

**Submission
No 154**

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. I am concerned about the way that farmers (and others who kill macropods) are granted permits to shoot wallabies. For example, a neighboring farmer was granted a permit to shoot wallabies during the 2019 drought, which could have wiped out the local population. I imagine that the context is similar in other rural areas where farmers have virtual carte blanche to kill kangaroos and wallabies.

It is not clear to me how NPWS can determine whether there are "too many" kangaroos or wallabies to issue permits. I understand that NPWS staff have been instructed by their hierarchy to issue permits to farmers and have little power to deal with complaints by persons who oppose the killing. There also seems to be limited to no monitoring or oversight by NPWS regarding the disposal of the bodies.

I call on the government to educate farmers and (others who kill macropods) that these native species should not be viewed as vermin. Farmers should be educated about practices that do not involve killing macropods, such as the use of livestock guardian dogs or electric fencing, etc.

It would also be useful to have scientific research into how much grass and/or damage macropods may cause. I suspect that farmers exaggerate how much grass or damage macropods do. My observations of wallabies in my area is that they do not eat a lot especially compared to cattle who do far more damage to the land. The terrible practices of many conventional farmers do far more damage than native species but there is very limited recognition of this fact. Farmers should be educated about rotational grazing and other regenerative practices which would make their farms healthier.

Given that macropods have evolved in this country, there are no doubt many benefits they bring to the landscape that science may not yet have discovered. First Nations are likely to have a wealth of knowledge that could help to direct research into the beneficial relationship between the land and the macropods.

A cultural shift is urgently needed to change the attitudes of many Australians towards macropods, including they are represented in the media.

The loss of macropod habitat is also concerning as the foot print of humans encroaches on an ever greater area of land. The habitat of endangered macropods should be fully and permanently protected.

Best regards, Louise Taylor