

Submission
No 52

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I live in the town of Blackheath in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. I use to run between along the train track and back next to the highway between Blackheath and mount Victoria.

One morning I stopped at highway bridge at Mt Victoria as I saw a kangaroo lying in the middle of the road. The kangaroo was dead. In the distance, I saw a group of four kangaroos watching me and the dead kangaroo. I pulled the body off the highway and onto the verge. The group of kangaroos were still watching. There was nothing else I could do so I continued my run. We need to protect kangaroos and wallabies so they have alternatives to crossing roads and highways.

I have walked in the bush around Blackheath usually on weekends for years. A favourite walk is down to Baltzer Lookout early in the morning. Up to five years ago I would see around 30 kangaroos and wallabies during this walk. Now I am lucky if I see one. The national park has been decimated by bushfires in the last five or so years and kangaroo/wallaby numbers are greatly reduced. The late 2019 turned old trees in the national park into dead stumps. The kangaroos had no food or water. I tried to organise food and water drops but couldn't find any organisation who tell me what to put out for the native animals so I put out sweet potato pieces. People still let their dogs loose on that walk even though there is no cover for native animals to hide anymore. We need to have an organisation who is responsible for organising volunteers to do coordinated food/water drops for kangaroos and wallabies during such crises.

Our local bakery sells kangaroo meat pies. I think that is very bad especially for a town in the national park. The message is "Go out into the bush and see our kangaroos then come back for lunch and eat them" The kangaroo is our mascot on our flag, our national airline and represents everything uniquely Australia. The commercial and 'sport' killing of all native animals especially kangaroos should be stopped and these unique Australian animals protected by law. They are essential to the regeneration process of our native bush and should be given free reign throughout Australia to help grow the native bushlands that have been decimated by 'man' or climate change.