

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 81:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Hunting of wildlife
- Wildlife welfare

Comment

I am particularly concerned about the preservation of wildlife habitat which to my mind includes marine reserves. The hunting (and fishing) of species receives limited research given the importance of biodiversity to our collective wellbeing. We tend to react rather than prepare and prevent destruction of habitat and the dangerous reduction of wildlife. I believe we should ban all duck hunting, and hunting of wildlife unless this is being carried out by licensed hunter for a specific reason. We should also be increasing our protected areas and doing thorough research to inform our fishing activities, though I suspect this will come too late also (note the size of orange ruffly fish in the markets which is considerably smaller than 20 years ago and is a fish we know breeds only when sufficiently matured). There is evidence to suggest that marine reserves are a successful contribution to maintaining fish stocks and they need to be tightly controlled and increased in area and diversity. Likewise the Australian landscape is worryingly denuded, not helped by fires which may well increase with climate change, and we need to ensure that there are major restoration projects underway with serious attention to corridors and maintaining the genetic diversity of both flora and fauna. I hope that the panel will make strong recommendations regarding these issues.

Provided June 2/2021