

Submission
No 342

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

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Inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a view on the Inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW.

I recently had the privilege of watching a documentary called *Kangaroo – A love-hate story*. This documentary contains very disturbing, authentic footage of the brutal killing of kangaroos in NSW by inexperienced shooters. The kangaroos were shot on private property through a neighbouring fence. This was, and still is, a regular occurrence. The owners of the property collected evidence of the massacres. This evidence clearly shows that the kangaroos were not killed with a clean shot to the head – sadly, some of these animals had their jaws shot off. Joeys were subsequently bashed against the bull bars of the utes belonging to the shooters.

This documentary highlights the juxtaposition of the mistreatment and exploitation of the kangaroo; alongside the pride we show our Australian icon. We display it on our national airline, associate it with other national icons such as the Holden car, name our sports teams after them and, of course, proudly display the kangaroo on our respective Australian, NSW and NSW Parliament coats of arms. The kangaroo is also a massive tourist attraction, as seen by the attendance of visitors to wildlife parks and zoos. Tourism plays a big part in Australia's economy and kangaroos play a big part in this.

How, then, can these animals - sentient beings - be classified as pests? They are portrayed to be multiplying in plague proportions! Actually, kangaroos have survived in Australia for millions of years and have been successful in controlling their breeding in accordance with climatic conditions. Climate change, agriculture and deforestation – usually due to development – have taken away much of the kangaroos' sources of food and water (kangaroos drink 1/10th the amount of water that sheep do). However, there is evidence to show that kangaroos can survive alongside agricultural animals as they eat different grasses. Is it fair for native animals to be regarded as pests because they are in competition with introduced species for resources which are rightfully theirs?

Our Government needs to answer to this. Australia has, ashamedly, earned the reputation for the largest wildlife slaughter in the world!

Reference:

Kangaroo: A Love-Hate Story. (2019). [DVD]. Kate McIntyre Clere and Mick McIntyre.

<https://kangaroothemovie.com/>