

**Submission  
No 274**

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

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**Date Received:** 23 April 2021

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23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021

**Re: Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales inquiry**

Dear Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer up a submission in relation to this countries iconic and globally loved native animal the kangaroo.

I operate a shelter for kangaroos in Central Victoria and on Easter Sunday 2020 an adolescent male kangaroo named Eddy broke his leg. A vet in Central NSW offered to perform orthopaedic surgery (free of charge) which ultimately saved Eddy's life.

With a COVID permit in hand I did a 12 hour round trip of driving, covering approximately 900 kilometres.

Over that 12 hour period, I saw only 3 dead kangaroos on the side of the road and a small family of 4 alive which were no doubt the remaining 4 of a larger mob slaughtered in central Victoria. **I saw NO alive kangaroos in NSW.**

The constant slaughter and cruelty our native animal is subjected to every night across this country is an international disgrace and we are now at the cross roads as to who will have their names forever listed against the inevitable extinction of the kangaroo in our history books. Localised extinction is already occurring through development, shooting, exclusion fencing and human apathy and ignorance.

When will the Australian government stand up and say; "We care for our ancient and beautiful First Australians the kangaroo?". The beauty of this nation will be lost when the song of the kangaroos tail pounding the earth stops. It will be an echo-less and barren landscape.

Which of our decision makers have heard the pitiful squeak of a baby kangaroo crying out to its mother as it is ripped from her pouch to have its head smashed against the bulbar of the slaughterman's vehicle then tossed like garbage alongside it's mothers entrails? This baby will never have known how to hop, will never have played with other youngster and will never have the chance to reproduce.

A female kangaroo can only have ONE baby a year; just like a human female.

They cannot sustain entire families being slaughtered every night, night after night with the expectation to continue breeding as their alpha males are taken and they simply reach a tipping point of no return.

People can see lions here in Zoos but what people most desire is to see them in the wild in Africa. This is why people come to Australia. To see our kangaroos in the wild. Our 6 billion dollar nature based industry is being lost. The world now views us the way we view the Canadians clubbing baby seals or the Chinese boiling dogs alive.

The trophy for the largest land based slaughter of a native wildlife on the planet sits squarely on the mantel in Parliament house.



*Eddy recovered from his surgery to return to his mob and run free. He NEVER forgot the kindness shown to him. He would express love to me every day. These animals are sentient beings that love, protect and mourn their family losses. The fact we are responsible for such cruelty to an incredibly kind and gentle animal is a shame we must all wear as a nation.*

It is time this insidious and horrendously cruel and shameful industry has a new broom come through and sweep clean.

The kangaroo cannot maintain this pace of slaughter, nor should the Australian people be given sugar-coated lies to accept what happens as they sleep. These points are just as valid in NSW as they are in VIC. This is a national problem which NSW has the opportunity to lead using a moral compass;

1. **Ethical** –

Kangaroos are **NOT** farmed. They are a wild animal running free. The industry recently went on ABC (Wodonga) radio to deny killing the females with joeys in their pouches. **FALSE**. Not only do they kill the females, the “code” dictates they rip these joeys from their mother’s pouches and smash their heads on the ground to kill them. They claim the shooters (all 53 of them across the entire state of Vic) are trained in accuracy. **TRUE** – but let’s look at that. They sit their accuracy tests in a shooting range, during the day in near perfect conditions. We’d all be pretty accurate in that situation. Now consider that kangaroos are hunted down in the dead of night and suddenly you are shooting from the back of a vehicle, bouncing over rough terrain, in the dark and in all types of weather conditions with an animal fleeing at high speed. How accurate do you think you’d be there? As a shelter operator I can tell you the injuries are soul destroying for the ones that manage to get away. A female kangaroo with her jaw blown off unable to tend to her pouch young and have them both starve to death is hardly *ethical*.



2. **Sustainable -**

"When you talk to macropod specialists, when you talk to ecologists, kangaroos can increase their population by **up to** ten per cent in a really good year," Cr Vincent from the Alpine Shire said.

"That's with great grazing conditions and no catastrophic fires. So to say that we've had an increase in population of 40 per cent since 2018 to 2020, over a two-year period, is just not scientifically possible."

The Victorian Government reports:

2018 – 1.4m kangaroos > 2020 – 1.9. kangaroos with a loss of 650,000 since 2018.

So, the numbers do not add up and **NO** count was done in 2020. These figures were done by desktop modelling. (So guesswork)

With kangaroos only capable of having one joey per year, they cannot replace themselves and their seemingly increase in numbers is them simply fleeing to new areas in search of safety.

Sourced through the Freedom of Information Act (Vic) experts for the industry write; *"threatens the sustainability of future kangaroo populations"*.

This is an industry driven by profit, and that alone. Do you believe they will not overshoot in the dead of night? A few people are getting rich at the expense of killing off our native animal and threatening the \$6 billion-dollar nature-based tourism industry.

3. **Good for you -**

A profit driven industry will bury facts that threaten anything that stops the money rolling in.

It wasn't that long ago that Obesity Australia and a Professor of medicine from Monash University warned people about L-carnitine, a compound associated with the build-up of plaque in arteries which causes heart attacks, strokes and vascular disease. Kangaroo meat has more L-carnitine per gram than any other red meats. Plus there is the natural need for kangaroos to carry a naturally heavy parasite load. (Wild animals cannot be wormed)

Here are 3 threadworms, two are over 30 cms long and naturally expelled by a healthy and robust young buck. Mothers pass these and all other parasites across to their babies to build immunity.



The “Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales” was established to report on the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods. Their health and wellbeing relies on them being allowed to live in peace and in dignity on their traditional lands and to stop their need to run for their lives night after night.

Is it safe to say our First Australian’s are *refugee’s* in their own country? The only difference being one party is armed and the other is not.

## refugee

*n.* One who flees, especially to another country, seeking refuge from war, political oppression, religious persecution, or a natural disaster.

It is time for Australia to start showing respect to an animal that is our host. It is not the other way around. Please remember this.

With thanks,

Nikki Medwell