

Your details

Title

Mrs

First name

Susan

Last name

Cruttenden

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

Protect our wildlife

Under the present Wildlife and Conservation Bushfire Recovery Plan devised by the NSW state government to be carried out by the NPWS the feral animal control part is summed up as:

*1500-2000 hours of aerial shooting

*localised follow-up of ground shooting

*up to 60,000km of aerial baiting

*deployment of 1 million baits.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/Fire/wildlife-and-conservation-bushfire-recovery-immediate-response-january-2020-200027.pdf?fbclid=IwAR30Bm79SeR7Sng-td0w4OYGJGfLtn7WBd2kh3VzuB3OexRZ2AOGOmFZOtw>

The weapon of choice in this war on feral animals is 1080 poison; however it also affects native wildlife. 1080 is a

controversial poison that endangers the lives of species such as the spotted quoll, lizards and dingoes and birds that may feed on poisoned carrion, as well as contaminating the soil and drinking water. 1080 poison is so dangerous it has been banned in most developed countries. Not even introduced animals branded as “feral” deserve to be killed in such a cruel and barbaric way.

The unpublicised, undemocratic and falsely named ‘Recovery Plan’ authorises ground-based shooting, trapping and baiting of feral animals (dogs, dingoes, cats, foxes) and extensive aerial baiting in burnt areas, and in unburnt refuge areas. Although entitled to protection as a native animal, the dingo has been removed from protection for the purpose of this plan and targeted for an ugly death as a wild dog, even though it is a different species from the domestic dog, and has evolved in Australia over thousands of years to now a vital role in the natural eco-system.

The present largely unpublicised plan ignores the considered opinion of 248 scientists and ecologists who wrote to the Prime Minister urging strong leadership to arrest the rapid decline in the number of native species and the break-down of the natural eco-system. See: <https://www.envirolawsopenletter.com.au> . They state in that letter: ‘Increased investment in nature conservation must be backed by strong national environment laws that protect our natural world from further destruction. These laws must safeguard our intact ecosystems and protect the critical areas people and wildlife need to survive and tackle our most pressing threats. But our current laws are failing because they are too weak, have inadequate review and approval processes, and are not overseen by an effective compliance regime. Since they were established, 7.7 million hectares of threatened species habitat has been destroyed.’

The government plan also fails to consider spiritual beliefs of Indigenous Australians who say we all must share responsibility for the land, as we all ultimately depend on it.

More publicity needs to be given to the fate of animals in the wild, so that alternative ways can be introduced to protect farmers’ livestock and the sustainability of their grazing methods. Continuation of a killing scheme that further endangers our already suffering wildlife is not the informed democratic way to go. The bushfire crisis in Australia has aroused a lot of interest and sympathy overseas, especially in Britain, where soon after fires raged across our country the BBC Wildlife Magazine posed the question, ‘What happens to wildlife stranded in the ashes?’

In the words of Lyndon Schneiders, former national director of the Wildlife Society, ‘The laws don’t work. We need a strong independent institution that is empowered to provide the highest level of assessment to protect against the impacts of large developments and the teeth to actually protect wildlife, especially rare and threatened species.’

We need Nature but we are losing it. Extinction is the most recognisable and irreversible manifestation of this loss. Infrastructure, jobs and the economy are all replaceable, but without Nature there is no life. Please include native wildlife recovery as a vital part of your agenda.

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

Supporting documents or images
