

Submission
No 114

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

Name: A.O A'Beckett

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Chair of the NSW Upper House Portfolio Committee 7 - Planning and Environment
Legislative Council
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via: Parliament of NSW Committees website

Dear Committee,

Submission to the inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW

We welcome the inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales and appreciate the opportunity to make a submission.

We support the existence of a strictly regulated and sustainable commercial kangaroo industry for the reasons outlined in the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia's (KIAA's) submission. Kangaroo conservation is a complex issue that also impacts other native animal species, the livelihoods of rural and regional Australians and the environment more broadly. It is vital that we take the time to explore the facts and put aside preconceived ideas so that we can find the best way in which the State's residents can live harmoniously with kangaroos, protect its biodiversity and continue to live off the land.

We must seek to understand the importance of population management for conservation purposes, the role of the commercial industry to provide a responsible alternative to culling, the effectiveness of existing regulatory frameworks as well as opportunities for improvement, and the actual impact a stop to commercial harvesting would have on kangaroos and communities.

We ask the Committee to consider:

- the different conservation measures and regulatory frameworks required for threatened and non-threatened species;
- the recent drop in population numbers following the severe drought in the context of long-term population trends;
- that without population management, healthy kangaroo species would increase beyond the capacity of the land and lead to overgrazing and food shortages, mass starvation events, loss of biodiversity, damage to pastoral land, increased road accidents and more instances of non-commercial culling and illegal activity;
- that the commercial industry can ensure the best animal welfare outcomes compared to other management methods because it is strictly regulated and monitored, and qualified commercial harvesters are more skilled than non-commercial shooters;
- that without a commercial industry, population management would still be required but the meat and skins would need to be discarded, wasting an abundant natural resource;
- the commercial industry's commitment to following the humane procedures outlined in the code of practice and investing in ongoing animal welfare research;
- the level of transparency and traceability of the commercial industry due to existing regulatory controls such as licensing, tagging, reporting and auditing;
- the comparative environmental benefit of kangaroo meat and leather due to the low carbon footprint of kangaroos;
- the value of the commercial industry to the economy, to the livelihoods of rural and regional Australians and to the environment; and
- the damage ongoing campaigning against the commercial kangaroo industry has on the reputation of Australia internationally and, therefore, on the reputation of all Australian export industries.

Our recommendations to the Committee:

- An urgent review into the animal welfare impacts of exclusion fencing on all native animals and their migratory patterns, population surveys to include fenced areas and the establishment of migration corridors.
- A single code of practice for the commercial harvest and non-commercial culling that increase the requirements around shooter competency, licensing and mandatory tagging and reporting to meet those of the commercial industry.
- The reintroduction of drop tags for culling under a damage mitigation permit and greater policing as well as incentives for landholders to use commercial harvesters to control kangaroo numbers.
- Authority for rangers to enter a private property to inspect carcasses to increase the rigour around checking for and penalising against illegal activity.

We appreciate the Committee's time and review of this submission. We hope this Inquiry results in practical and reasonable changes that further our common goal to protect the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW and recognises the value of the commercial kangaroo industry in achieving this objective.

Your sincerely,

A.O.and S.M.a'Beckett