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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am writing to urge our members of parliament to stop the horrendous killing of one of our most loved group of animals, the kangaroos. Most Australians will claim to love our national emblem yet are unaware of what is happening to them. There is a misconception that numbers need to be controlled, which is not true. Living in Coffs Harbour we often see kangaroos and wallabies around residential areas, which were their habitat. They are regularly seen dead on the side of the road, in built up areas they previously did not venture. This is because their habitat is being destroyed and encroached upon by residential zoning and land clearing for farming. The cruelty and destruction inflicted on individual and mobs of macropods is gutwrenching. Individuals are left to to die a slow death, young left without mothers, and mobs are dessimated as their social structure is destroyed. This is unacceptable for any animal yet it has been allowed to happen to one of our most endeared creatures. This is the reason many fashion labels are now choosing to not use kangaroo leather. Australians must take the lead in protecting vulnerable native species and attending to conservation of our native flora and fauna in an evidence-driven, humane and sustainable manner. We ought to aim for pursuing practices that allow us to hold our heads high in the international arena, not continue to bow our heads in shame.