

Submission
No 375

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

Name: Mrs Christie Jarrett

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NSW Kangaroo Inquiry Submission – Christie Jarrett

Wildlife Carer, NSW Australia

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to lodge a submission into the health, wellbeing and treatment of Kangaroos in NSW.

As a wildlife carer for ten years, and active kangaroo rescuer, carer and release site for seven of those years, I have some insight into the dangers faced by our most well-known Australian icon.

Kangaroos have suffered extensively over the last 5 years of widespread drought, followed by the worst bushfires seen in Australia.

This is on top of the already perilous world they live in. Livestock fences, dogs, roads and highways, not to mention farmers and commercial harvesters – ALL ready to decimate a healthy population with no forethought for the future.

Kangaroo numbers are said to have plummeted and despite much and varied media to the contrary – they have no biological way to ‘boom’. They are not rabbits, and cannot raise more than one joey to weaning in any given year.

This widespread misconception has been heavily marketed for the last 40+ years of commercial industry spin and propaganda, and **this needs to change**. It is factually and biologically incorrect on all levels and has widespread impact on how kangaroos are seen and treated in NSW.

The ‘pest species’ label has made kangaroos – a miraculous and unique Australian species – the target of many. The scapegoat of farmers who feel it is their right to cull them during times of drought, industry shooters who like to feel they are helping farmers, when in effect they are making a quick buck, and even some vets who will not invest any time or energy into assisting kangaroos when they need care.

This ‘pest species’ label has made kangaroos a very political and contentious issue – when all they need is to be treated the same way as we would treat a koala or echidna. What they need is actual, legal protection. Not an ambiguous legal framework that in reality, provides them with nothing.

So in my submission, I would like the Inquiry to consider the following:

- 1. Provide all native animals with REAL legal protection** – no culling, no industry and no farm damage permits. Treat protected species like they actually ARE protected and prosecute the people that break these laws to the full extent.
- 2. Kangaroo industry and culling in general** – is NOT humane. It is abhorrent and needs to be stopped ASAP. It is impossible to monitor and provide correct governance. It’s a farce.
- 3. Research into Kangaroo veterinary care** – we currently have limited understanding of much of our wildlife and how they should be medically treated. We have had 200 years to invest in this knowledge and we are going to miss out if we don’t act now.
- 4. Providing release sites for wildlife with legal protection** – to ensure developments are notified and considered. That culling permits are NOT provided within a 5km radius and that

the good the wildlife sanctuary does is weighed up against the apparent damage claimed by the applicant.

5. **Oversee the wildlife sector impartially and professionally** – no bullying, no threats of animal removal, and free and open communication allowed between all levels to ensure best outcomes for animals. People are too scared to share what they know through fear of recrimination – this is inherently wrong and indicates a broken system.
6. **Background checks for wildlife carers** – ensure only the best care is given to wildlife, no animal hoarders or politically motivated grandstanding at the sake of our animals' wellbeing.
7. **Improving outcomes for our vets** – give them the tools and resources to help wildlife carers and ultimately kangaroos and all native species. Our vets, on the whole do the best they can, but a lack of resources and assistance sees many aspects of care fall to them. This is not fair.
8. **Removal and banning of barbed wire** – not just for kangaroos, but for all wildlife. It is unnecessary and inhumane and we can do better.

I hope this submission is somewhat helpful.

Let's hope we can all work together for a better future for our kangaroos, and all wildlife.

Kind Regards,

Christie Jarrett

