

## VICTORIAN KANGAROO ALLIANCE INC. MEDIA RELEASE

### A Win for Kangaroos: Inglewood Kangaroo Processing Facility Rejected

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Victorian Kangaroo Alliance (VKA) is celebrating a win for the kangaroos as, on Tuesday 26 April, the Loddon Shire Council refused the application to convert the former Loddon Valley Abattoir into a processing facility for wild game, mainly kangaroos.

Over several months, many have come together to fight this proposal which would increase demand for kangaroo bodies by at least 1000 per week.

The Council Planning Officer recommended that the proposal be rejected as it is inappropriate in a Rural Living Zone. They also noted that the Council received 106 submissions opposing the facility as well as petitions with many thousands of signatures, whilst there were only two submissions received in favour of the plant.

VKA and the Animal Justice Party also ran a campaign where 1263 emails were sent to the Loddon Shire tourism team pledging to actively boycott Inglewood if the facility went ahead.

VKA secretary, Glynn Jarrett, said, “whilst the outcome is a win for kangaroos and Loddon Shire overall, it was extremely disappointing to hear the Councillors complain about having to reject the application. The two letters of support were buried under an avalanche of people asking that the facility not be approved, and good governance at the council level is about listening to your community and not sticking to archaic practices that go back to colonisation.” Glynn added, “Councils need to be bold and creative, but above all else they must be kind as we move away from our cruel past where we killed anything for a few dollars”.

The VKA president, Alyssa Wormald, stated, “we are in the middle of a sixth mass extinction event and a zoonotic pandemic, so the Council should be delighted to reject a horrific and unsustainable bushmeat facility in their Shire”. She continued, “we are under no illusion that the applicant will just walk away from this and we are prepared to tackle whatever comes next. In the meantime, we are taking a moment to enjoy this victory for the kangaroos.”

The move has been widely celebrated amongst wildlife volunteers. India Armstrong from Central Goldfields Wildlife Rescue said, “we are so happy to see that the Loddon Shire Council made the right decision in regard to the Inglewood Kangaroo Facility. This is a step forward for the protection of our native wildlife. We are beyond grateful for VKA and all the hard-working people who have fought endlessly to protect our beautiful kangaroos.”

The campaign has been supported by Andy Meddick MP from the Animal Justice Party. Today he stated, “this is a fantastic result for our iconic native animal the kangaroo, and shows just how effective a campaign can be when run with passion and facts by local community and backed by overwhelming support.” He added, “ultimately, this was decided on a zoning issue, but that was just part of the many arguments put forward in the objections. Just as I supported this campaign, I will again support the community and all who care about kangaroos if the applicant appeals.”

With the rapid growth of lucrative nature-based tourism, VKA has suggested to Council that there are far more jobs and money for the region through the development of infrastructure for quality ecotourism experiences, like a kangaroo sanctuary.