

Submission
No 394

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to lodge this submission.

For ethical and humane reasons, I am strongly opposed to the commercial and non-commercial culling of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW. Please find below a list of concerns about the present situation.

Tighter regulation is needed, not de-regulation

Of particular concern is the growing trend to de-regulate non-commercial killing by landholders. There have been a growing number of voices in the community opposing the killing of all native species. Yet pre-existing legal restrictions on non-commercial killing of kangaroos, that existed prior to changes in the law in 2018, have been removed. There should be a move towards tighter regulation rather than de-regulation.

Enforceable legal prohibition on killing female kangaroos with young, and their joeys and young at foot

The NSW Department of Primary Industries' *Volunteer Non-Commercial Kangaroo Shooters Best Practice Guide* advises to avoid killing female kangaroos that have young in the pouch or at foot.¹ Yet, at the same time, it appears to accept that females with young will be killed and details how to then kill the young. There is a huge inconsistency in this advice/guideline. No female kangaroo with young should be killed and there should be enforcement and clear penalties for doing so. Granted the guide is just a guide, however, the question must be asked, why is there no enforceable legal prohibition for killing female kangaroos with young? The fact that killing females with young is considered as a possibility, regardless of guidelines that advise against this practice, indicates the weakness of the controls as they currently exist. It should be clearly illegal to kill a female kangaroo with young. Such a law should also be enforced with strong sanctions. At present the controls are too weak or effectively in-existent.

Ban on dangerous fencing

The use of barbed wire fencing and other types of dangerous fencing in which kangaroos and other animals get caught and injured and die slowly and painfully should be banned. The use of such

¹ NSW Department of Primary Industries, *Volunteer Kangaroo shooters Best Practice Guide*, 2018. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/826988/Volunteer-Non-Commercial-Kangaroo-Shooters-Best-Practice-Guide.pdf, p23 (accessed 26 April 2021).

fencing should be phased out and incidences in which an animal is injured or dies on a dangerous fence should ultimately be made an animal cruelty offence with the fence owner to be prosecuted under *the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW), s5(1).

A total ban on the killing of kangaroos and other macropods

There is growing awareness among the Australian and international community of the cruelty of commercial and non-commercial killing of kangaroos and other macropods. There is also growing awareness among non-Indigenous people of the importance of kangaroos in Indigenous society and spirituality. Importantly, it is now understood that traditional practices do not condone commercial or conservation culling. I am also aware there is strong concern about the damaging of dreaming tracks across Australia by the mass killing of kangaroos. These tracks should be preserved not damaged. Kangaroos and other macropods should be protected and respected. The commercial and non-commercial culling of kangaroos is now seen by many as a white, colonialist practice that engages in truly shocking animal cruelty. It needs to cease.

I therefore urge the Government to take the lead in Australia by implementing the following reforms within the State of New South Wales:

- Immediately introduce an enforceable legal prohibition on the killing of female kangaroos with young, and their joeys and young at foot.
- Introduce a total ban on the commercial and non-commercial killing of all kangaroos and macropods.
- Introduce a total ban on the use of fencing dangerous to animals.

Thank you for considering my views.

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