

Submission
No 336

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

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While wildlife carers are still working day and night rehabilitating burned, otherwise injured, and starving animals, the New South Wales government is allowing permits to be issued for the mass slaughter of kangaroos – often simply because they compete for food with introduced farmed animals raised for meat, leather, and wool.

It's outrageously easy to get a permit to kill kangaroos in NSW – in fact, in New South Wales, it's called a "Licence to Harm" and applicants can even renew over the phone.

Meanwhile, Queensland's commercial slaughter has been halted and the South Australian government has stopped plans to slaughter wallabies on Kangaroo Island after one-third of the island caught fire.

More than 1 billion animals perished in Australia's recent fires. The death toll is high enough.

Droughts and bushfires have decimated our landscapes and the animals that call it home, and yet the government continues to allow permits to be issued for the slaughter of wildlife.

Extensive research by the Kangaroo Roundtable – a partnership of organisations, scientists, researchers, and academics concerned about kangaroo conservation – indicates that reported Australian kangaroo populations are already overestimated.

This would be concerning at any time, but after some 7.3 million hectares of land across Australia were burned in the recent blazes and an estimated 1 billion animals were killed in them, it's more important than ever that we take the pressure off our native animals by favouring conservation over cruel killing. And make no mistake: the killing is cruel.

Kangaroos are hunted after dark, increasing the risk that the shots won't kill the animals instantly, subjecting them to a long, painful death. Hunters are required to shoot at-foot joeys and decapitate or "crush the skull and destroy the brain" of those in the pouch.

The government must stop issuing permits to landholders and commercial hunters to kill native animals. Australians are "kept in the dark about kangaroos" and many are led to believe that culling was unavoidable.

Research conducted recently in South Australia showed that if they were left alone, kangaroo numbers would increase about 10 per cent each year and once they reached equilibrium, the population will stabilise,

Research is demonstrating that there are significantly less kangaroos there than ever before. Killing them is extremely cruel and unnecessary and most of it is about profit for the kangaroo industry,

As my voice in parliament will you please support me on this issue?