

Submission  
No 219

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

**Organisation:** AI Topper

**Date Received:** 22 April 2021

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**AI TOPPER**  
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22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021

Chair of the NSW Upper House Portfolio Committee 7 - Planning and Environment  
Legislative Council  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via: Parliament of NSW Committees website

Dear Ms Faehrmann MLC,

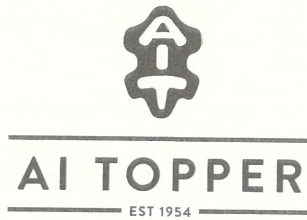
**Submission to the inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW**

AI Topper are pleased to provide a submission as part of the NSW Parliamentary inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW.

We fully support a regulated commercial industry that operates within parameters that are sustainable, humane and tightly controlled for reasons discussed in the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia's (KIAA's) submission to this inquiry. When discussing ways in which we can optimise outcomes that address biodiversity, rural communities and conservation of all native animal species in New South Wales, it is imperative that this inquiry focuses on the science and facts at hand.

We welcome this opportunity to evaluate current structures in place – both scientific and regulatory – and the potential to improve upon policies and process where possible.

It is essential that this inquiry recognises the pivotal role that the commercial industry plays in kangaroo management for conservation, and fully understands the potential increase in alternative culling in the absence of a controlled and regulated commercial industry. This scenario would have far-reaching consequences on both kangaroos and rural communities across Australia.



In line with the KIAA submission to this inquiry, we ask the Committee to consider and evaluate:

- Different management approaches and regulations required for threatened and non-threatened species;
- Long –term population trends in the context of regular periods of drought/floods and other significant weather patterns over time;
- Ongoing research and commitment by the commercial industry to ensure that the health and wellbeing of kangaroos is given priority;
- The key role that kangaroo population management plays in conservation and animal welfare;
  - Without population management, healthy kangaroo species would increase beyond the capacity of the land and would directly result in increased incidences of non-commercial and illegal culling which have been shown to have far poorer animal welfare outcomes.
  - Population management of a small number of abundant species in certain areas might be necessary to protect the biodiversity of a greater number of native species.
- The role commercial harvesting can play in providing a responsible and regulated alternative to culling;
  - A commercial harvest involves regulations, audits, tags and reporting which ensures far better animal welfare outcomes than other illegal and/or uncontrolled population management methods.
  - In the absence of a commercial industry, population management would still be required but the meat and skins would be discarded – a scenario which then has its own set of environmental impacts to consider and manage.
- The kangaroo meat and leather industries have significantly better environmental impact outcomes than alternative meat or leather substrates which is well recognised in global scoring metrics

Following on from these considerations, our recommendations to the Committee are:

- An urgent review into exclusion fencing and their impact on all native animals.
- Aligning and updating the non-commercial code to more closely reflect the commercial code.
- Increased control and policing of damage mitigation permits.
- Authority for rangers to enter a private property to inspect carcasses, and to take appropriate action for animals found without tags.
- Mandatory recording of joey deaths by harvesters.



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We thank you for your consideration of our submission and look forward to viewing the outcomes of this inquiry. We hope that you are able to effect change that optimises the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW, whilst at the same time balances the needs of rural communities and recognises the valuable role that the commercial kangaroo industry plays in the ethical, sustainable and humane treatment of kangaroos.