

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

As a former resident of NSW now residing in Victoria I thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns regarding the treatment of our national symbol, the kangaroo. I have watched for decades the ongoing slaughter of kangaroos with horror, the cruelty of shooting animals in the middle of the night, in the middle of nowhere where there are no animal welfare officers to monitor the kill, animals that escape alive with gunshot wounds taking days to die of their injuries and of the sadistic methods of killing the pouch and at foot joeys and again the joeys that escape into the bush to die slowly.

These killings were always legitimized by calling them population control culls but today the killing of our native animals is a multimillion-dollar industry the largest land-based slaughter of wildlife in the world supplying kangaroo leather to brands such as Nike for sports shoes, an industry that makes money from killing as many animals as possible should not be calling the shots when it comes to the management of our wildlife.

I am extremely dubious of the methods that have been used to count the number of kangaroos with estimates ranging by tens of millions, no one knows for sure how many kangaroos are left so how can we set a number on how many to kill, I think that the official number of animals culled is only a part of the number that die as illegal shooting is everywhere and joeys are not counted in the numbers killed. I have heard stories of shooters having no kangaroos to kill and was appalled when the Victorian government gave the go-ahead to commercial shooting across the whole state I feel because they have run out of kangaroo in large numbers in your own state and Queensland to fuel the industry.

Our international reputation is being eroded by our treatment of kangaroos and our environment generally with the USA considering a ban on kangaroo parts and activists in the EU pushing for a ban, we are a wealthy first-world nation that should not have to be told to do the right thing by other nations, we should not have to kill our indigenous wildlife to make money. Our kangaroos are loved the world over and are one of the most wanted experiences to have for tourists, with the advent of social media Australia's dirty secret is common knowledge and many would-be tourists are horrified at the way we treat our kangaroos. We have allowed the interests of the agricultural sector and the kangaroo industry to lead the way that we deal with kangaroos instead of sound scientific practice, we need to remove the monetary gains involved in kangaroo management if we wish to have healthy populations. The koala was almost driven to extinction in the 1930's and was only saved by the American president placing bans on the import of their skins please do not wait until another country does something we will lose them if we do not act