

**Submission  
No 180**

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

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**Submission to**  
**NSW Legislative Council**

**Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales**

Thank you for the chance to make a submission.

I urge all committee members to watch 'Kangaroo: A Love-Hate Story'. By doing so you will find valuable insights into the cruel treatment of kangaroos. Please click on the following link: <https://kangaroothemovie.com>

After watching this film, the committee will understand why this senseless slaughter must be stopped as soon as possible.

**Commercial Slaughter**

The commercial slaughter of kangaroos is the largest of land-based wildlife massacres in the world. NSW and Queensland are the two largest killers of kangaroos for the commercial industry. This is done for profit.

**Cruelty**

**Adults** - Every night in remote areas of the outback, thousands of kangaroos are shot for their flesh and skins. Those that are wounded and escape, endure a long and horrendously painful death. Those injured and unable to escape are beheaded and strung up on vehicles.

The Code requires a single shot to the head, but even conservative estimates suggest that more than tens of thousands of those commercially 'processed' are not killed in this way.

**Joeys** - are bludgeoned to death (as the Code advises) beside their mothers, or decapitated, or left to suffer slow and painful deaths from exposure, thirst, starvation. or being killed by predators.

The "Shot in the Dark" report estimates the numbers of dependent young to be some 440,000. [A Report on *Kangaroo* Harvesting. Prepared by Dror Ben-Ami, PhD, Wildlife ecologist.]

**Atrocities** - The 'Kangaroos Alive' exposé reveals many atrocities. It shows kangaroos beaten to death.

It demonstrates that the shooter failed to meet the minimum requirements set out in the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies, where "a shooter must aim so as to hit the target kangaroo or wallaby in the brain". And they get away with it, because the code is not policed.

## **Sustainability/Population estimates**

In 'Kangaroo: A Love-Hate Story', scientists warn that estimates of kangaroo numbers are way off-target, with faulty counting methods and inflated numbers.

There are increasing droughts, fires, floods and destruction of habitat. It is unbelievable that we may face a future where our iconic kangaroo is but a memory. Many kangaroo populations are already regionally extinct.

## **Hygiene – Contamination - Health risks**

Hygiene is rare with kangaroo shooters, because they are unable to carry more than 20 litres of water. This is mainly for personal use; there is insufficient water for the shooter to wash down areas where blood has collected.

During butchery, the blood and the spotlight attract flies and other insects, which crawl over the carcasses laying their eggs.

When the shooter moves to a new location the carcasses left on the racks become contaminated with dirt and the dried faeces of sheep and cattle because of the dust and dirt disturbed by the vehicle wheels.

Because carcasses are not always taken to 'chillers' before sunrise, as required, they are exposed to heat and flies. The carcasses can be exposed to the elements for up to 8 hours before being chilled.

Carcasses may be stored in field chillers and may not be transported to processors for up to 14 days after being shot.

Dr Ben-Ami's report (referred to above) also includes material on contamination.

Unsurprisingly, Russia banned kangaroo meat imports due to unacceptable levels of E.coli bacteria. But, the list of pathogens is very alarming, and includes Toxoplasma gondii, Salmonella spp.

Sulphites are used in pet food which can cause brain damage and death in cats and dogs.

Kangaroos carry parasites and diseases that can threaten human health.

Kangaroo meat has more L-carnitine per gram than any other red meat, and it is associated with the build-up of plaque in arteries which causes heart attacks, strokes and vascular disease.

**Zoonotic diseases:** COVID-19 is out of control globally, but the NSW wildlife trade continues. Widely accepted European research states that 3 out of 4 emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic. <https://sentientmedia.org/coronavirus-should-make-you-reconsider-eating-meat/> March, 2020

Zoonotic diseases are transmitted from animals (wild and farmed, alive and slaughtered) to humans. COVID-19 is just one such virus.

### **Other countries are banning kangaroo imports**

California has banned all kangaroo imports. And a bi-partisan Bill has been proposed to the US government to ban all kangaroo imports, due to its extreme animal cruelty, and the death of thousands of kangaroos and other species in the 2019-20 bushfires.

*Sources:* Animal Justice Party, Animals Australia, Australia's Kangaroos, Lindy Stacker - 40 years studying this issue, including working with environment organisations and the NSW Government's Kangaroo Advisory Review Committee on this issue, Dr Jane Goodall, David Benatar - NYT

### **Conclusion**

I implore the committee to end the cruelty to and slaughter of kangaroos,

Charles Davis  
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