

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 178:

Contributor: Individual – Maurice Perry

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Wildlife welfare
- Protections for marine mammals

Comment

My submission is that of a layman with a vital interest in the preservation of our natural areas. As a keen bushwalker/canoeist I have spent more than 50 years exploring carefully the Victorian and wider Australian environment. In that time I have personally witnessed the loss, degradation and destruction of many forests, lakes, rivers, beaches, grasslands and the decline of native wildlife and plants, with increases in feral animals in these areas. My experience has motivated me to express my grave concerns that the Victoria's Wildlife Act of 1975 is inadequate and not doing nearly enough to protect fauna, flora and their environments. The Act is well overdue for an update and revision to make it encompass the protection and rehabilitation of all native wildlife and to allow for humane control of feral animals. To be effective this must also include the protection and re-establishment of the environment and ecosystems in which they live; and many plant species are just as much under threat as our native animals.

For example, The Act needs the power to bring about the cessation of logging in areas that endangered species occupy, and the control or elimination of chemicals used in forestry, farming or pest control that places our native wildlife at risk. That act needs to also address the health of rivers, lakes, streams and oceans where our wildlife live and move. Protection of animals that are currently hunted, like ducks, needs close monitoring and should be banned if The Act cannot ensure that only non-endangered ducks are being shot; there is much uncertainty at the moment.

The protection of our native animals and plants has been neglected for so long that merely stopping further destruction is insufficient. The Act needs to address the re-establishment of degraded and destroyed land and water, and the rehabilitation of areas in decline and protection of pristine areas. An independent regulator with the power to enforce the Act needs to be established.

Provided June 23/2021