

Exporting Wildlife Established in New Zealand

The Wildlife Act aims to protect the export of birds and other established wildlife species from New Zealand. An Export Authority: Wildlife Act Not Protected and Game is required to export dead or alive species from New Zealand that qualify under the Act.

Summary Statement

- DOC has clarified its interpretation of section 56(1)(b) of the Wildlife Act 1953. Export authorities are no longer required for certain not-protected species that are not established in the wild in New Zealand.
- This position applies to future applications only and will not be applied retrospectively.
- While an export authority under the Wildlife may not be needed, exporters must still comply with other relevant legislation and required permits, including the Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989, Biosecurity Act 1993, and Animal Welfare Act 1990.
- A list of species that do not require a Wildlife Act export permit is available on the DOC website. [Apply for a Wildlife Act export authority: Apply for permits](#)

Legal/ Statutory context

DOC has clarified interpretation of [Section 56\(1\)\(b\)](#) of the Wildlife Act 1953:

- S 56(1)(b) of the Act applies only to species of bats, reptiles and amphibians living in the wild in New Zealand.
- A Wildlife Act export authority is not required for the export of not-protected species that aren't considered established in the wild in New Zealand.

While the export of certain species of bat, reptile or amphibian may not be restricted under the Act, their export may still be controlled by other legislation such as the Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989, Biosecurity Act 1993, and Animal Welfare Act 1990.

Relevant regulatory process(es)

Anyone seeking a Wildlife Act export authority must submit an application to DOC. DOC's Permissions Team is responsible for accepting and processing applications.

Export applicants should refer to [Interacting with wildlife: Apply for permits](#). This will help applicants identify if they need a permit or authority for the species they are exporting.

Relation to DOC outcomes

DOC's work is guided by our strategy, which outlines [our purpose and outcomes](#).

This position is aligned with the DOC outcomes of 'Improved performance of the conservation regulatory system'.

Approval and review

This Position Statement was approved by Deputy Director General - Biodiversity, Heritage and Visitors on 10 November 2025 and will be reviewed within 3 years of implementation.