

Submission  
No 51

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 19 April 2021

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Partially  
Confidential

Thank you for accepting my submission.

I am an Australian resident who is becoming increasingly concerned about the future of macropods. Apart from the well documented cruelty that occurs it is becoming evident that kangaroo numbers are at risk more now than ever before. With natural disasters and the ongoing open slather killing by landholders, the commercial harvest, recreational shooters and extreme overdevelopment of our natural areas it is clear we need to act to protect them.

I will comment below on some of my personal experiences:

A few years ago I was talking on Facebook to a lady from the Goulburn area. She was locked inside her house and terrified as there were a bunch of drunken shooters on the property next door. They were shooting kangaroos, birds, anything that moved. We advised her to call the police but she had tried that previously with no result.

I went to a talk about kangaroo rescue. The rescuer lived on the other side of the Blue Mountains. He said shooters would break into his property and kill any kangaroos in the sanctuary. He also mentioned that shooters were extremely inept and many times he had witnessed kangaroos shot in the face or elsewhere who were unable to eat and thus experienced a long and painful death as they starved and their wounds became infected.

I personally don't feel safe in a society where individuals of questionable ethics and intelligence are allowed to kill for pleasure, especially under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

I live in suburbia, but I am lucky enough to have a bushland reserve behind my house. When we first moved in nearly 30 years ago there were wallabies living in that bush, we would occasionally see them hopping through, to the delight of my children. Local government's permission for excessive tree clearing, the massive expansion of a sewage works, and the local cemetery extension has replaced our bushland and have put an end to our beautiful wallabies. In recent years we lost the few that remained, killed by speeding motorists as the poor creatures tried to cross the road looking for food and water. Local government plans to destroy more native habitat for playing fields. Overdevelopment is a major problem for our wildlife.

My husband and I like to get away for a break and part of that is to enjoy seeing our native animals alive and thriving. With drought, fires and floods we have lost so many. Where we used to see kangaroos regularly, we now see none. Where roadkill was once sickeningly obvious, we now see very little. To us it's very clear that kangaroo numbers are in severe decline. We simply cannot allow the commercial slaughter to keep going, let alone the recreational killing of what is becoming an endangered species.

I have contact with people from overseas who are disgusted by Australia's attitude towards kangaroos. Visitors come to our country as they are attracted by our unique wildlife, they want to see it alive, not made into dog food or soccer boots.

With the largest land based massacre of animals, we are shameful. We fall in to the same category as Canada with the baby seal slaughter and Japan with the whale slaughter. Except we kill so many more. And we kill the mother and then club the Joey to death, a dirty little secret that the world doesn't yet know.

I believe that kangaroos need protection and they need it urgently.