

Submission  
No 117

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

**Name:** Mrs Sylvia Cooper

**Date Received:** 9 April 2021

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I am writing as an Australian who has a love and respect for the wildlife that sustains our healthy habitats and environment. Australia has however managed to drive record high numbers of wildlife species to extinction by destroying habitat and manipulating wildlife species numbers.

A healthy wildlife habitat has a balance between predator and prey. Without an apex predator the balance is lost. This has happened in Australia with the removal of the dingo. The dingo balances kangaroo and medium prey animal numbers such as wild cats and foxes that prey on our smaller wildlife.

Killing kangaroos, cats and foxes etc is a band aid measure that does nothing to curb breeding or restore a healthy balanced environment.

The kangaroo in particular has evolved with our landscape to maintain and nourish it. It adjusts its breeding to its environment and only when the environment has been artificially enhanced will it breed to unnatural levels. It is the habitat not the animal that is the problem. Restoring the natural landscape and the balance of animals within it will sustainably manage animal populations without human interference and that should be the goal.

Nobody knows the true number of kangaroos in Australia or how many there could or should be. Kangaroos move about and congregate in some areas while dispersing in others. The kangaroo killing industry has an interest in exaggerating the numbers to justify demand for its product. It targets the largest and strongest individuals diminishing the strength of the gene pool and either bashes the young to death or leaves the young at foot to predation or starvation. It is cruel and destructive and has nothing to do with population management.

Australian wildlife need a national holistic survival plan to adapt to the pressures of climate change and the natural disasters it is causing. It needs large natural wildlife corridors along known migratory paths for wildlife to move between regions and the dingo needs to be reintroduced.

If landholders need to protect animals from predation, they need to predator proof their property. They can't manipulate the Australian landscape to suit themselves - we all know how that has worked out.

Our wildlife has value, no less than privately owned animals. Let landowners protect their animals and the Australian government protect our wildlife on behalf of all Australians. The Australian Government owes us that.

Creating a profit based industry out of killing our wildlife is not only cruel but interferes with the the natural population balance, risking tipping it into unsustainability.

Our wildlife can create wealth for Australia without sacrificing their lives for the profit of private businesses. Investment in regional tourism to view kangaroos and wildlife in their native habitat and creating a great kangaroo national park would attract visitors from near and far. Sustainable ecology can provide new careers, enhance the tourism industry and make the Australian landscape and its wildlife healthy and resilient again.