

MEDIA RELEASE: Regional ecologist condemns kangaroo trade

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CONTACTS: Alyssa Wormald, info@vickangas.org
IMAGES: Please [click here](#) for relevant images



Overview: Victorian kangaroos are being brutally slaughtered every single night. Not only are they persecuted under lethal 'Authority to Control Wildlife' permits, they are relentlessly gunned down as part of the unethical, unsustainable and unhygienic kangaroo trade. This is a profit-driven industry that constitutes the world's largest mammalian wildlife trade.

Dr Holly Sitters is a wildlife ecologist based in western Victoria, though she travels widely across Australia for her work. Dr Sitters' grave concerns about the treatment of kangaroos have compelled her to speak out, protesting alongside other regional residents in central Ballarat in May and September this year (see images). She intends to join more protests against kangaroo exploitation in Victoria.

Quotes attributable to ecologist Dr Holly Sitters:

"Government-approved destruction of native wildlife makes a mockery of the international 'Nature Positive' movement and is outrageous in the context of a global biodiversity emergency. As a quantitative ecologist, I do not consider 'sustainable use' of a native animal appropriate or feasible during an extinction crisis and at a time of ecological collapse. The complexity of natural systems combined with unprecedented rates of environmental change and major uncertainties surrounding current population densities mean that it is impossible to predict the impacts of future threats on wildlife with confidence. Common species can become rare very quickly. Therefore, the only logical approach is to remove as many threats as we can. It is imperative that hunting pressure on kangaroo populations is removed."

"The exploitation of kangaroos is driven by colonial attitudes which remain entrenched in our systems of power, rather than by any defensible scientific basis. Valid ecological reasons for killing kangaroos do not exist. Effective, non-lethal alternatives to killing are always available where it is necessary to actively manage wildlife. I strongly believe that the precautionary principle should be applied in matters regarding wildlife if future generations are to experience the joy of viewing animals in their natural habitats. The Victorian Government has an opportunity to end exploitation of native species and transition to a future in which our unique natural landscapes and wildlife are valued and protected."

Quote attributable to Alyssa Wormald, VKA president:

"I admire Dr Sitters for joining the growing body of scientists who have expressed dire concerns about the broadscale killing of kangaroos. Their voices must be heeded, and immediate action taken to coexist with these incredible ancient animals that are critical to our culture, ecology and biodiversity. We can, and must, do better."