

Submission
No 322

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I know that one day we will look back on these times and shake our heads and wonder how we could have been so barbaric as to shoot our national icon and turn them into dog food and soccer boots. Just like we do now days when we hear of the koala hunters and koala fur trade, how barbaric to think that this is the way a civilised society should behave. Are we still living in Victorian times?

Points that are wrong with the code and need to be reviewed....

- The inaccuracy of the counting of kangaroo numbers.
- The fact that other threats to the population of kangaroos is not taken into account
- The barbaric method to kill in pouch joeys

I have had nearly a decade of first hand experience working and living with kangaroos in the Central west of NSW. I see at first hand the high mortality rate of joeys in the wild, and this is in an area with relatively no culling or harvesting, death of a joey in the wild can be from a diverse range of reasons, caught in a fence, hit by car, attacked by dogs and other predators, congenital illness, parasites, viruses just to name a few. These joeys die regardless of the care and attention given them by their mums, imagine how they would fare without their mum to look out for them. I've seen first hand the number of wild does who loose their joeys, and I'm surprised that research has labeled this at 75% juvenile mortality rate, I actually think it's higher. Joeys are looked after by both the male and female in the mob structure, only killing males hurts these joeys just as much as killing their mums.

My job as a volunteer wildlife rescuer has seen me assist hundreds upon hundreds of kangaroos hit by car, caught in fence, shot with arrows and guns, attacked by dogs, drowned in dams and other man made water courses...the list is endless and the number of kangaroos dying every day is not tallied in the government population count. These deaths are just the ones reported to wildlife groups for rescue, how many thousands of others die sight unseen.

I rescue many kangaroos with bullet wounds, either from joy shooters or the poor souls who have escaped culls and harvesters with a bullet to the jaw or shoulder, the poor animal becomes sick, the wound becomes infected and fly blown until it's finally necrotic and the animal has septicaemia. Can you imagine what it's like...

The last female I rescued (we had to euthanise her) she was shot through the face just bellow the eye. she was unable to look after her in pouch joey, the baby was dead in her pouch and fly blown, (this is how long she was trying to survive with part of her face blown off) her face was necrotic and fly blown, the smell absolutely horrendous. she was standing swaying in pain and distress at a remote house on their front porch, she'd come there seeking help and shelter. How many thousands of others die like this sight unseen.

I keep a record of all the roadkill deaths in my area and the number is dwindling, the locals are all saying how in the last year the number of kangaroos has decreased so much...did they all die in the fires, the floods??

Kangaroo mobs ore suffering at the moment from forced migration, whereby their land is subsumed by humans for housing and they are forced to migrate to a new area, sometimes joining up with a neighbouring mob. this is not natural behaviour, mobs are in general small, a fascinating matriarchal society and very complex in structure. The killing of the alpha males reeks havoc with this mob structure.

Over the last 2 years we have had an increase in unknown deaths of macropods from syndromes like swollen/ puffy face syndrome, unknown viruses and tick born illnesses, plus unknown cause deaths that have the kangaroo die with swollen hearts and haemorrhaging. whether these unknown cases are from poisoning or what it is hard to tell. How many thousands of other kangaroos die every day from unknown illnesses we have introduced into this country.

The fact that the NSW government even has a kangaroo killing code goes against the OEH code for protected species, kangaroos are a protected species, they are not farmed, They are a highly sensitive complex species. They have a rich emotional and social life, they are not a resource.

