. Without a way to protect habitat from direct and secondary causes, wildlife will suffer and any act/legislation will fall short.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Provided May 16/2021