

Submission
No 333

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

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Submission: NSW Kangaroo Inquiry

Anne Marks

Terms of Reference focus: Threats to kangaroo and other macropod habitat due to urban development in the Hawkesbury and surrounding areas in NSW.

I have been a licenced wildlife carer with WIRES specialising in the rescue, care and release of macropods for two years. I have lived in the Hawkesbury area for 37 years in a number of areas – Maraylya 2765, Bligh Park 2756, East Kurrajong 2758 and Yarramundi 2753.

Up until ten years ago it was extremely rare to see a dead kangaroo on the side of the road in any area of the Hawkesbury and surrounding areas. Now there are pockets of rural land being used for housing and commercial developments. For example; Jordan Springs 2747, Windsor Downs 2756, Marsden Park 2765, Cattai 2756, Oakville 2765 and Box Hill 2765. Macropods, predominantly Eastern Grey Kangaroo mobs appear to be on the move from these areas due to the loss of habitat, resulting in macropods being hit by motor vehicles particularly on these Hawkesbury roads;

- Cattai Road, Cattai
- Boundary Road, Oakville
- Richmond Road, Windsor Downs and Marsden park
- The Northern Road, Londonderry
- The Driftway, Londonderry

Due to exclusion fencing, often the only way out of housing and commercial developments is directly on to a main road, risking both human and macropod lives. I have personally attended 60 rescues of macropods hit by motor vehicles in a two-year period. The horrific nature of the injuries they sustain is extremely confronting. Often wildlife carers are the only people on the scene in the absence of emergency services. In addition to providing assistance to injured macropods, wildlife carers provide support to members of public who are in distress and in shock after the collision.

I have cared for 23 orphaned joeys from motor vehicle collisions and three from recreational shooters. Six macropods required care when displaced in urban backyards (frightened by humans or attacked by dogs) or trapped in commercial factories.

I own a large rural property; therefore, I accept macropod joeys from surrounding urban areas for eventual release. Macropod joeys require a significant amount of time in care, usually up to one year. I spend on average 6 hours per day, every day caring for joeys and older macropods in addition to full-time employment. Macropods require specialised enclosures and access to suitable release sites. Enclosures, feeding equipment, food and bedding have high financial costs, in addition to the ongoing emotional and physical burden of caring.

Case study: Shelby

Shelby, a female eastern grey kangaroo joey was orphaned when her mother was killed by a recreational shooter. The shooter attempted to care for Shelby for a period of two weeks until she became unwell due to inappropriate care and diet. So, not only was her mother violently killed whilst she was in her pouch, but she continued to suffer at the hands of the shooter through considerable neglect. When Shelby was transferred to WIRES she was emaciated and listless and required extensive support from a licenced wildlife carer under veterinary supervision. Despite this trauma, Shelby made a slow but full recovery and was transferred to my release facility. She was in care from November 2018 until March 2020. Her release was delayed due to the Gospers Mountain bush fire. Shelby required 16 months of 24 hour care because her mother was killed by a shooter.