

## Wildlife Act Review

### Submission Comment 172:

Contributor: Individual – Christopher Scicluna

#### Primary interests:

- Hunting of wildlife
- Wildlife welfare
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage

#### Comment

I think the time has come to take management of introduced wildlife whether plant or animal seriously. I see feral rabbits, hares, foxes, pigs, deer, and goats roam local National Parks, close to my home, without concern as they wallow and eat their way through whatever habitat they please. Then once a year to be advised that at the cost of the tax-payers there will be a cull. In my mind this is not management but simply a quick knee-jerk type reaction which seems to not raise to much attention and therefore assists the relevant department in the case there is public outcry. Also, bemusing is the fact that for some of the introduced non-indigenous species, the government sees fit to allow a closed season. It does not make any sense. Why can't the relevant departments ballot out the rights for licensed hunters to harvest for personal use or cull some of these species. Why does it always come at massive costs to tax payers with the animals left to rot and become food for the growing feral dog population. Why is it, in Victoria, that we as recreational hunters need to obtain, at a cost, a separate license to hunt an introduced species such as deer. It astounds me that our governments are happy to pay helicopter pilots and shooters to shoot deer in our High Country, with no proof of 100% clean kills. With regard to our indigenous species. The Brush Tailed possum population seems to be out of control wherever I am and with whom I discuss this with. I live in a rural area. There has always been a number of ring tailed possums in our area but in recent years as the brush tails seem to have taken over, the ring tails have all but disappeared. Understandably, loss of habitat due to the urban sprawl may have caused numbers to moved into close contact with each other and therefore push out the weaker species. In my opinion, this species needs management. Also we need to except advice from indigenous traditional landowners.

Thankyou for the opportunity to submit

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