

WILDLIFE AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Wildlife Act 1953.

The main amendments relate to the declaring of certain comparatively rare terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates to be animals for the purposes of the Act, the establishment of a new type of wildlife reserve called the wildlife management reserve, and the institution of management plans for wildlife sanctuaries, refuges, and management reserves.

Clause 1 relates to the Short Title.

Clause 2 is the interpretation clause.

The term "animal" now includes the invertebrates listed in the First Schedule to the Bill (see also *clause 3*), and also the body or part thereof of a dead animal.

The term "wildlife" has been redefined to include wildlife held in captivity and the progeny of such wildlife.

Clause 3 declares the invertebrates listed in the First Schedule to the Bill (a new Seventh Schedule to the Act) to be animals, and as such to be protected in accordance with the Act. The invertebrates listed are comparatively rare and have a restricted location.

Clause 4 relates to the pollution of wildlife sanctuaries. The existing provision provides for a prohibition against polluting any waters or the margin of any waters in a sanctuary. This clause extends the prohibition to the whole sanctuary.

Clause 5 makes miscellaneous amendments to those provisions of the Act dealing with Proclamations to establish wildlife refuges.

Clause 6 inserts new sections into the Act dealing with wildlife management reserves and management plans.

The new section 14_A provides for the establishment of wildlife management reserves by Proclamation. The methods of establishing the reserve and the conditions that may be prescribed are similar to those relating to a wildlife sanctuary under section 9 of the Act.

The new sections 14b and 14c relate to management plans and their periodic review. Generally, every person, society, or body administering a wildlife sanctuary, wildlife refuge, or wildlife management reserve shall prepare a plan for administering the sanctuary, refuge, or reserve, and have the plan approved by the Secretary for Internal Affairs. Provision is made for public notice to be given of proposals to prepare a management plan, and any submissions received from interested parties to be taken into account.

Clause 7 authorises the Minister of Internal Affairs to acquire and dispose of land for the purposes of the Act. The clause gives an express power to do those things; the Minister in acquiring and disposing of land in the past has acted pursuant to the implied powers contained in section 41 of the Act.

Clause 8 includes among the powers which the Minister may delegate those relating to the day to day management of any wildlife sanctuary, refuge, or management reserve.

Clause 9 increases certain penalties for offences.

Clause 10 is consequential on the introduction of wildlife management reserves.
