

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Public Hearing on Health and Wellbeing of Kangaroos and Other Macropods

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 18 August 2021

The Parliamentary committee examining the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales will hold its third public hearing on 19 August 2021. This hearing will be conducted virtually and live-streamed.

The Upper House Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment established this inquiry in March 2021 in light of concerns for the wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales, with kangaroo populations being impacted by climate change, drought and bushfire, land clearing, use of exclusion fencing as well as commercial and non-commercial killing.

To date, the committee has heard from a range of scientific experts as well as pastoralists, kangaroo industry representatives, animal welfare groups and other stakeholders. Some stakeholders raised concerns about the accuracy of the population estimates used to inform the government's Kangaroo Management Program.

In this hearing, the committee will hear from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and scientific advisers whose work informs the department's management of kangaroo populations in New South Wales.

Chair of the committee, Cate Faehrmann MLC, said: "The Committee has heard concerns through this inquiry about threats to kangaroos in New South Wales, including possibility of localised extinction. It has also heard concerns about the science underpinning the Kangaroo Management Program that sets quotas on how many and where kangaroos are killed by the commercial industry. This hearing provides the opportunity to hear from the department and the scientists that can shed some light on whether those concerns are justified."

The hearing will take place via videolink from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm on Thursday 19 August, and will be live streamed. The hearing schedule is available on the inquiry website and the link to view the live-stream is here.

For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, submissions received, and transcripts of previous hearings please go to our <u>website</u>.

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Cate Faehrmann MLC, via Jacob Miller 0428 837 292.