

Submission
No 139

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Date 21/4/2021

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 Ms Faehrmann MLC,

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

[Organisation/Individual] welcomes the inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales and appreciates the opportunity to make a submission. I 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 about conservation and meat industries so that we can find the best way in which the State's residents can live harmoniously with kangaroos, protect the biodiversity of the land and continue to live off the land.

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

We ask the Committee to consider:

- The different approaches required for threatened and non-threatened species.
- The recent drop in population numbers following the severe drought in the context of the long-term population trends.
- The importance of kangaroo population management for conservation and animal welfare.
 - o 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 and illegal culling.
 - o Sometimes conservation measures can be counterintuitive. In other words, to serve the health and wellbeing of all macropod and native species, population management of a small percentage of abundant species in certain areas might be necessary.
- The role commercial harvesting can play in providing a responsible alternative to culling.
 - o A commercial harvest is more strictly regulated and qualified commercial harvesters are highly skilled, ensuring better animal welfare outcomes than other population management methods.
 - o Without a commercial industry, population management would still be required but the meat and skins would be discarded.
- The most humane methods of harvesting kangaroos and euthanasing young according to the experts.
- The level of transparency and traceability of the commercial industry due to existing regulatory controls such as licensing, tagging, reporting and auditing.
- The genuine concern and care that commercial harvesters have for the health and wellbeing of kangaroos.

- The environmental impact and animal welfare outcomes of the commercial kangaroo industry compared to other meat industries.
- The value of the commercial industry to the economy, to the livelihoods of rural and regional Australians and to the environment.
- 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.

As such, our recommendations to the Committee are:

- An urgent review into the animal welfare impacts of exclusion fencing on all native animals.
- An updated non-commercial code that aligns more closely with the commercial code.
- Reintroduction of drop tags for animals that are culled under a damage mitigation permit and greater policing.
- Authority for rangers to enter a private property to inspect carcasses, similar to fish inspectors, and take appropriate action for animals found without tags.
- Mandatory recording of joey deaths by harvesters.

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.