

**Submission
No 187**

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

Name: Ms Nicole Ford
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Key points

1. The commercial slaughter of kangaroos is the **largest of land-based wildlife massacres in the world** – All for profit. **NSW** is one of the two largest states killing kangaroos for the commercial industry. (Qld is the other)

2. Cruelty

- a) Adults: Every night in remote areas of the outback, thousands of these gentle animals graze peacefully, stand up on hearing an approaching vehicle, stare into a blinding spotlight, and are shot for their flesh and skins.
- b) Adult kangaroos who are wounded and escape, endure a long and horrendously painful death. Those injured and unable to escape are beheaded and strung up on utes. The Code requires a single shot to the head, but even conservative estimates suggest that more than tens of thousands commercially 'processed' are not killed in this manner.
- c) Joeys: are bludgeoned to death (as the Code advises) beside their mothers, or decapitated, or left to suffer a slow and painful death 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. – Dr Dror Ben-Ami, wildlife ecologist
- d) Just one example of daily atrocities - 'Kangaroos Alive' - exposé:
 - "So he has been beaten to death. He died from secondary trauma. The bullet wasn't the primary cause of death." – Photos.
 - "The video shows how five kangaroos were brutally beaten to death. 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"."

3. Sustainability/Population estimates

As highlighted in the highly-acclaimed 'Kangaroo: A Love-Hate Story', scientists warn that estimates of kangaroo numbers are way off-target, with faulty counting methods and hugely inflated numbers.

Add to this increasing drought, fires, floods, destruction of habitat, we may face a future where this iconic native animal is nothing but a memory. Many kangaroo populations are already regionally extinct.

4. Hygiene – Contamination - Health risks

Our disrespect for, and cruelty to animals has led to COVID-19 - Jane Goodall, and David Benatar – New York Times

- a) The level of hygiene is practically non-existent, the shooter is unable to carry more than 20 lts of water and this is usually for his personal use, he is unable to wash down any areas where blood has collected. During the time the

Kangaroos are being butchered, the blood and the spotlight attracts flies and other insects which crawl over the carcass laying eggs.

The carcasses are left hanging on the racks whilst the shooter drives to a new location, during the drive the carcasses become contaminated with dirt and the dried faeces of sheep and cattle churned up by the wheels of the vehicle. [“transported in the open air, gathering dust and flies.”](#)

Carcasses are not always taken to ‘chillers’ before sunrise, as required, exposing them to more heat and flies. They can be exposed to the elements for up to 8 hours before they’re chilled.

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

- b) Dr Ben-Ami’s report also includes material on contamination.
- c) Russia banned kangaroo meat imports due to unacceptable levels of E.coli bacteria. However, the list of pathogens is very alarming, and includes Toxoplasma gondii, Salmonella spp.

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

- d) As wild-shot wildlife, kangaroos carry [many parasites and diseases](#) that can threaten human health.
- e) Kangaroo meat also has more L-carnitine per gram than any other red meat, and is associated with the build-up of plaque in arteries which causes heart attacks, strokes and vascular disease.
- f) Zoonotic diseases: At a time when COVID-19 is spiralling out of control globally, the NSW wildlife trade continues unabated. 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, i.e. transmitted from animals (wild and farmed, alive and slaughtered) to humans. COVID-19 is just one of them.

5 California has banned all kangaroo imports.

Right now, a bi-partisan Bill to the USA government has been proposed to ban all kangaroo imports. Reasons include extreme animal cruelty and the death of thousands (along with other animal species) in the 2019-20 bushfires.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

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