

Information You Need To Know

Permit to Destroy Wildlife

as per Schedule 1 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019*

The Permit to Destroy Wildlife, as set out in Schedule 1 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019*, is granted pursuant to section 53(1)(c), 53(1)(d) or 53 (1)(c) and (d) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act) and is subject to the Act and the Regulations and Proclamations made under the Act.

The Permit to Destroy Wildlife entitles the holder to destroy protected animals (identified in the permit by reference to their species) that are causing or likely to cause damage to the environment or to crops, stock or other property, or that are causing or likely to cause damage to environmental amenity (including built structures), or that constitute a safety risk or hazard to people or industry.

Under the Act, a protected animal is:

- (a) any mammal, bird or reptile indigenous to Australia; or
- (b) any migratory mammal, bird or reptile that periodically or occasionally migrates to, and lives in, Australia; or
- (c) any animal of a species referred to in Schedule 7, 8 or 9; or
- (d) any animal of a species declared by regulation to be a species of protected animals,

but is not any of the animals referred to in Schedule 10 of the Act or any animals declared by regulation to be unprotected.

In addition to the limitations, restrictions and conditions included in the permit, the permit holder must also comply with the legislative and regulatory provisions which relate to the permit. A summary of the relevant provisions relating to the Permit to Destroy Wildlife, as described in Schedule 1 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019*, is set out below. The legislation and regulations can be viewed in their entirety at www.legislation.sa.gov.au

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

Permits to Take Protected Animals (section 53) – destruction of wildlife

Under section 51 of the Act it is a criminal offence to take a protected animal or the eggs of a protected animal. This includes hunting, catching, restraining, killing or injuring an animal. However, a permit to take protected animals or the eggs of a protected animal may be granted under section 53 of the Act if you wish to destroy or remove protected animals that are causing, or are likely to cause, damage to the environment or to crops, stock or other property.

A permit may also be granted to take protected animals or the eggs of a protected animal for any other purpose that the Minister considers proper and not inconsistent with the objectives of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. For example where protected animals are causing or likely to cause damage to environmental amenity (including built structures) or constitute a safety risk or hazard to people or industry.

The permit may be granted for a term not exceeding 12 months duration. The permit may limit the areas and number of animals or eggs that may be taken or destroyed. The Minister may at any time revoke the permit.

Within 14 days of your permit expiring you must submit a report in the prescribed form stating the number of animals and the number of eggs (if applicable) of each species destroyed.

A section 53 permit may not authorise the sale of protected animals and the eggs of protected animals taken pursuant to the permit.

Note: It is an offence under section 13 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* for a person to ill-treat an animal. Under that section, ill treatment includes intentionally, unreasonably or recklessly causing the animal unnecessary harm.

Illegal possession of animals etc (section 60)

Under section 60 of the Act, you must not have in your possession or control an animal, the carcass of an animal or an egg that has been illegally taken or acquired.

Unlawful entry on land (section 64)

Under section 64 of the Act, it is a criminal offence to be on any land for the purpose of taking a protected animal, or the eggs of a protected animal, unless that person has the written permission of the landowner to be on the land for that purpose. This written permission must have been given not more than six months beforehand.

Permits (section 69(3))

A permit granted under the Act is subject to the limitations, restrictions and conditions included in the permit. If you fail to comply with any limitation, restriction or condition of your permit then your permit can be revoked.

Obligation to produce permit (section 70)

If you are requested by a warden (appointed under the Act) to produce your permit for inspection then you must do so as soon as practicable after the request was made. Failure to comply with this request is a criminal offence.

Failure to comply (section 70A)

If you, or a person acting with your authority, contravenes or fails to comply with a limitation, restriction, condition or provision of your permit then you are guilty of an offence.

False or misleading statement (section 72)

It is a criminal offence to make, or cause to be made, a false or misleading statement in an application, return or other document required under the Act.

Additional penalty (section 74)

If you are convicted of an offence against the Act involving any unlawful act in relation to animals and the court is satisfied that more than one animal was involved in the offence, the court must impose a fine, based on the number of animals involved in the commission of the offence. This fine is in addition to the penalty that may be imposed under the relevant section of the Act the offence was committed against.

Important note: A breach of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* may incur an expiation fee. You may also be liable to criminal prosecution, and if found guilty of an offence, convicted and fined. The maximum penalties and expiation fees which may be imposed for an offence against the Act, are provided in the relevant section of the Act which can be viewed at www.legislation.sa.gov.au

National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019 (Wildlife Regulations)

Report to be provided following expiry or revocation of section 53 permit (regulation 6)

Under section 53 of the Act, when your permit expires or is revoked a report must to be delivered to Minister which states the number of animals of each species taken pursuant to the permit and the number of eggs of any protected animal taken pursuant to the permit. The report required by section 53 is required to be in the form prescribed in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Regulations and is provided to you upon the granting of the permit.

Notification of change of address or name (regulation 20)

If you change your address or name during the period that your permit remains in force you must, within 14 days after changing your address or name—

- (a) notify the Director in writing of the change; and
- (b) provide documentary evidence to the satisfaction of the Director of the new address or change of name.

Approvals, exemptions etc by Director and wardens (regulation 26)

If a warden grants you an approval subject to a limitation, restriction or condition then you (or a person acting in the employment or with your authority) must not contravene or fail to comply with the limitation, restriction or condition.

Permit not to be used by another (regulation 45)

Your permit cannot be used by any other person.

Important note: A breach of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019* may incur an expiation fee of \$160 or maximum penalty of \$1250. These regulations can be viewed in their entirety at www.legislation.sa.gov.au

Animal Welfare Act 1985

The treatment of all animals must comply with the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.

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