

Submission  
No 62

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

Thankyou for an opportunity to express alarm for the lack of safety of all the little groups of kangaroos, walleroos, and wallabys, in Canberra's Nature Parks, especially those in which a precedent has been set to allow people to walk their dogs.

There is a little sign "dogs allowed on leash" at the various entry points to the nature parks.

This sign is not sufficient to address the reality of peoples behaviours.

My local nature park is Cooleman Ridge, where people walking dogs abound, and the majority of them are off-leash.

How many times have I watched groups of kangaroos, wallaroos and wallabies racing for their lives, fleeing from someones dog that is bounding cross-country over the fields, chasing wildlife, their owner nowhere to be found, or else strolling along with headphones on or chatting to either a walking mate or on the phone, oblivious to the trauma and wildlife emergency that has just been created.

How many times have a mob of blindly racing roos nearly rushed headlong into me, in an effort to flee from a racing dog behind them.... how many separated roo families have I seen, mothers separated from young, males separated from their females, anxiously looking around to see if its safe enough yet, to find the rest of their mob, regroup, and settle somewhere until the next interference.

How heartbreaking its been to see the deceased, lifeless body of a little roo, hanging upside down from a barbed wire fence, unable to jump high enough to successfully flee with its mob...

Rangers have told me they patrol occasionally, but I walk at sunrise and before 9am, and I've never seen a ranger in the peak usage time of before 9am, when training groups, runner men, jogger couples, mothers, dog-walkers and others get a walk in before work.

Weekends its worse. Its horrible to watch the lack of concern for wildlife. I've given up going on weekends, its too upsetting.

A ranger told me they will only attend to a call-out if a dog has savaged another person on the ridge, not wildlife.

I dont understand why the pockets of wildlife in Nature Parks amongst the suburbs arent cherished and respected, and given "NO-DOGS ALLOWED" legal status, which is defended and enforced.

There are adequate off-leash dog-exercise ovals and suburban parks, and every suburban street is an appropriate on-leash dog-walking street... Why do local councils allow people to bring apex predators amongst our beautiful vulnerable wildlife?

Just because a precedent has been set, doesnt mean we cant realise it was incorrect, and needs to be changed.

A couple of nearby nature-parks have always been "no-dogs-allowed".....

Why cant the little groups of Australian Native animals on Cooleman Ridge be given the same protection and respect?

Not because I've complained, but because WE CHERISH OUR WILDLIFE.

I look forward to this country overhauling its pathetic disregard for its native animals, including the beautiful little group near me.