

Media release: Friday, 4 February 2022

## VICTORIAN KANGAROO CRISIS



### WHAT'S THE STORY?

Victorian kangaroos are in crisis. Average quotas have tripled, communities are outraged and shooters are desperately soliciting for dwindling kangaroos.

### WHY IS IT NEWSWORTHY?

- With the onset of the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial in 2014, then Agriculture Minister Peter Walsh told Victorians commercialising kangaroo shooting “will not mean any increase in the wildlife control permits at all, it is just utilising the waste that is there from the current controls”.<sup>1</sup> However, average quotas have since more than tripled.
- It was flagged in the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial Evaluation Report (2018)<sup>2</sup> that commercialisation risks sustainability and breeds corruption, yet this warning was brazenly ignored by Victorian Labor. Victorian Labor launched the Kangaroo Harvesting Program, removed the need for landholder permits and opened nearly the whole state to ‘harvesting’.<sup>3</sup> Commercial quotas continue to increase and the industry is trying to expand with a proposed processing facility in Inglewood wanting thousands of kangaroo carcasses per week.<sup>4</sup>

KANGAROOS 'APPROVED FOR CONTROL'			
PRE-COMMERCIAL		POST-COMMERCIAL	
Year	Quota	Year	Quota
No earlier data		2015	135,887
		2016	169,544
		2017	189,086
2009	64,152	2018	168,992
2010	39,559	2019	136,502
2011	34,721	2020	137,800
2012	45,717	2021	191,200
2013	75,139	2022	185,850
<b>Average</b>	<b>51,858</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>164,358</b>
Excludes 2014 (quota 84,100) as between systems			



- Consequently, we are facing a kangaroo crisis. This unsustainable industry is sweeping across Victoria decimating kangaroo populations in its wake. Wildlife volunteers are called to horrifically wounded kangaroos, community members are expressing concern to Victorian Kangaroo Alliance about disappearing kangaroos, and profiteering shooters are increasingly desperate to find kangaroos.
- Not only are there reports of shooters leafletting and door-knocking, they are soliciting widely across community Facebook groups in a bid to find scarce kangaroos. Over 120 posts were found across more than 70 Facebook groups in the past 18 months. There are likely many more in private groups.

- Independent biostatistician Claire Galea has released a damning critique of the flawed kangaroo counting processes that are putting Victorian kangaroos at grave risk.<sup>5</sup>
- Victorian Kangaroo Alliance has avoided protests during the omicron outbreak but Lilydale local, Susan White, is so incensed by the killing that on 18 January she sat with a sign in front of Parliament and Federation Square. She plans more solo demonstrations.

Quotes, contacts and dropbox link on next page



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/culled-kangaroos-to-be-harvested-in-victoria-for-pet-food-sale-20140318-350g8.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0031/468841/KPFT-Evaluation-Report-Dec-2018.pdf](https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/468841/KPFT-Evaluation-Report-Dec-2018.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://djpr.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/1913962/FAQs-landowners.pdf](https://djpr.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1913962/FAQs-landowners.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://au.news.yahoo.com/blood-hungry-bogans-victorias-kangaroo-cull-plan-slammed-084726575.html>

<https://www.miragenews.com/kangaroo-meat-plant-at-inglewood-will-destroy-626275/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://au.news.yahoo.com/shot-to-extinction-concern-for-kangaroos-after-damning-report-released-045546980.html>

**Quotes attributable to Alyssa Wormald, Secretary of Victorian Kangaroo Alliance:**

“The rampant slaughter of kangaroos constitutes an animal welfare crisis, a sustainability risk and a risk to human health, safety and wellbeing.”

“The commercialisation of kangaroo killing is playing out like a horror movie with shooters stalking around communities, beloved kangaroo mobs disappearing, residents finding butchered remains near homes and businesses, and wildlife volunteers faced with rescuing mangled kangaroos and orphaned joeys.”

“The government must support farmers by developing affordable and effective non-lethal means of coexisting with kangaroos. There is no excuse for sacrificing animal welfare, community wellbeing and tourism businesses in favour of a brutal and unsustainable bushmeat trade.”

Contact Alyssa Wormald: [info@vickangas.org](mailto:info@vickangas.org)

**Quotes attributable to Susan White, upset Lilydale resident who held a solo protest in the city:**

“I am an ordinary member of the public, I protested against the kangaroo slaughter in Australia because I have seen shocking cruelty inflicted on these defenceless animals.”

“I am enraged about the lack of honesty and transparency from the Victorian government. I believe their platitudes about the protection of animal welfare and sustainability is delusional rot. Lies. Not from what I have seen.”

“I feel it is greatly important that the public is fully aware of what is happening here, the joeys bludgeoned to death, mobs wiped out, the cross-contamination with diseased feral pigs, the international outrage... The public has a right to know.”

Contact Susan White: on request

**Dropbox link for images of Susan’s protest, shooters soliciting and wounded kangaroos (SOME IMAGES ARE GRAPHIC). Please copy into browser:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zvihz9enp4m0fua/AAAbVk30jmWRIdEXlTtqp0fua?dl=0>

