

**Submission
No 201**

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

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Our “Wake In Fright” Reality – NSW Kangaroo Inquiry

Kangaroos are beautiful iconic Australian mammals, and yet here in Australia they are treated so cruelly and inhumanely to the point that the rest of the world is mystified by our national hatred of macropods. I know this for a fact because I am from Europe, and no-one in my family or amongst my friends there understands why we are so savage to an animal that we use to show off about ourselves in many warm and fuzzy overseas advertising campaigns.

I am not an expert in macropods, but I am an animal lover and I find the cruelty meted out to these beautiful Australian creatures deeply distressing.

That we are hunting these beautiful animals into oblivion with nary a thought about conservation or humanity, just beggars belief, and that we permit all this savagery to happen in the wild and under the cloak of darkness with no regulatory scrutiny whatsoever, only highlights our national tendency towards cruelty to animals.

For some time, kangaroos and macropods have been at the mercy of commercial and non-commercial slaughter, urban development, wide-scale land clearing, and the menacing arrival of acres and acres of exclusion fencing. As a result, their habitat and wildlife corridors have essentially been extinguished.

It is not for no reason that Australia has the largest mammalian extinction in the world, and sadly the Canadian writer, Margaret Atwood, called it accurately on a visit to Tasmania’s forests and saving the swift parrot when she said, “extinction is a choice.”

Thank you for considering the health and well-being of kangaroos and macropods.

Submitted by Sue Abbott