

MEDIA RELEASE: VICTORIAN KANGAROO ALLIANCE PROTEST

LOCATION: Office of the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, Gisborne, Victoria.

DATE: 3 December 2021



Overview:

Today we have gathered at the office of the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas today to oppose the Victorian Labor Government's abhorrent treatment of kangaroos. The persecution and exploitation of kangaroos through culling and commercial shooting constitutes an animal welfare crisis, a sustainability risk and a risk to human health, safety and wellbeing. The impetus is outrage over the proposed kangaroo processing facility in Inglewood which aims to process 1000-5000 kangaroos per week from across Victoria and into South Australia and New South Wales.

Our demands from Victorian Labor:

1. Immediately cease the commercial kangaroo industry.
2. Immediately cease approval of unregulated kangaroo killing under the ATCW system.
3. Urgently follow the NSW example and conduct a thorough inquiry into the wellbeing of macropods in Victoria.
4. Produce legislation to prohibit deliberate harm to macropods and increase penalties for those inflicting cruelty on wildlife.
5. Promote progressive and respectful cohabitation with kangaroos.
6. Invest in the development and implementation of non-lethal solutions to help farmers coexist with wildlife.
7. Commission wildlife overpasses (or underpasses) and virtual fencing.
8. Invest in infrastructure for sustainable and lucrative eco-tourism.
9. Support wildlife volunteers.

Quote attributable to Alyssa Wormald, Secretary of Victorian Kangaroo Alliance:

"We are demonstrating peacefully to demand 'tourism NOT barbarism'. We are sick of the relentless killing of kangaroos and the tormenting of communities that love them."

"It is baffling that Victorian Labor gave the commercial industry the green light when the review of the Victorian Kangaroo Pet Food Trial showed it was an abject failure. The aim was to reduce waste from disgracefully prolific 'culling', yet the review showed the commercial system had incentivised the 'need' to cull with 260% more kangaroos "approved for control" over the long-term average, which may in fact have increased waste. Furthermore, the review showed commercial shooting was lawless, corrupt, a threat to sustainability, and low-value to the tax payer. Yet Labor gave it the green light and the industry is continually trying to expand, as we see with the proposed Inglewood kangaroo processing facility under consideration by the Loddon Shire Council."

“We are in the middle of a sixth mass extinction and biodiversity crisis with wildlife making up only four percent of the world’s mammals. Now is the time for Labor to start conserving our unique and iconic kangaroos and treating them with the respect they deserve.”

Quote attributable to Glynn Jarrett, event organiser, former Loddon Shire Council employee and Inglewood resident

"the Inglewood proposal for a wildlife processing facility is absolutely horrendous on so many levels, but importantly it shines a spotlight on the much bigger issue around Kangaroo slaughter across the state. I demand that all Kangaroo shooting is stopped, and that the Inglewood facility is put on hold until we have an independent investigation into the plight of our Kangaroos. We must do this now, as tomorrow might be too late."

Quotes attributable to Helen Round, wildlife rescuer and carer, Macedon Ranges

“We want to draw attention to the findings of the recent NSW Kangaroo Industry inquiry and demand this cruel, dirty and unsustainable trade is shut down. No kangaroo meat is farmed. All kangaroo meat comes from animals shot and processed in the wild where industry practices are as filthy as the trade itself. Australians are upset by the Japanese dolphin slaughters, by the clubbing of Canadian fur seals and the wet markets of China without recognising the same barbaric practices occur here, every single night.”

“We are in the grip of a worldwide zoonotic pandemic that evolved from eating bush meat and it is incomprehensible that Australian governments are fostering a bush meat industry here.”

“Mary-Anne Thomas has directly betrayed the people who voted her in by inviting shooters into tourist and residential areas within the Macedon Ranges. This is her electorate and we are being not being represented.”

“One cow eats the same as up to 60 kangaroos while one politician has signed off on the death of more than 100,000 kangaroos a year.”

Quote attributable to Frank Jesse, Griffins Hill Retreat, Dunkeld

“Shooting and tourism are not compatible. We operate a tourism business in the Southern Grampians. The introduction of the commercial killing of kangaroos on a neighbouring property is unbearable. Shooting regularly disturbs us and our clients’ night-time activities. Spotlights shine through the building and gunfire can be heard that is often frighteningly close to our property. The shooting has had a detrimental impact on our wellbeing and it is an impediment to investment. I strongly advise the Loddon Shire Council to reject the application for a kangaroo processing facility Inglewood. The government should end the shooting and encourage wildlife tourism.”

Victorian Kangaroo Alliance

Glynn Jarrett

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Glynn Jarrett's mobile protest in front of the proposed processing facility in Inglewood, Sept 2021. Credit: Glynn Jarrett.



Western grey kangaroo mother and at-foot joey. Credit: Kim Wormald Lirrallirra. (Higher resolution available on request).