

Submission  
No 371

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

I would like to provide my comments on the health and well being of kangaroos in NSW.

1) I feel the way that kangaroos are viewed in NSW/Australia is absolutely appalling. They are viewed as no more than rodents rather than a unique animal that requires protection. We are happy to use their images to promote our sporting teams, international airline and as a means to entice people to visit our country and yet they are viewed primarily with disdain.

2) The state government is complicit in promulgating this view of kangaroos as rodents. The ease with which one is legally able to shoot kangaroos is testament to this. When the drought was on, the powerful farmers lobby argued for less red tape in the destruction of kangaroos, which was granted. But was this ever rolled back? I emailed my state member, who asked this question of the Minister responsible, to date I'm yet to receive a reply.

No to mention the supposedly 'national code of practice' for the 'humane' destruction of kangaroos. Bashing a young joey's head against a bull bar? decapitating with a sharp knife? If I was to do this to a kitten we all know what the public outcry would be. And yet this is an acceptable practise???? I'm appalled at this and disgusted and ashamed to be Australian.

3) The commercial industry should be seen for what it is. Driven by its own commercial viability and success. It is an absolute disgrace that this industry has the power that it does within government. The natural resources of this country and state of NSW are here for all, not for the exploitation of a few for their own financial gain. Surely the role of government is to protect these beautiful and unique animals for all?

4) The illegal shooting of kangaroos is absolutely rampant. This cannot be denied. In my own life experience, I would say that, 1 in 4 people i know have at some point in time, or still do regularly shoot kangaroos with no lawful reason to do so. They (almost to a man) do this with impunity. They are either unaware its illegal (they are just pests anyway is the response) or they just don't care even if it is. This attitude must change. The government as the power and the ability to change this.

5) The counting of kangaroos. The methodology used to achieve this accurately needs to be verified. Is account taken of the illegal kills? is account taken of the road kills? is account taken of the loss due to fencing? where is the open transparency of how these counts are done?

6) Farmers need to be better educated and monitored in some way. Just because a farmer owns the land, does not/ should not given him the god given right to destroy native wildlife that does not belong to them. The research into how much feed the average EKG consumes as opposed to a cow or a sheep need to be better promulgated. I'm no expert but i see scientific reports that say 1 cow consumes as much feed in 1 day as 30EKG's. If you speak to farmers they tell you its the reverse.

I also feel that hobby farmers, or farmers who do not depend on their farm for their livelihood should have very limited recourse to destroy kangaroos on their property. Clearly its not threatening their ability to feed their family so why should they have the right to destroy as they see fit?

7) I recently went camping with my son, at a NP out between Dubbo and Parkes NSW. All night, all we could hear was the majestic sounds of gunfire as the local kangaroo population was destroyed. In the whole 4 days we spent camping we only saw 1 live one. What a lovely experience that was for my son. The fear and hurt in his eyes as i described what was happening will stay with me forever. All sanctioned, I assume, by the NSW government.

8) the secrecy that surrounds kangaroo culling needs to be lifted. If culling is to occur, a public submission should be sort or at the least a public announcement made. where those who wish to object, or avoid the area can do so.

9) i am aware that in certain instances kangaroo culling is unavoidable. However these need to be fully justifiable and fully transparent with community feedback.

I have been involved in kangaroo counts and reports whereby the carrying capacity is rated at say 2 per hectare and yet the site has an (estimated) population of 4-6 per hectare and yet every kangaroo is in good health and the land is not overgrazed. Clearly there is an issue with the science???

10) To my earlier point, tougher penalties need to exist for those who illegal kill or torture kangaroos. If you visit the real world you will see that these things are common place. One doesn't need to go too far to see or hear of stories of kangaroos being shot, bashed, stabbed, run over etc and its all regarded as quite acceptable and to some quite amusing. Only a change in culture and attitude will stop this. Of it starts with tougher penalties and more prosecutions than so be it. We pride ourselves on being a humane and just people, don't we?