

Submission
No 9

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF
KANGAROOS AND OTHER MACROPODS IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

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Kangaroo are a Sacred Totem Animal to many of we Indigenous people, they are NOT a commodity to be used & abused by either the NSW Government or by the Commercial Kangaroo Killing Industry. Kangaroos are essential in the regeneration of Song Lines, Dreaming Tracks & they ensure the interconnectedness of Country. They ensure, that The Dreaming remains alive & strong. They ARE as my Family Totem,& as a Sacred Totem Animal to many of we Indigenous people OUR connection that we have to Ancestors, yet they are called a pest & gunned down in indiscriminate slaughter by those who by carrying out that behaviour, SHOW they have no clue about Country or Kangaroos, who unlike them are the FIRST Australians. In areas where Kangaroos have been gunned down into localised extinctions, Culture is dying, as is our connection to Ancestors. Kangaroos are a Keystone Species upon which various other species of indigenous flora & fauna depend for their own survival, & again where we have seen Kangaroos gunned down into localised extinctions we have seen the die off of vast amounts of Indigenous Flora & Fauna. Kangaroos are essential in the regeneration of Country, they aerate soils, play an essential role in seed dispersal & in germination as the toe nail indentations left by the kangaroo, acts as a trap for any seeds & moisture. Kangaroos also carry seeds on their fur, this also aids in seed dispersal & in the regeneration of Country. Kangaroos top graze dry foliage, graze undergrowth levels which mitigate bushfire impacts,& in areas where Kangaroos have been slaughtered out we are seeing an increase in both bushfire activity & in bushfire intensity, yet those drowning in pathetic backwards colonialism STILL don't get it, they still don't understand that unlike them Kangaroos belong here & are NEEDED to ensure healthy functioning ecosystems. Their answer & the answer of the NSW Govt is to simply gun them down. And let's be very clear ...sheep & cattle who far outnumber even over ESTIMATED Kangaroo populations are not only environmentally destructive but they are INTRODUCED so is not the Kangaroos "competing" with Sheep & Cattle for what's left of any pasture...it's sheep & Cattle impacting Kangaroos, in fact...& facts are something the NSW Govt, their commercial kangaroo killing Industry & paid affiliates choose to ignore.. show that Kangaroos exert a MINIMAL grazing pressure upon Country with only a 2-5%...I repeat...a 2-5% of TOTAL grazing pressure upon Country where as introduced Sheep & Cattle exert 95-98% of total grazing pressure upon Country. So your embarrassing propaganda demonising Kangaroos is not only being laughed at by an increasing number of people but it's also causing more & more people to turn their backs on the Unsustainable Farming Sector with a 60% increase in the last year alone of people growing their own food in a direct response to the behaviour of the Unsustainable Farming Sector. The increased use of Exclusion Fencing like the marketing of the appalling Commercial Kangaroo Killing Industry at taxpayers' expense also fuelling the disgust of people as they use any money they might have once donated to the Farmers, for Wildlife Conservation, especially in regards to the conservation of Kangaroos. Since Invasion these Sacred Totem Animals have been indiscriminately gunned down by those who themselves have no place on Country. The Unsustainable Farming Sector like the current NSW Government are not just environmental vandals but they are engaging in the very same genocide upon Kangaroos that was instigated upon we Indigenous people, the Thylacine & indeed the Koala. This is THEIR & MY Ancestral Home...not yours. The colonialism fuelling the slaughter of Kangaroos equally as appalling & like the Commercial Kangaroo Killing Industry, the sickening use of Exclusion Fencing, the ongoing destruction of Rivers, Country & habitat that not just Kangaroos but all wildlife need to survive, must stop. The millions of taxpayer dollars used to fund the Commercial Kangaroo Killing Industry must be handed back & no more taxpayers funds to be used in the Commercial Kangaroo Killing Industry or in regards to handouts to the Unsustainable Farming Sector...they either support themselves SUSTAINABLY or they don't Farm. End of story. We've had ENOUGH. And enough of the propaganda used in ESTIMATES of Kangaroos, I'm appalled that this Government continues to use correction factors to artificially bolster DECLINING kangaroo populations to biologically impossible numbers JUST so on paper this disgusting corrupt & dangerous industry looks to be sustainable, which we know in fact it is not. Shooting quotas of 15-20% of population ESTIMATES exceed actual kangaroo population growth rates. 95% of the habitats of Kangaroos in NSW are gone,95-99% of Box-Gum grassy wood lands habitat has been cleared for farming, less than 0.1% remaining intact yet Kangaroos are blamed as being the problem & mass slaughtered. Gee...how intelligent. Not. Then we have the introduced behaviour of the ultimate in arrogant white privilege...the culling of Kangaroos, this never before seen on Country until Invasion, where

wildlife especially Kangaroos have been used as a scapegoat & millions of them have been run down, poisoned, trapped, bludgeoned to death, body shot, indiscriminately slaughtered...that being the core of the unhinged commercial kangaroo killing Industry. Ah yes the Commercial Kangaroo Killing Industry the largest land based commercial wildlife slaughter industry on the planet & one of the main trigger points in the ongoing outbreaks of Zoonotic Diseases, Interesting given Kangaroo Meat for human consumption in Australia isn't even tested for known zoonotic pathogens, the reality of that Government legislated industry desperately kept well hidden from the public as Kangaroo Joeys are torn from their mothers pouches & bludgeoned to death, or discarded like rubbish to die lingering deaths, in this industry that "doesn't kill females" whilst their families are body shot ,have their jaws blown off & hung on the side of a Shooters Ute for up to 8hrs WITHOUT refrigeration whilst the Shooter trashes Country driving over everything as he/she desperately searches for these plagues of Kangaroos to kill. Then after driving through the heat, dust & flies for hours, arrives at a filthy unmonitored Chiller Box which is a recycled shipping container retro fitted with "cooling system" where the carcasses of still bleeding out Kangaroos are loaded hot to hang alongside bleeding out Wild Boar Carcasses, for up to another 12days before being transported to the Processors. Is it any wonder there are increasing international trade bans in place against the Commercial Kangaroo Killing Industry which by its own behaviours is showing the world how it's not just putting human health at risk but the survival of Kangaroos given the extent & brutal nature of the killing. Yet this killing not only continues, but its increased on top of the BILLIONS of animals lost in the recent Bushfires. This entire operation that the NSW Government legislates & profits from whilst having the audacity, to sit under the Coat of Arms & call this Country their own must end. And end immediately. The slaughter of Kangaroos is killing Country, Culture & killing the future. These animals BELONG here, they are NOT the problem & they are NOT a commodity. They need to be left alone to move freely across this THEIR Ancestral Home in peace & with Protection as they had done for millions of years before Invasion. "Don't try & 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" -Rosalie Kunitz-Monks, Indigenous Elder. That is the fact in regards to Kangaroos. Stop the slaughter, stop the demonisation, stop the colonialism. Enough is enough.