Dear

I am writing to express my firm opposition to the kangaroo industry which is currently operational in Victoria and within my local government area. My concerns are as follows:

**It is** **unethical**. Kangaroos are shot in the wild at night with approx 40% mis-shot leading to extreme suffering. Some escape with horrific injuries such as jaws blown off and other non-fatal wounds. Pouch joeys are bludgeoned to death and at foot joeys escape to die of exposure and starvation. It ruins mob structure and success. It is unethical to Indigenous people who oppose the colonial exploitation of sacred Totem kangaroos, residents who love their mobs and wildlife volunteers who have to euthanise the wounded and raise the orphans.

**It is unsustainable.** Independent scientists have long been raising the alarm that government statics are deeply flawed and keep changing the parameters to create the illusion of abundance or at least stability in populations. For example, the Victorian population estimate released in 2021 showed a 40% increase in kangaroos over two years which, even if we hadn’t had drought and catastrophic bushfires, would be double the biologically possible rate of increase. It’s not about reducing waste of culled kangaroos as when they introduced the commercial system the average combined quotas tripled and the review of the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial (which became the Victorian ‘Kangaroo Harvesting Program’) showed it may have increased waste, as well as being lawless, a threat to sustainability, and low-value to the tax payer.

**It is unhygienic.** Kangaroos are field dressed in unhygienic conditions and driven around on open utes with dust and flies and crammed next to other highly diseased species like wild pigs. The meat has a high incidence of contaminants such as E.coli and salmonella which lead to the banning of imports into Russia. Kangaroos are naturally full of pathogens and parasites, and have suffered from outbreaks of a mysterious super-fatal haemorrhagic disease as well as blindness epidemics. It is well known that 75% of new and emerging infectious diseases in humans are zoonotic (originate in other animals) and the mass exploitation and handling of wild animals is of particular concern. The intensive handling of kangaroo carcasses makes this ripe for the emergence of a new zoonotic killer.

I am one of many Victorians who values these unique, family-oriented animals and believes they are worth much more alive for their inherent, Totemic, ecological and tourist value. I implore you to use your position of influence to pursue an immediate end to the persecution and commercial exploitation of kangaroos, and promote progressive and respectful cohabitation. We are in the middle of a sixth mass extinction and biodiversity crisis with wildlife making up only four percent of the world’s mammalian biomass., so the time to act is now.

Sincerely