

Submission
No 381

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 26 April 2021

Partially
Confidential

The Secretary
Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment
NSW Parliament

26 April 2021

Dear Committee

**Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW Inquiry
– Submission**

I make this submission as a resident of NSW who enjoys its national parks, outdoors and wildlife, and who has eaten kangaroo meat sold in supermarkets and butchers.

I write to express my serious concerns about the foundation and regulation of both the commercial kangaroo industry and non-commercial killing of kangaroos. The parameters for, and regulation of, the non-commercial killing of kangaroos is of critical concern, particularly following the recent horrendous bushfires and impacts of both deforestation and climate change.

I strongly encourage the Committee to make recommendations to urgently improve:

- A. (i) The accuracy and robustness of data for kangaroo numbers; and
 - (ii) Crucially in the case of non-commercial killing of kangaroos, that population reduction is directly related to what is reasonable, necessary and scientifically justified for damage mitigation;
- and
- B. Better regulation for the commercial kangaroo industry and in particular non-commercial killing of kangaroos.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to make the following findings and related recommendations:

1. I am aware of considerable concerns about the accuracy of estimated kangaroo and other macropod numbers in NSW and across Australia, even before the impact of the recent bushfires. These concerns include

that “*faulty counting methods hugely inflate the population of kangaroos...*”

The Committee should recommend that the commercial and non-commercial killing of kangaroos must be based upon accurate, recent, robust and independent scientific data of kangaroo numbers.

Proper funds and other resources should be expended to obtain this data. The data should guide both the commercial industry and non-commercial killing of kangaroos.

2. Further to (2), quotas for the killing of kangaroos should directly relate population reduction to damage to mitigation.

The Committee should recommend that any measures taken to reduce kangaroo populations should first be proven to be reasonable and necessary.

3. The regulation of the commercial kangaroo industry *and* non-commercial kangaroo killing must be substantially improved by requiring both commercial industry and non-commercial kangaroo shooters to undergo, and meet, the same training and standards. These standards should be high and strict as a matter of basic animal welfare and respect. These standards and requirements should include:

- 3.1 Restricting killing to a season, or times of the year, to best avoid the time when most females have large pouch young or young dependent upon milk – this would follow the regulation model of the ACT.
- 3.2 Non-commercial shooters of kangaroos should be tested the same way that commercial shooters are – this would follow the regulation model of the ACT.
- 3.3 Further to (3.2), it is my understanding that the non-commercial kangaroo shooting code does not include any standard operating procedures for killing joeys. If this is the case, this should be urgently rectified so that both commercial and non-commercial shooters are subject to the same strict, robust requirements and procedures.

Both commercial and non-commercial kangaroos should be trained to ensure joeys are humanely killed. The standards should be high and strict as a matter of basic animal welfare and respect.

- 3.4 There should be well-resourced, proactive and on-the ground animal welfare monitoring of killing by both the commercial industry and non-commercial shooters. Monitoring and auditing

to ensure Code and regulatory compliance is fundamental and essential.

The absence of well-resourced and regular monitoring, auditing and enforcement risks making a “*mockery*” of code requirements and regulation and undermining public support for the commercial industry and non-commercial kangaroo killing.

As someone who has eaten kangaroo, and who closely follows scientific research about the state of NSW’s environment including its fauna, I have heard appalling stories about the commercial kangaroo industry, as well as what appears to be the poorly regulated, non-commercial killing.

The concerns range from the numbers of animals killed and that little, or inadequate attention is paid to increasing threats to kangaroo species, that too many kangaroos (let alone joeys) are killed inhumanely and about the hygiene of kangaroo meat for consumers and pets.

I am greatly concerned that neither the commercial industry, lest of all non-commercial killing, may be currently “*fit for standard*” based on the best science and basic, good animal welfare practices.

I encourage the Committee to use this important opportunity to make findings, and recommendations, based on the best independent scientific evidence and highest animal welfare practices. I would respectfully suggest that most of the NSW public would fairly, and reasonably, expect this in relation to an animal is associated worldwide with Australia.

Thank you for considering my submission.