

Submission
No 396

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Deregulating non commercial killing of macropods in NSW

In 2018 the government made the unbelievable decision to loosen restrictions on the non commercial killing of kangaroo allowing landholders and volunteers to indiscriminately kill all kangaroos including females and their young without any purpose or license or tag or kill limit for the apparent reason of the drought. This is mass destruction of species on the largest scale imaginable

This has DEVASTATED our kangaroos, our national symbol on our coat of arms that is revered by our overseas tourists who travel many miles to see have the joy of seeing a kangaroo bounding in fields around Australia. This is not the case anymore, tourists have been begging for locations to see kangaroos in the wild as they are no longer there.

Indiscriminately killing our unique kangaroos for the soul purpose of hunting which is promoting blood lust is exactly the same as hunting wildlife in Africa as a sport. African wildlife is revered around the world and in Africa but unfortunately our wildlife in our country simply hold not profitable value and are deemed pests or pet food. What a sad and disgusting state of affairs for our unique macropods

Lastly on this, the drought was declared ended in January 2021, why has not the previous restrictions been returned? Has the killing of our kangaroos become too lucrative for the pet food industry? Completely unsustainable of course.

What is absolutely mindboggling is after the catastrophic bushfires in 2019/2020 when we lost so much of our fauna, the laws should have been tightened right up to mitigate any further loss of our native animals. But this has not happened. Shame on the industry!

Wildlife Carers

As a wildlife carer who has cared for all of the burnt and injured influx of wildlife received after the devastating bushfires, I and other wildlife carers see ourselves as having the animals of the ark. Those that will go on to ensure their species survives. One of the major issues we have is the lack of safe release sites to release macropods due to the commercial and non commercial killing of kangaroos and properties not devastated by the fires. Where can kangaroos that we have spent this time and money in fighting to raise them to survive, where do they go now?

During the drought we received quite a few orphaned kangaroo joeys that were found next to dead mothers and dried up water sources or those that have suffered from nutritional issues due to their mother not able to eat enough food or the grazing areas having enough nutrition due to the drought. Some also suffered from kidney issues which as they got older caused premature death.

In our area, since the bushfires we have seen hardly any roadkill since the fires from Bundanoon down to Braidwood, it has now been 14 months and wildlife being hit on the roads is far and few between, before the bushfires we had a constant line of wildlife especially macropods coming into care from being hit on town roads and the hume highway. Where are they? They are all gone, all killed in the fires or hunted, it's that simple

Damage Mitigation and Fencing

Where is the process having to prove that all other non lethal control methods have been exhausted (of course on a production farm not just a hobby farm before applying for a license to harm? Why are wildlife fences not installed? Why is the government not supporting the construction of them and getting rid of the total carnage that is barbed wire. Which was left over from the war, that ended a century ago!

Post bushfires, the standard fencing that was put out in our areas even to non production rural lands was five strands of barbed wire. I have witnessed on a number of occasions wildlife struggling to squeeze through sustaining horrific injuries. We have been called out to a kangaroo hanging for over a week emaciated and injured from this fencing. And on other occasions witnessed them struggling to clear the fencing without injury

Codes of Practice

As an Australia citizen I can not tell you how abhorrent it is to read the horror story which is the code of practice in killing kangaroos to include killing pouch young with a blow to the back of the head against the ute. It honestly reads like something out of a psychopathic novel and only a person with psychopathic tendencies would be able to do something over and over again without having a mental illness which could easily transfer over to killing humans. Ivan Milat, for instance started as a hunter of animals. This should all be EXTREMELY concerning to anyone that reads it!!!

In closing, it shouldn't be our native wildlife that suffers as we can not plan and mitigate living on this great land which her agile climate, we as humans should strive to co exist on this land and not dominate it to the detriment of any remaining natural landscape. We must protect our unique native flora and fauna not act when they are at the threat of extinction which seems to be the only time it is acted upon. All our wildlife will end up in this position of this relaxing of protection laws continues.

The government should support incentives for landholders to build non lethal methods to protect assets to include wildlife corridors and tourism incentives to see kangaroos in the wild as part of their Australian experience. I do believe that we are at the point where we will need kangaroo safe spaces set aside where landholders can also be assured that the kangaroos will be protected. Not everyone wants to live next to people shooting day in and out