

**Submission
No 32**

**INQUIRY INTO 2025 INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION OF
THE APPROVED CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS UNDER
THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1979**

Name: Ms Fiona Joy

Date Received: 31 October 2025

My name is Fiona Joy, and I am a WIRES volunteer from the Central West, New South Wales. I am writing my submission to discuss the major issue of animal cruelty that is occurring daily within WIRES and is not being addressed or even discussed. The issue I would like to highlight is the significant number of severely injured wildlife who are hit by vehicles or caught in barbed wires fences and require euthanasia by firearm, and the length of time it takes for the animal to be attended, or if they are attended at all.

In the 3 months between the 1st April 2025 and 30th June 2025, in the Central West alone there were 377 animals that required euthanasia by firearm.

- 345 - hit by cars with broken leg/s
- 23 – Fence entanglement in barbed wire
- 9 – Other

This is an average of around 3 animals per day in our region. Here are just a few true examples of rescue calls sent from WIRES to volunteers:

‘Hit by car, broken legs’

‘Legs broken, head up, unable to move’

‘Attacked by dogs, paws mutilated’ (this call was not attended by police as they were too busy)

‘Broken legs, dragged itself to the side of the road’

‘Leg snapped off, hit by car’

‘Broken leg, laying on the side of the road for 2 days’

‘Hit by car, broken leg, laying in the snow’ (no rescue attended)

The Central West area of NSW covers over 30,000km² and our WIRES branch only has 5 authorised volunteer shooters, 3 of whom live in one Local Government Area (LGA). This leaves an extremely large area with no-one apart from the police who can provide assistance.

While we all understand that road accidents happen and wildlife, the majority being kangaroos and wallabies, get hit by cars, it is unacceptable that between 10-30% of these animals are left for between 1 to 5 days before being attended, and in many cases, they do not get attended at all.

At present, the current process is that WIRES receives a call from a member of the public that an animal is injured. They then send this out as a notification to carers to attend. If the rescue is not accepted by a volunteer, WIRES refers the call to the police that the animal requires euthanasia. However, the police often state they are not able to attend, or if they do attend, it can take 4-8 hours before they attend due to their workload. Furthermore, they regularly report that they are unable to locate the animal. Even more unfortunately, in

several cases, the police have stated they have attended but the animal is later reported as still being alive. More recently, police in several Local Government Areas have advised that they will no longer be attending to calls regarding wildlife which leaves no-one able to euthanise the injured animal. Additionally, the police do not have the correct firearm to euthanise larger injured kangaroos which results in them requiring several shots to the head and/or body before the animal is deceased.

Our Central West WIRES branch have repeatedly requested WIRES to engage professional contract shooters to assist, however this request has either been ignored or denied. This is in breach of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 No 200 as well as in breach of both the Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Macropods and the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes.

It is an unfair burden to place on volunteer wildlife carers to manage alone and the expectation that it is the role of police to attend to wildlife euthanasia multiple times each day is unrealistic and leading to very poor welfare outcomes for wildlife. We urgently need to find a solution that involves collaboration between Federal, State and Local Governments, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and charitable organisations such as WIRES. The solution is actually quite simple - we need a funded, dedicated wildlife management role in each Local Government Area who is also an experienced shooter and who can humanely euthanise injured wildlife in a timely manner.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 No 200 is to prevent the suffering of animals. WIRES as a charitable organisation know that significant numbers of wildlife are suffering extreme pain and distress and are being left to die a slow and painful death. This is absolutely unacceptable and we should not only be aiming to provide a good life for our native wildlife but also provide a kind and humane death for the animals that we cannot save.

Your consideration of my submission is appreciated.

Kindest regards,
Fiona Joy