

Submission
No 130

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 13 April 2021

Partially
Confidential

Dear Committee

I am a former resident of NSW and have spent most of my life in Sydney.

I love kangaroos, and now live amongst them in Adelaide where I now call home.

It has always surprised and irked me how quick we are to claim kangaroos as a national icon, whether that be on the coat of arms, as the logo for our national airline or in various other ways, but yet commit this horrific crime against them all over this country every night. It is time that kangaroos be treated with an empathy that matches the public face of our love for this unique and special creature.

I urge this committee to seriously consider the need to cause so much harm to these animals that we as a nation and the world hold so dear. Kangaroos face ever-increasing threats from climate change, bushfires and drought, which act as natural population controls.

Apart from the moral obligation we have not to cause suffering, there is no reliable data or evidence to support the supposed high numbers of kangaroo which is used to justify the use of exclusion fencing and culling of kangaroos and joeys. There must be more transparency and rigour about how we calculate population numbers. Current methods are imprecise and biased, noting that these animals can quickly travel large distances.

We must also put an end to the commercial slaughter of kangaroos. It is unthinkable that the government sanctions the murder of our most iconic native animal for nothing more than meat and leather. We should be working to protect these animals from the climate and land clearing pressures it faces, not contributing to its demise.

I want to thank Mark Pearson for his tireless work to make this inquiry a reality. I hope the committee seizes this opportunity to give genuine consideration to the mis-treatment of kangaroos, and correct the wrongs of the past.