

Submission  
No 205

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

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I wish to submit my submission to address both the relevant issues raised by this inquiry as well as including some of the less known or deliberately hidden facts of the kangaroo industry, as I believe there needs to be a holistic view when it comes to these much maligned animals. Kangaroos are native to Australia and have been living and surviving here for millennia. White man arrives and determines they are pests, why? Because they eat the crops the farmers have grown for farm animals (that are going to be killed); and they hop into fences ruining them, costing the farmers money in repairs. What they don't understand is; kangaroos have been bounding through the open plains of this country since they came into existence. The farmers are providing food for them, attracting them to their properties. What do farmers do? Shoot them. They caused the problem in the first place! Below I have placed a link, showing some graphic footage, regarding a story of a professional kangaroo shooter. The narrative goes on about how this guy is doing it tough to scrape out a meagre living; how he is a good shot and kills the kangaroos with one shot, and how humanely he does it. He claims to only shoot the males, as they are generally heavier and he will get paid more for them. He makes out he is doing it ethically, unlike some farmers, who "gut shoot" the kangaroos and leave them to hop off and die a painful death somewhere. The further on you read into the article, the more you see the lies and contradictions between what he says he does verses what he actually does. He admits he can't kill them all humanely because they only have a brain that is 70mm big (a small target). He admits he "gut shoots" kangaroos and had two hop off and die a painful death somewhere. He admits to shooting female kangaroos. He admits to reaching into the pouches of the females he shot and taking out their baby joeys, and smashing their skulls into the ground killing them too. People who abuse and kill animals for a living always try to make out they are nice guys and do things ethically or humanely or love the animals. However, the longer you can get them to talk, the more you realise they aren't telling the truth and are hypocrites who know they are doing the wrong thing and are covering up their horrors. They know they have no witnesses to corroborate their stories, so they say whatever they like, and the gullible public and politicians unquestioningly believe every word they say. Here is a link I would like you to read, which proves every point I made about Kangaroo shooters and how they lie and don't follow any rules or regulatory and compliance mechanisms to ensure that commercial and non-commercial killing of kangaroos and other macropods is undertaken according to the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and other relevant regulations or codes. <https://abc.net.au/news/2018-07-04/kangaroo-shooting-night-in-the-life/9790636> Here is an article from the Australian Wildlife Protection Council written by a first nations person; Ro Godwin. She says ignorance is what the Kangaroo Killing Industry thrives on. "It's what the Kangaroo Killing Industry and their affiliates don't tell you that is of greatest concern. As an Indigenous woman, I've been exposing the Kangaroo Killing Industry for decades and

I'm always amazed at the spin people blindly believe about kangaroos including that "Indigenous people ate them for thousands of years". No, actually many of us didn't and indeed don't. You see, Kangaroo are a Sacred Totem Animal to many of we Indigenous people. They are a Creator Spirit and The Dreaming of Country and holding Kangaroo as Totem means for many Indigenous people we never ate it, or eat it ... ever." She continues to talk about the amount and different types of worms, the bacterial, parasitic and fungal diseases. How Toxoplasmosis and Salmonellosis are affecting kangaroos and human health through the handling, processing or consumption of infected kangaroo meat. There is also independent analyses from the past 20 years consistently turned up kangaroo meat that harboured the salmonella bacterium and other bacterial contaminants. This comes from the way that shooting and transport in the wild occurs. Slaughtered kangaroos are "transported in the open air, gathering dust and flies"; stored in field chillers; and may not be transported to processors for up to 14 days after being shot. The fact that kangaroo shooters are being instructed to spray down kangaroo carcasses with acetic acid (combats pathogens) is also kept well hidden from you, the public. The cyst-forming tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* entered Australia on sheep and now affects Kangaroos as intermediate hosts. She sums it up by saying: "For too long this brutal Industry of wretched animal cruelty has crept along under the radar, the time is long overdue for this slaughter of The Dreaming to be shown in all its reality." <http://awpc.org.au/health-alert-bush-meat/> Below is a typical example of the narrative by the media and how they perpetuate the kangaroo killing industry's deliberate misrepresentations about the alleged benefits of killing and consuming kangaroos as well as falsifying their numbers to the public. Victorian Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas said the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning estimated the current kangaroo population was almost 2 million across Victoria, up almost 40 per cent compared to 2018; but where did that figure come from? Typically there is an "extrapolation count" done from an aerial flyover of a defined area. This is an inaccurate way to perform any census. If you could imagine counting the people living in a skyscraper apartment block in the city, then extrapolating those numbers nationwide, that is, in effect what you are doing when carrying out the current census of kangaroos - getting a "mob" of them and saying that is typical of the numbers everywhere - it's a ludicrous method of counting the population; it is highly inaccurate and should be stopped! The minister is reported to have said "There's an abundance of kangaroos at the moment competing for food with livestock and so this is also about making sure we have a sustainable number of kangaroos in the state." Really? This statement is coming out of her mouth after the worst bushfire season this country has had in living memory; a bushfire season, in which an estimated 3,000,000,000 land animals perished. (Source: <https://www.wwf.org.au/news/news/2020/3-billion-animals-impacted-byaustralia-bushfire-crisis>)

How can she seriously be mentioning "an abundance of kangaroos at the moment"? Not to mention the usual trope line of kangaroos competing for food with livestock. What!?! It's not a competition, go and drive out of Sydney, drive for hours and hours. You will see there aren't mobs of kangaroos eating the food that is designated for livestock, as a matter of fact, you will be struggling to see ANY kangaroos at all! In October 2020 I drove eight hours north of Sydney, and did not see one living kangaroo. I saw thousands of cows fenced in paddocks, and there was not a kangaroo in sight "competing for their food". Later on in December 2020, I drove 7 hours north west of Sydney, once again I did not see one living kangaroo. I saw thousands of cows fenced in paddocks, and there was not a kangaroo in sight "competing for their food". Where are all these kangaroos, where is the competition for food? It isn't there, it's only a false narrative put out by farmers and swallowed up by the media, politicians and anyone else who is gullible enough to swallow that line. The fact that the Kangaroo Harvesting Program will now include meat for human consumption and the quota in 2021 is 95,680 kangaroos, an increase of 37,780 from last year is incredibly destructive and can not seriously be taken as a way to prevent extinction. The fact is, kangaroos are very careful about how they eat their food. When they eat a clump of grass they will only eat a portion of the grass, leaving some to continue to grow and let photosynthesis do its job and replenish the grass; whereas cows and other introduced ruminants "rip" the grass out of the ground roots and all, leaving nothing left, removing a layer topsoil that isn't easily replaced. They are the animals doing the damage to the environment, not the native animals who have successfully been self-sustaining for millennia. Kangaroos help the environment by spreading seeds and their large soft footprints also reduce the impact on the environment, as opposed to hard hooved animals. The minister was also quoted as saying "Like the kangaroo harvest program for pet food, only trained professional shooters are authorised to participate in the program," Ms Thomas said. "They must abide by the national code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos." My questions about this code of practice are: 1) Who is watching them abide by this code of practice? (You are literally just taking their word for it, that they are) 2) Have there ever been any charges laid against a shooter for not abiding by the national code of practice for humane shooting? (Unlikely, as they operate in the dead of night unsupervised.) They say "Cruelty to animals is not tolerated and will not be tolerated." If that is the case how do you explain what is happening to at foot joeys and not being cruel. They literally watch or hear their mother being shot, they are ripped out of her pouch, grabbed by their feet and swung with force into the back of a ute, tow ball the ground or have their head stomped on or hit with a baseball bat. If you think that is not cruel, then I think you might be in need of mental help by a qualified professional. (Source: Victorian kangaroo meat heading to supermarket shelves under expanded harvest plan <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-28/kangaroo-harvest-expands-to->

include-meat-forhuman-consumption/13098870) Land clearing is out of control and have been doubling over the previous decade. It has no penalty for the farmers who "unexplainably" clear hectares of land, all the while being supported by the Agriculture Minister, Adam Marshall, who says the usual deliberately misrepresentative line the state's farmers were "the best environmental stewards we have in NSW – their businesses depend on a sustainable environment". As a matter of fact, they are the worst offenders when it came to land clearing, their business revolves around destroying the land, not looking after it. Take a look at any old photos of a farmers property and the compare it to the state it is in now, you will see the land is worse off than it used to be. There are less trees and the ground, in some cases is nothing but a dust bowl. It is like leaving Dracula in charge of the blood bank. (Sources: NSW farmers accelerate land-clearing rates, doubling previous decade <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/nsw-farmers-accelerate-land-clearingrates-doubling-previous-decade-20200701-p5581j.html>) <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-vegetation/landcovermonitoring-and-reporting/2018-landcover-change-reporting/unexplained-clearing> The increase on exclusion fencing for kangaroos is deadly for kangaroos. The fences can quite easily go for hundreds of metres, leaving them disorientated and sometimes, with no other alternative, but to go back the way they came, forcing them to cross back over the road into the path of an oncoming vehicle traveling at speeds of up to 100 kph. It is well past time to have this inquiry and come to the conclusion that kangaroos are being exterminated to the point of extinction. Enough of the lies by the vested interests and let the facts speak for themselves to save the populations of kangaroos for future generations of the world.