
From: Aunty Ro Mudyin Godwin
Sent: Tuesday, 29 June 2021 10:42 AM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Re: Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales
- Post-hearing responses

Thank you for the email & my reply is as follows.

To the Committee,

Firstly I will say that I've already answered all these questions & this is why I mentioned that you all actually LISTEN to what both myself & Yuin Indigenous Elder Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison stated on the day of the Hearing. I'm happy to expand on what I've already stated & I trust you will retain the information I provide herewith.

It's clear to me that in fact by asking these further questions some of you haven't actually listened to what both myself & Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison stated prior, or understood the ongoing distress & trauma this relentless colonialism AGAIN evidenced in a few of the questions on notice here, & slaughter of Totem Kangaroo causes.

Since we last spoke thousands of Kangaroos have been slaughtered, & hundreds of Joeys have been legally bludgeoned to death. Many more have been attacked by dogs, run over, poisoned, or left hanging in Exclusion Fencing dying horrific deaths. These animals, my ancestors STILL being slaughtered out, at the hands of the White Man & colonial driven mindsets.

Q1. Firstly given Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison is an Elder it would be more culturally appropriate if he was asked that question. I'm not an Elder & I'm not sure where any of you got the information from, that I am, given that is incorrect. I digress. As I've already stated Kangaroo are my Family Totem they are a Creator Spirit. The Kangaroo connects us as one with Country & with Ancestors. The Kangaroo created the rivers, country. I'm a Palawa Woman. Palawa, this is the name of the first man who was also created from the Tarnier (Kangaroo) by a creator spirit. And as I & Uncle Max have also said Totems, Lore & Protocols vary from mob to mob, from people to people, family to family etc etc. I'm taught by Elders that Song Lines are traveling routes across Country, some are known as Dreaming Tracks, Pathways. Creator Spirits such as the Kangaroo first walked these tracks. Connecting with what's left of these tracks, provides us with connection to Spirit Ancestors. As the Kangaroo bounds across Country, the thud of their feet, tails creates ripples or vibrations if you will, that reverberate across Country ensuring healing & regeneration, this in itself ensures interconnectedness. Interconnectedness means the state of completeness, ensuring that all beings are connected with each other, further ensuring all are linked in balance. An example in the physical sense can be seen by the regenerative behaviours of the Kangaroo. The Kangaroo are essential in seed dispersal with seeds catching in their fur, being transported & ensuring regeneration of Country, this also occurs re Kangaroo Pooh which is full of nutritional value & the best natural fertiliser, which also has seeds within. This little package, self seeding & again ensuring regeneration. The large toe nails & indeed the claws of the Kangaroo leaving indentations across Country, as they forage & move about, ensuring aeration of soils thus

encouraging healthy soil ecology (in the last remaining areas where Kangaroos can be found of course) these indentations as well as enabling the aeration of soils,also act as seed pits which then trap seeds,moisture & this again ensures the ongoing regeneration of Country. The top grazing behaviours of the Kangaroo also regenerating new growth in Indigenous Flora & upon which various other species such as the Koala also depend upon for its survival. To put it simply...no Kangaroos,no seed dispersal,no regeneration of Country, no trees,no Indigenous Wildlife. Kangaroos are an essential link in the chain encompassing the health & wellbeing of Country.

The hip holes also created by the Kangaroo which are usually found in wooded areas(what's left of wooded areas) given the Kangaroo is a prey animal are also significantly important in the regeneration of Country. These bowls are obviously near or at the foot of trees,the bowls if you like,are created as the Kangaroo rests during the day. These bowls also act as an organic matter trap,trapping seeds,moisture etc which again ensures the regeneration of Country continues. So as we see the Kangaroo plays a pivotal & essential role in the complete interconnectedness of Country both past,present & future & in the Spiritual,Ancestral & physical connection between all. In the areas where they have been gunned down & eradicated off,we see none of the above,in fact in many areas thanks to the illness of Colonialism,the White Man has created a desolate moonscape,littered with millions of head of over exploited Sheep & Cattle & vast areas of equally destructive Mono-cropping. I remind the Committee that both myself & Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison also spoke of this during our appearance at the Inquiry Hearings.

Q2. Yes I have . Indeed I have done so for years now. In fact I recall contacting that Department raising concerns only to be told that they,the Department couldn't understand what the problem was & that I didn't know what I was talking about. Yet again we see the very Government Dept profiting from the slaughter of Sacred Totem Kangaroo not showing any care or having any Cultural awareness ,to the very real Cultural & personal trauma their Industry is causing to many of we Indigenous people,upon whose stolen land they arrogantly stand, slaughtering out these animals,whilst telling me,an Indigenous Woman that I have no clue what I'm talking about. Their response completely & utterly dismissive,& appalling,in its disconnected arrogant,smugness.

Q3. I'm not an Elder & have never presented myself as such,so I would question where the Committee is getting any information from that states I am an Elder. I am however as an Indigenous Woman & Educator,extremely well respected given my years of work in bringing to light the appalling slaughter of Kangaroos & Culture here in this place you call Australia. I've contributed to several Books,have written several published articles,participated in several International Interviews & Podcasts. I also continue to be held in high regard by many Indigenous People across Country.

In regards to "what advice do you give to the Committee to ensure the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods " well as both myself & Yuin Indigenous Elder Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison stated very clearly several times at the Hearing ...stop slaughtering them. I repeat yet again...stop the killing,stop allowing, accomodating & pushing colonialism. Stop fencing Kangaroos off THEIR land,stop the poisoning,stop the abuse. Understand that they are not the problem & I refer to Indigenous Elder Rosalie Kunith-Monks "Don't try and suppress me and don't call me a problem. I am not the problem. I have never left my Country,nor,have I ceded any part of it" I refer to the Unsustainable Farming Sector especially,given they are the minority of people doing the majority of the damage,if they can't Farm with Kangaroo & with respect to Kangaroos as we Indigenous people have for over 60,000 yrs then they don't deserve to stand upon this stolen land & call themselves,Farmers. They are not Farmers,they are killers & abusers.

Q4. They have no argument because they have no clue which is evidenced by the ideology of Colonialism they continue to suffocate in. I couldn't repeat here what I'd actually say to them, & indeed I have had many "discussions" with these so called Colonial Scientists to whom this questioner is referring & it never ends well on their part. And of that I'm very proud.

To keep everything professional here for the Committee I'd say to those colonialists calling themselves scientists to take off their white tinted glasses, evolve past 1788 & listen to what we Indigenous people say, & LEARN from us in regards to the essential role Sacred Totem Kangaroo have always played the survival & interconnectedness of Country. I'm thankful that many in the Scientific Community have listened to we Indigenous people over the years & have cast off the suffocating mask of Colonialism, now understanding the facts we teach as the oldest living civilisation. I refer to the following from the well respected & highly regarded Mr Ray Mjadwesch Conservation Biologist/Ecologist "Kangaroos exert only 2-5% of total grazing pressure in Australia. We should be worrying about the damage being caused by 95-98% grazing pressure instead of shooting our remaining wildlife" I also refer to Eric Rolls "it took a mere six years for the green & lovely pasture land over which early settlers rhapsodised to disappear" further "The ground powdered under cutting hooves (of cattle and sheep), then hardened when it rained. The plants had never had to push their roots through hard ground; they had never had their leaves bruised by cloven hooves ; they had never had whole bunches of leaves torn off between a set of bottom teeth and a top-jaw pad. They died". And we see that factual evidence across vast swathes of destroyed Country where colonialism rules supreme.

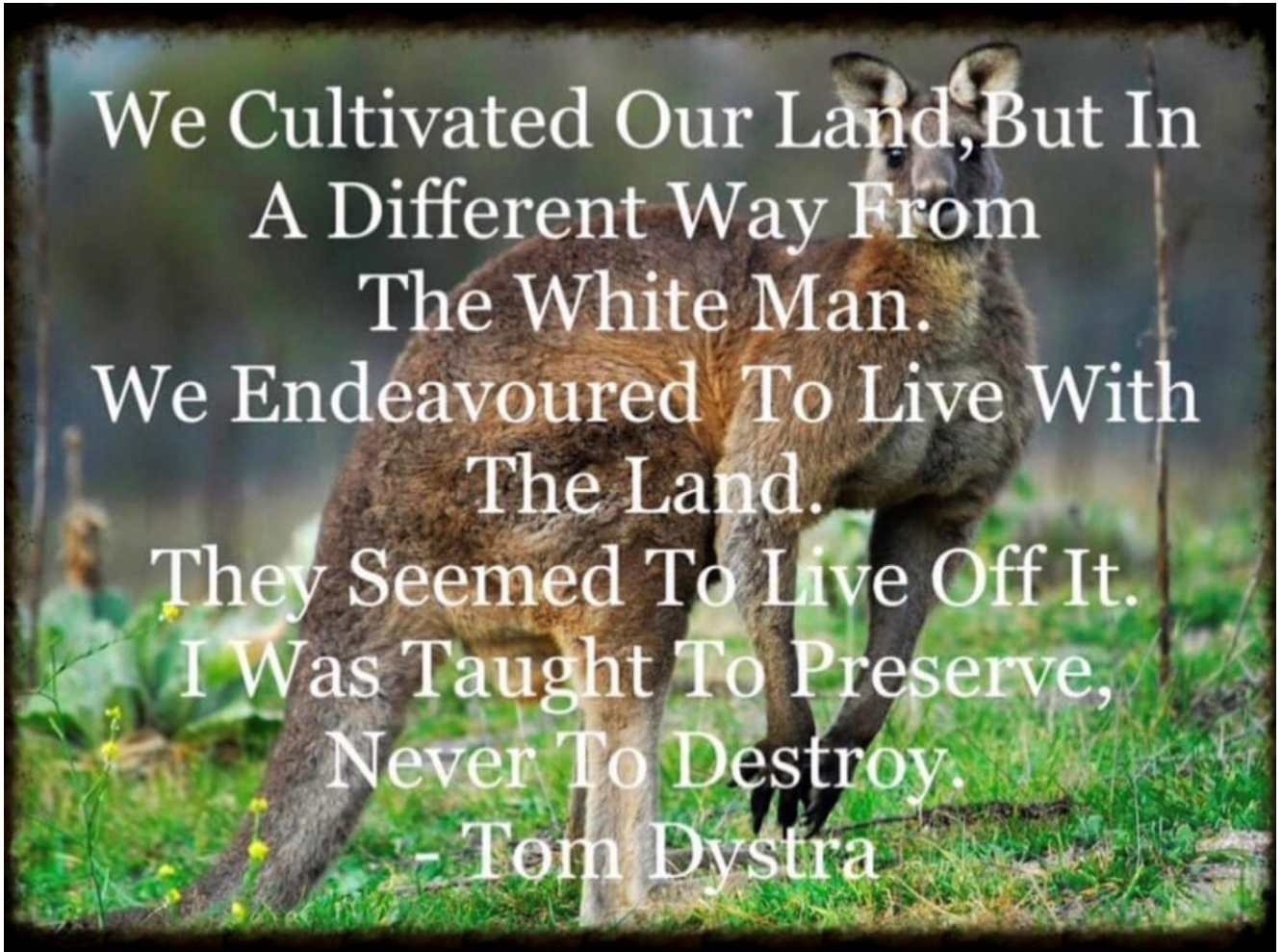
Q5. I would've thought that this is absolutely self explanatory. I'd refer the questioner back to my prior answers at the Inquiry in regards to Kangaroos regenerating Country. I will add the following. Kangaroos via the regeneration they provide to Country & all who live with Country have for millions of years ensured a complete balance. We now have a situation where we are seeing a series of factors contributing to increasing Bushfire Intensity. The most obvious is of course the relentless slaughter of Kangaroos, Wallabies, Wallaroos or indeed any species that remotely even resembles a Kangaroo. I have written about this in various Book contributions & via several of my published articles, & spoken about this ad nauseam for years. Add to that Climate Change, with the Unsustainable Farming Sector being the main contributors to increasing surface area temperatures by continuing to clear vast swathes of Country & slaughter out what's left of Kangaroos & indeed Wildlife in general. Surface Area temperatures feed a drier landscape & thus feeds more intense Bushfires. I note there has been a push to get Cattle into National Parks to try & "preform" the role of Kangaroos & Indigenous Wildlife, except there is one huge problem that the Colonials conveniently overlook. Cattle are introduced & have no place on Country, at all. Cattle degrade Country as was stated at the Hearing. They are hard hoofed animals, their hooves cut & compact soils, the manure they produce is toxic. They destroy natural water ways, their heavy cutting hooves turning them into bog holes. Cattle with their hard hooves are also detrimental to healthy soil ecology & Indigenous Flora, they are root grazers & have a water focused grazing pattern. Kangaroos however are guilty of none of the aforementioned. Again I refer you back to my prior answers above & remind the questioner that Kangaroos are soft footed animals, they have padded feet & are top grazers who don't have a water focused grazing pattern. I refer to the following "Stock are well known to congregate and concentrate around water points, however kangaroos have been determined not to have a water-focused grazing pattern (Montague-Drake 2004) Impacts of stock (denuding of vegetation, compaction, mechanical erosion etc) are severe and are still evident 20 years after the removal of stock" (James 1998. Mjadwesch R (2011) Nomination to List the Large Macropods as Threatened Species under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995) Again, Kangaroos are guilty of none of that & by continuing to regenerate Country via such behaviours as top grazing dry grasses, imparting soft grazing patterns on litter layers upon forest floors, grazing on

barks,sticks,soils,charcoal & any dry foliage thereby continuously encouraging new growth,they naturally with only 2-5% of total grazing pressure on Country lessen the intensity of Bushfire. Also in the aftermath of Bushfires they play an essential role in seed dispersal,aeration of soils & in the regeneration of Bushfire impacted areas as we saw here recently. It's with interest that I note whilst those still suffocating under the mask of Colonialism continue to ensure & accomodate the slaughtering out of Wildlife, throughout Europe & the Americas rewilding programs are being implemented,it's being understood that Wildlife such as large herbivores are essential in managing the impacts of Bushfire. Yet again we see how disconnected & dangerously backwards this place you call Australia is,as the slaughtering out of our Wildlife continues. I refer to the following "To date,rewilding projects that aim to restore large herbivores have paid little attention to the value of large animals in moderating fire regimes." Further "Rewilding potentially offers a powerful tool for managing the risks of wildfire and its impacts on natural and human values ". (Christopher N Johnson,Lynda D Prior,Sally Archibald,Helen M.Poulos,Andrew M Barton,Grant J.Williamson,David M.J.S.Bowman. 2018 'Can trophic rewilding reduce the impact of fire in a more flammable world'.)

In closing,I'm horrified to learn that 150,000 carcasses of slain Wallabies will be removed from Tasmania & transported to NSW for the profit driven Commercial Kangaroo Killing Industry. Again I ask,when is enough enough for you lot?? I spoke about this at the Hearing as did Yui Indigenous Elder Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison & yet AGAIN we see nothing has been learned from the impacts of when my Ancestors were gunned down. Their body parts,bones taken by the White Man. Again we see it happening with 150,000 Wallabies. My Ancestors who survived the slaughter carried out by the White Man on Flinders Island were forcibly removed for profit. My Ancestors then further forcibly removed to the Mainland & put to work by the White Man on a Cattle Station where my mother grew up. Displaced. Distraught. And to this day she like so many of us continue to be traumatically impacted by the behaviours of the White Mans greed. 150,000 Wallabies slaughtered to be removed to NSW for nothing but to turn a profit. Hundreds of thousands of Kangaroos continue to be gunned down & their Joeys legally bludgeoned to death ...all for profit.

Think about that slaughter,that amount of killing. That bloodshed. That trauma caused to many of we Indigenous people as our Ancestors are gunned down,our Culture destroyed. This majestic Totem Animal revered by many as Old Man Kangaroo being well know to lead people to water in hard times. Now they are gunned down for profit & for fun by some. Poisoned. Laughed at when caught in Exclusion Fencing flailing around trying to desperately free themselves only to linger in agony until,they finally die. Strung up as a trophy for the White Man in "his" fence. Nothing...nothing has changed since 1788.

When WILL you people STOP??



To the Committee, please ensure the correct spelling of my name. That being Aunty Ro Mudyin Godwin.

Thankyou.