

**Submission
No 260**

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

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Date Received: 27 April 2021

I always thought as a child that Australia was a caring and commendable place when it came to its native animals being the overseers of such unique species in such diversity. More recently my eyes have been opened by the bushfires and the subsequent treatment of kangaroos and macropods since then.

The bushfires killed millions of precious irreplaceable wildlife of which kangaroos were many. Yet the government of Australia and of NSW in particular Deed to allow the continuation of the kangaroo meat and skin industry.

This industry sees kangaroos slaughtered in their thousands and in the most unimaginable and excruciatingly painful way.

Often the mothers have joeys at foot and in pouch. Hunters hunting at night often miss their targets and therefore these beautiful and essential animals are often left running for their lives into the Forrest and often destined to die a slow and extremely painful death. Their jaws are shot of which stops them from eating and from feeding their young if they were also lucky enough to stay with their mothers. Other kangaroos are shot in the spine and paralysed but still alive watching their joeys bludgeoned to death in front of them. This is nothing short of barbaric and very much against the whole standard of respect of creatures. This is all condoned by governments. Together with the hunters that hold licences for the killing industry it encourages roused hunters with no licences but out to name and kill these beautiful iconic innocent animals to make a quick buck or just for their own twisted sadistic pleasure.

Kangaroos as you well know are wild animals not in their own right plastered all over many many of Australia's own brands let alone its coat of arms. Being wild animals kangaroos carry the own bio microbes in their stomachs which if consumed by humans can most definitely be attributed to a potential repeat of a new pandemic and a COVID style one at that. Often the bodies are driven miles before being loaded into a refrigerated truck.

The government perpetuates the constant horrific attitude to kangaroos by their continued use of such phrases as pests. These animals are not pests they are living breathing beings that are paramount to the growth and enrichment of beautiful Australia and its amazing eco system which is rapidly being eroded by the governments insistence on building and concreting over the open spaces that these precious creatures use as home. Everywhere there are barbaric barbed wire fences that cause SLO and terrifying deaths to the kangaroos that get entangled in them along with the many busy uncontrolled roads (in terms of speeding drivers) that constantly take down the numbers often leaving joeys without their mothers and horrific injuries that mean unless seen and helped by dedicated and sympathetic carers and public would be left to suffer the most excruciating deaths.

The figures that your government source for the kangaroo culling is far from the actual figures the reality is that too many are being killed leaving numbers depleted to the point of threatens extinction.

I put it to you that if Australia would only see sense and stop defiling the invaluable kangaroos and start promoting visit from eco tourists to setting up scientific enabled study centres you will not need to kill and slaughter these significant animals but let them help Australia be world leaders in the promotion of eco and bio regeneration.