

Submission
No 58

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I grew up in outback QLD & have travelled throughout the state by car. I can remember looking out the car window seeing kangaroos along the road during the 80s & 90s but the numbers noticeably decreased from the 00s. Now, I don't really see any along the road; I only see the small families who visit my yard due to the encroaching housing developments in the area.

Growing up in the outback it was always said the kangaroo numbers were "plague like" but I don't remember actual studies being conducted. Before social media, community gossip was how information was spread so if Joe Citizen said kangaroos were a plague, then kangaroos must be a plague. People with 4WDs invested in heavy duty bull bars to cause as much damage to whatever they hit while preventing damage to the car. It didn't matter if bull bars could kill a child; the purpose was to kill animals so they became acceptable. This is the Australian mentality.

I never questioned this way of thinking while growing up. As an adult I started to question the obvious monopoly the Nationals party, representatives of cattle farmers, had on government regulations concerning the environment, the public perceptions, & local information sources like the media & community organisations, especially now that it's difficult for councils & developers to hide their plans to destroy vital native habitat. The more I questioned the more I learned about animal agriculture; the realisation of how things were was absolutely heartbreaking.

As an animal lover I had to accept I could no longer say that about myself if I still supported the consumption of animals & animal byproducts. When I made the conscious decision to start supporting animals directly via my daily lifestyle, I also unhappily learned that Vegans tend to attract a lot of hate, especially from the country who is the largest consumer of meat products. The misinformation about a plant based diet disseminated by the animal agricultural industry is laughable but the Australian public has been under a Murdoch monopoly for too long that they choose to be fed information rather than source it for themselves. This information has slowly led to a situation where the protection of our native wildlife is overridden by the greed of destructive industry. When did koalas, kangaroos, platypus, wombats, dingoes, etc. become disposable?

Australia can no longer count itself as a world leader. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of the destructive industries, Australia has fallen behind on technological advancements, competitiveness, ecotourism, & energy. Large corporations have benefited at the sake of Australian intelligence & lifestyle. Falling behind has increased the impacts of climate change: storms are more destructive, bushfires burn longer, animals & vital habitats are dying out, insurance, water, & energy are more expensive. Embarrassingly, an overseas government has chosen to ban the sale of kangaroo products in its locale while Australia continues to exploit kangaroos for money: meat, leather, & tourism are just 3 ways we are doing this. Behind the scenes, cattle farmers are grateful for the extermination of animals who compete for food & water against their "products".

For too long we have been dictated to by the destructive industries while the needs of individuals, both present & future, have been neglected. This shortsightedness will mean more costs in the future for generations who may no longer have jobs thanks to the destruction taking place now: water basins are being polluted & depleted, logging is decreasing rainfall & extending drought, soil is losing its fertility due to cattle grazing, ecosystems are being disrupted because humans still have this belief we can survive separate to & without other species.

At what point did Australia become a country where science was no longer considered an important part of governance & education? Don't let us be THAT backward country. Why can't we lead the world in solving or successfully managing environmental issues? Why are our native animals suffering?

I honestly don't know how else I can express the desperation I feel when I learn more every day about the commercial kangaroo industry. How is any individual allowed to kill a kangaroo & sell it for money? Why aren't regulations applicable? Why are we relying on rhetoric to determine population numbers rather than a scientific study not funded by, & independent to, the agricultural industries? Regardless of my questions, any idiot can see this situation will only lead to the ultimate extinction of a beautiful species. That is incredibly sad. We curse other countries for hunting species like rhinos to extinction but we are clearly no better.