

**Supplementary
Submission
No 75a**

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

Name: Mr Stephen Powley

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Dear Committee Members.

I have already submitted a submission, however I wrote it up before I found and read the 'terms of reference' and I then sent it attached to an email to Mark Pearson MLC and asked him if he could submit it for me. So just in case something went wrong, I am doing a second one.

Terms of Reference (a).... The great myth about large macropod numbers, is the introduced pastures and on farm water storage theory.

The theory is that because of introduced pastures and on farm water storage, the reproductive cycles of macropods has been tricked into responding to a never ending series of good seasons. Hence there are always going to be huge numbers of macropods in Australia. This is a misguided belief and can be dismissed with a small amount of logic.

In Peter Andrews books,'Back from the Brink' and 'Beyond the Brink,' he explains how before hard hooved animals were introduced into Australia, soils were softer and more absorbent and this slowed the movement of water across the land and through the water systems.

The natural water systems held water for a longer period as well as there being a lot more permanent water holes. A series of unfortunate events happened after the introduction of hard hooved into Australia.

- 1: The soil was compacted.
- 2: When it rained, water moved more quickly across the ground, picking up soil and depositing it in waterholes.
- 3: The waterholes became shallow.
- 4: The faster flowing water through the systems eroded the creeks and river beds turning them into drains, rather than a series of permanent waterholes being replenished with water moving slowly through the system.

From this it is obvious that Australia's native animals had a plentiful supply of water and pastures before 1788 Our modern agricultural practices have not afforded our native animals any favors.

Added to this is the massive increase in threats to macropods.

Uralla has a local newsletter named ;Wordsworth'. It use to have a section named '50 years ago' and '100 years ago' and they referred to newspaper articles of 50 and 100 years previously. In one of the newsletters in the 100 years ago section, it mentioned that the Uralla Shire Council had banned the shooting of Red Kangaroos. Red Kangaroos are no longer in this area, they have become extinct. The Council resolution came too late or it wasn't obeyed. If it wasn't for that article, I would have assumed that Red Kangaroos had never lived here.I wonder if the settlers who first saw and shoot the Reds, thought that they would be extinct in this area in one human generation.

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(b): I noticed a decline in kangaroo and wallaby numbers some 15 years ago. I rang the National Parks and had a very open discussion. In that discussion I was told that national Parks had no idea how many kangaroos were in this area, because of it being a more heavily timbered and kangaroos would be difficult to see from the air. So the numbers of kangaroos in timbered areas was a complete guess, as was the quota for culling. She went on to say that the only reason that people were not given tags to shoot kangaroos, was because their properties were too small and close to neighbors.
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(c) 1: As I mentioned in section (a). Compacted ground has changed the water systems of Australia. What was once a living system, is now a drain to a dam. When there is drought and the natural water systems are dry as are the farm dams, the outcome for native animals is tragic. The solution is simple. Read Peter Andrews books, 'Back from the Brink' and 'Beyond the Brink' and implement the sequential farming principles.

2: Ironically to prevent bushfires we need more trees. Trees transpire, (evapotranspiration) which not only cools the atmosphere, it puts a lot of moisture into the atmosphere causing rain. After the devastation of the most recent bushfires, I was amazed that there wasn't a complete ban on the shooting of kangaroos.

3: The clearing of land needs to stop. If we can't make a go of what we have cleared, we should give up. Broad acre cropping is devastating for wildlife, even if they are feeding off the crop when it is growing, there is still the period between harvest and the new crop when there is nothing to eat.

Mining has a major environmental impact on a relatively small area. Although what effect coal seam gas is having on underground water and how that affects surface water, I don't know. I can't say that I have heard of any mining company shooting kangaroos.

When we consider how much land has been taken for cities and towns, that is a lot of country that is almost kangaroo free, and it is only expanding.

(4): Exclusion fences mainly used in urban areas I didn't consider to be a problem, until I saw a photograph of a kangaroo hanging on the spike of an exclusion fence. There is no need for those fences to have a spiked top. The top horizontal rail, should sit on top of the vertical rods. These type of fences only keep out the honest thieves. The fences are made of very light material and are no deterrent for someone who really wants to get through one. Four cuts with a metal saw and there through.....Exclusion fencing on rural properties are sinister. Something like these fences that has such a massive impact on wildlife, should have to be subject to a Development Application and included in the DA an environmental impact statement. I feel that an environmental impact study should be done on the existing ones. No one should be allowed to build something that so much restricts the movements of native animals.

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(d): 1: From my experience it is a complete guess

2: I don't know about this.

3: I don't know about this.

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(e): If this about cutting off their heads, or hitting them on the head with a blunt object. The fact that this policy has to exist shows that there is something wrong with the industry. To kill the mother and then to bash perhaps two of her offspring to death is macabre. I suppose that someone thought that killing the joeys quickly is the humane thing to do. Not shooting the mother would be a lot more humane.

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(f): I don't think it matters what regulation or compliance mechanisms there are. There seems to be very little ,if any policing of the kangaroo killing industry.

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(g): Because there is no policing, or if there is, I have never heard or seen it happen, the tags meant almost nothing and now that the tags have gone it just means that people on smaller properties, who would not have been given tags, are now able to shoot.

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(h): Regenerative Agriculture. Sequential Farming, Engineered Woodlands. These three methods make agriculture more profitable. If farms are making a healthy profit, then there should be less reason for the landholder to spend time and money killing wildlife.

Anyone who sets aside a part of their property for wildlife should be compensated. A way of funding this could be to put a levy on local government rates.

When land is set aside for wildlife, after a few years the benefits of those tree corridors and riparian zones will become apparent with beneficial predators, better water flows and a general sense that primary producers are truly caring for the environment .