

Submission  
No 345

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

**Name:** Miss Wanda Gordon

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# Macropod submission

Miss Wanda Gordon

Portfolio Committee No. 7  
Parliament  
Legislative Council  
New South Wales

25 April, 2021

Via: online submission

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

Re: Health & wellbeing of kangaroos and macropods in NSW

The wellbeing and macropods in New South Wales needs to be prioritised. There are more humane ways to manage a healthy population. It is indeed shameful that a national emblem which once reflected the unity of the colonies under Federation in 1901 is treated inhumanely, cruelly and suffer trauma and excruciating pain, demonstrating the great disrespect and lack of care and consideration being denied to them. Over 44 million kangaroos have been killed in Australia between 2000 and 2018 with 80% of these animals being female kangaroos devastating joeys and the next generations.

Alternatives instead of widespread slaughter in NSW and in other States and Territories would be to offer a sanctuary for all these animals, establish and maintain protected kangaroo,

wallaby and macropod corridors through the landscape along their migratory pathways, establish numerous great Australian kangaroo national parks and seek to raise money through regional tourism and eventually post-COVID, international tourism to view these magnificent animals in their natural setting.

Research Development Corporation and other research into the widespread cruelty suffered by NSW and other Australian kangaroo populations is indisputable. There are undeniable breaches of codes of practice. The kangaroo and other macropod animals suffer terrible cruelty and suffering and baby kangaroos are denied any future when their mother's are shot while carrying the joey. It is extremely shameful and terrible that they are then caused to suffer extreme brain injury to kill them following the murder of their mothers. Dependent joeys are tragically orphaned and face imminent death because their mother's are being murdered by a ruthless NSW killer in their native grounds. After all, these marsupials were living here for hundreds of thousands of years before white man arrived here in Australia with their introduced animals 200+ years ago. RSPCA has identified the "systematic cruelty to joeys" and other macropods (Animal Society for Kangaroos, 2011). It has been proven that at-foot joeys are abandoned to suffer starvation, stress and predation following the murder of their mothers (McLeod & Sharp, 2014). Damning evidence regarding the slaughter of kangaroo mothers is available at: <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/product/improving-the-humaneness-of-commercial-kangaroo-harvesting/>

A large proportion of non-preferred female kangaroos in the high proportion of 80% of female kangaroos are being slaughtered in NSW and this leaves many baby joeys orphaned. Also of major concern is the fact that the NSW kangaroo and other macropods are being denied a healthy gene pool because of this horrifically imbalanced population. There is now an absence from the NSW population of larger adult kangaroos and other macropods because many kangaroos slaughtered were barely above 13kg. This murder of kangaroos has shocked many and has international attention and echoed the revulsion that cruelty and suffering being imposed on hundreds of thousands of innocent joeys (Kurmelovs, 2021). How can our national icon be treated so terribly by NSW and other territories? It really is time to stop this slaughter. Internationally, people are angered and devastated by the widespread murder of our majestic kangaroos and the suffering of the joeys – so much so that there are calls for a ban of Australian products (Valdinoci, 2020). Numbers are dropping and will continue to drop when these innocent joeys lose their right to live following the murder of 80% of the female kangaroo mothers. Surely,

blind Freddy can see that 20% remaining female kangaroos cannot possibly promote a health gene pool?

If kangaroo numbers in New South Wales and in other states continue to decline due to slaughter, road death, bush fires, floods, injury, starvation, climate change, persistent drought, the kangaroo and other macropods will be at great risk and never recover. The koala populations have declined due to deforestation, bush fires, climate change, greedy development, mining and losing habitat etc and the kangaroo and other macropods are following this decline. It was distressing to see the suffering of animals during the bush fires of NSW, stuck in fences and charcoaled terribly. They really are a wonderful animal, deserving of protection from the loss of land, land clearing, human activities e.g. mining, agriculture. They deserve life and protection. It is time that habitat, reforestation, natural national forests and other conservations be established to ensure that kangaroos are not longer slaughtered for food, a healthy population is maintained and they become revered and regarded as a national icon that it is, given its status on our coinage, emblems of state/nation, be reflected in its protected status. Please review the link to the Kangaroo video at:

[https://www.animalsaustralia.org/issues/kangaroo\\_shooting.php](https://www.animalsaustralia.org/issues/kangaroo_shooting.php)

I demand there be an end to all commercial slaughter of kangaroos and macropods. I demand veterinarians and scientists and animal welfare groups be included in the decisions that are made by the New South Wales and other governments and that there be an immediate banning on the shooting of kangaroos and macropods. Raise your lost revenue from prosecuting and recovering money from the people not obeying the government and illegally shooting female kangaroos and other macropods. There must be an end to the culling of Australian native animals and it is time for hundreds of national parks, native corridors with suitable fencing to prevent death and injury on roads and highways, be established to protect these magnificent Australian animals living in New South Wales.

Yours sincerely,

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LLB, B.Edu, B.Arts (French)

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