

Submission
No 348

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 25 April 2021

Partially
Confidential

25th April, 2021

Here is my submission to the current inquiry.

In regard to Part d) of the Terms of Reference - Current government policies and programs for kangaroo management:

I am a primary school teacher in the Southern Highlands of NSW. My concern about policies and programs for kangaroo management is that private landholders regularly kill kangaroos on their properties and there does not appear to be any external monitoring of or accountability for the number of kangaroos that are being killed, the frequency with which culling takes place, or whether these animals are being killed humanely.

Over the last 3-4 years, I have been told stories regularly from children I teach about their family members and parents killing kangaroos regularly on their properties. A prevailing attitude is that kangaroos are considered pests to farmers and graziers and, therefore, culling in whatever manner required, even if cruel, is justified. I have also had children relate stories of their parents deliberately hitting kangaroos with cars at high speed along back roads and leaving them to die. These accounts make me concerned that welfare breaches are occurring on a regular basis and that there is excessive culling and recreational shooting of kangaroos in the Southern Highlands. I believe there needs to be much tighter monitoring and regulation of culling on private land, and greater awareness amongst the public of cruelty-to-animal regulations.

In regard to part h), Current and alternative measures to provide an incentive for and accelerate public and private conservation of kangaroos and other macropods:

As a resident of Bundanoon, NSW, I have also noticed that increasing residential development is confining mobs of kangaroos to smaller and smaller areas around our town. This makes them more susceptible to vehicle hits and must surely provide a stressor to these animals as they try to find alternative habitat. I believe that there needs to be consideration, when developments are approved, of how the current populations of kangaroos will be accommodated. Perhaps we need to consider their natural migratory paths and create wildlife corridors through which they can travel safely. I notice that visitors to Bundanoon enjoy seeing the local kangaroos near the town. They are not only an ecological asset but also a tourism asset. Its important to consider ways that we can take care of the welfare and the sustainability of local kangaroo habitat for the sake of the animals and also for the sake of the tourism amenity of our area. We are all better off for having healthy populations of local fauna to co-exist with.

Yours sincerely,

Bundanoon, NSW