

WILDLIFE ACT REVIEW

Summary Report



Theme	Wildlife Victoria	Expert Panel	Government Response
New Act Replace the legacy Wildlife Act 1975 with a new Act that is contemporary, relevant and with clear purposes	New Act proposed called the Wildlife Protection Act	New Act proposed called the Fauna Act	Creation of a new Act not supported
Wildlife Sentience Wildlife recognised as sentient and be afforded the associated rights and duty of care as sentient species	Wildlife to be recognised as sentient	Wildlife to be recognised as sentient	No recognition of sentience to be incorporated into the Wildlife Act
Independent Regulator Establish a new and independent Statutory Regulator to oversight the Act	Creation of a new and independent Statutory Regulator	Recommends modernising current regulatory framework within government	Retains current regulator
ATCW Reform Reform of the Authority to Control Wildlife ("ATCW") system	Reform of the ATCW system	Reform of the ATCW system	No commitment to ATCW system reform
Duck Hunting Recreational killing of native waterbirds to cease	Cessation of duck hunting in Victoria.	No longer prescribe duck season to occur automatically	No change to current duck hunting arrangements even after the State Government's own Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting recommended cessation of duck hunting
Penalties and Enforcement Greater penalties to apply for breaches of the Act	Greater penalties	Greater penalties	Greater penalties (but as yet undefined)
Traditional Owners Inclusion of traditional owners in decision making and governance	Strong inclusion of traditional owners	Traditional owners embedded in co-governance	Supported in principle but will be further informed by treaty
Ethical Foundation A moral and scientific shift towards protection of wildlife and coexistence with wildlife	"Public interest principle" to apply recognising the importance of wildlife to the ecosystem and the public importance of wildlife	The Act to be founded on an ethical basis	Omitted from government response