

Submission
No 302

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 24 April 2021

Partially
Confidential

An observation of Macropods for submission to the NSW Inquiry into their continued Slaughter.



These young Adult Kangaroos are members of the small mob that survived the devastating bushfires that tore through Bundjalung National Park near Iluka NSW in late 2019 and early 2020. Prior to the bushfires as you entered Iluka on the Northern Rivers Coast, you would be met by large numbers of Kangaroos lounging on the Golf Course, and through the dunes adjacent to the Iluka Nature Reserve. That is no longer the case. As you enter Iluka, the golf course is still there, the trees are growing new leaves, but the Kangaroos are not there. If you walk into the Nature Park and through Bundjalung you occasionally see a solo Kangaroo and if you walk all the way up to the Middle bluff through the National park, here you will find the last of the mob. The mob is small, a few young animals with Joeys. The Big Buck, he is not there, his knowledge on how to migrate and where to travel for food and water gone with him.

There is an obvious and visible reduction in numbers of all wildlife, including Kangaroos.

I have been a volunteer with Native Animal Rescue for many years and possibly have an interest in Kangaroos that may be more than the average person. I go to places seeking injured animals that others may not. What I see is less Kangaroos where they should be, in forests and bushland and more animals in areas where they should not be, stuck in Highway mediums, stuck along highway barrier fences, and in small degraded patches of land between housing developments.

The new Pacific Motorway has installed good and many crossing points where the National parks are on its boundaries. They are good but do not stop the death of animals on the road. Recently an Emu was struck and killed after the most recent flooding when it left the flooded canefields and entered up onto the road, similarly Kangaroos also have been hit on the Pacific Highway that leads to the New Clarence River Bridge at Harwood.

The government talks of knowing the populations of Macropods. Do you know how many macropods are killed on the road? As a rescuer I am required to advise of any animal I attend dead or alive. The figures supplied to the organisation I volunteer with are used for funding purposes and I believe are sent to the government. Where are these figures.? How many Macropods are dying on our roads and where is it happening, and why, and more importantly, what are you doing about it.

As a rescuer, I know that most Macropods hit by cars die. They cannot survive and many of their joeys also die.

It is Heartbreaking. This is our iconic internationally recognised Animal.



Additionally I have observed over the last 25 years what is a considered and targeted campaign by the Kangaroo Meat Industry and the Farming Industry, sadly supported by Government to change the perceptions people have of Kangaroos. This is easily read about in industry minutes. They openly state that is their intention, using strategies such as changing the name of their “product” to KROO and KLEATHER to remove the connection between the slaughtered native animal being on their plates and in their dog food. This too has been encouraged by the Farming Sector, who malign the Kangaroo as a pest and have somehow been able to get Government to agree to this sentiment. Based on this new label of “Pest” have been able to source millions of dollars in funding for exclusion fencing and eradication of Kangaroos. We should never have thrown the Macropod under the spotlighting shooters bus in preference of sheep and cattle. The native Kangaroo has been become a revenue earner for people associated with sheep and cattle and the pet food industry and that is a national shame.

Reading through the minutes of the Kangaroo Management Advisory Meetings is alarming. Their own minutes suggest the product is not wanted, which would indicate Australians do not want to buy it, so they source other markets for their dead Kangaroos. Here is a small sample taken from the 2016 Minutes in March. These minutes are all readily available on line to read. And all are similar, looking for markets to sell these dead animals.

MINUTES - KANGAROO MANAGEMENT ADVISORY PANEL

MEETING 27

CASCADES MOTOR INN 147 COBRA STREET DUBBO

Tuesday 15th November, 2016

KIAA

- KIAA rep and owner of Macro Meats, sits on all other State Advisory Boards and believes NSW have the best Management Plan and the best councng methods.
- Weather condions and the large rain event has not been sustainable for Industry and they can never catch up. People just buy other products
- Whether you are for or against male only shoong – cricism from pro groups has decreased because of it.
- Australian domesc markets are tough as there is just not enough product in Supermarkets.
- Overseas markets are sustaining not growing and KIAA believe it is up to the Wholesalers to smulate.
- Europe: Dicules, not so much with meat but leather sales are down. There are not enough people making new things out of kangaroo leather.
- China: The Chinese Government is disjointed, disorganised and dicult to deal with. Aer twelve years of looking at China, Macro Meats do not feel they are any closer but do sll believe they will come on board.
- California: Australia was advised not to push this issue before the American elecon, so now feel as though it has taken a step backwards. Pressure will be increased again next year.
- Paris: Macro Meats have an oppportunity to launch their product in Paris

So on the one hand we have a “Kangaroo Industry” looking for countries and people to buy our shot animals and on the other hand, following on from the Bushfire Royal Commision we have Rural Fire Brigades appointing volunteer Wildlife Officers to address the issue of the loss of life of our Native animals. There are now dedicated volunteers in these organisations who will put their own safety on the line at times of National Disaster to try and save these Kangaroos.

When Billions of dollars are donated from all around the world by people who love our Kangaroos to save them, following our most recent bushfire tragedy, why cannot the government see that ongoing mass slaughter of them by a small industry is not supported by the majority of people. And this is not only Australians who do not support his, Internationally the slaughter of migratory animals is condemned. The hunting of native animals for fur and leather is condemned.

When I was a young woman people all around me and in Australia loved the Kangaroo.

My father would take me to watch them.

No one would hurt one.

Sadly, A committed and dedicated campaign by Industry groups wanting only to profit them has now seen people talk of Lining them up with their bullbars, making statements like “They are Pests and should be culled” and referring to good people like me, who would stop on the side of the road to help a mother and joey in distress as “Snowflakes, greenies, do-gooders or vegans” Making these terms somehow bad and offensive. I am proud to be kind and to love our native animals. But frequently I am abused and name called for this. Somewhere the Australian value system and cordiality towards people who value our Australian Animals and their right to live in peace in this huge country of ours has gone terribly wrong.



Most Australians do not want to allow the last of our Macropods to be shot , run over and denied access to water and foot at the exclusion fence so a few can profit.

Whale harpooners learned new jobs, Kangaroo shooters can too.



I call him Mr Magnificent. He is old and wise and has only one eye and distinct circular patch of fur at the top of his tail.

He lives near my old home in Qld in a protected place. He leads his mob and protects them from Danger, teaching them the migratory path.

He lives in an area of Qld where shooting of Kangaroos for dog food is not allowed.

He is magnificent and he should be respected by all Australians for the magnificent being he is.

He should not be reduced to dog food and sold to Macro Meats or \$57.00.

This is shameful.