

**Submission
No 73**

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

Name: Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison

Date Received: 10 May 2021

The Director

Portfolio Committee No.7 – Planning and Environment
Parliament House

Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

By email: portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission to the Inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales from Yuin Elder Max Dulumunmun Harrison.

Please find attached my submission to the New South Wales inquiry regarding kangaroo management.

The kangaroo preceded our indigenous culture more than 80,000 years ago and has both the land and living rights above all other introduced species. The kangaroo has the right to live without cruelty and exploitation

Kangaroos are a valuable totem to our people. They have been in Australia for millions of years. This is their land. They are the first Australians. Native animals, birds and reptiles have the highest respect in our Cultural Totemic System.

The kangaroo to me is an important part of this nation that they call Australia. The kangaroo lets me know about my different song lines and which way I can go. I've only just got those four directions and he can show me and give me a chance to see another way as a survival signpost.

For our Aboriginal people on the Eastern seaboard the kangaroo is a totem and a food source. It also leads us to our dreaming tracks and they're so important because we can follow those dreaming tracks and learn whatever the kangaroo is taking and eating on a particular track. The kangaroos are our explorers that are telling us what's on that land and what we can learn from that land like where the food and water sources are.

Kangaroos are part of ceremony and we hunt them for food. We as Aboriginal people for over 50,000 years, when we killed a kangaroo it was done with ceremony, before the kill and after the kill. My people have lived beside the kangaroo for thousands of years and we never considered them as a pest. So why do people want to control these wonderful animals? Bright lights are blinding defenseless animals and then bullets put into them, to me that's not culling. That's slaughter.

Inside cultural practice, we only ever took what was needed for food and medicine. We never harvested meat or medicine for profit. It is not spiritual practice to kill our iconic animals for \$80 Million per annum. It was not an industry that drove the hunt, it was our ceremonial practice for food and medicine and still is today.

The kangaroo is our Australian icon adopted by the Australian Government, and is shown on shields, coins, emblems, and Parliament House itself, along with official letterheads and other paraphernalia. Yet it appears on the brink of becoming a threatened species. It's a huge loss for us all that they are treated so badly

This powerful soft-footed animal, who shares our nation with us, has been relegated last, replaced by hard hooved introduced species, creating displacement and desecration.

Have any shooters, abattoirs and chefs seen the movie Kangaroo A Love-Hate Story, a master documentary that exposes the opposite to any 'perfect kill' that is portrayed by the industry. Here we see the true face of the dirty, cruel industry that does nothing more than plunder and profiteer at the expense of our innocent first nation native animal.

How long have those kangaroos been hopping on this land? They are not intruding on farmers, or developers, or roadways. It is humans invading the kangaroos' space and it is the kangaroo that is being disregarded.

Stepping outside respect lore, leads to an imbalance in the totemic system and consequently mass slaughter and illness. Those indigenous brothers and sisters who hold their lore and practice culture through the wisdom of the ancients, know to protect the kangaroo from a harvest of exportation, exploitation, and extinction, by not supporting such a cruel and greedy industry

Recommendation: We need to live with this wonderful animal that they call the kangaroo. We need to understand their ways and live in harmony with them. We need to look and learn how to live on this land without destruction. Then we can live in harmony with every living thing on this land they call Australia

Here is a movie link to our Yuin Kangaroo Dance passed down by my grandfather to me, to my grandchildren

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTnlTKfZj4>

Holding Lore

Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrision