

MEDIA RELEASE: Wildlife community betrayed by Labor's highest kangaroo kill quota

DATE: Monday, 16 January 2023

CONTACTS: Alyssa Wormald, info@vickangas.org



OVERVIEW:

Victorian Labor released their devastating and reprehensible [2023 Kangaroo Quota Report](#) just before New Year's Eve, **preparing to kill more kangaroos than ever before** (see table on page 2).

- Commercial 'Kangaroo Harvesting Program' quota has risen from 127,850 to 166,750 - **30% increase**
- Non-commercial 'Authority to Control Wildlife' quota has risen from 58,000 to 69,000 - **19% increase**
- The overall quota has risen from 185,850 to 236,350 - **27% increase**

The report also outlines the utterly absurd findings from the 2022 kangaroo population survey, building on the laughable 2020 survey that was already **double the possible biological rate of increase** despite catastrophic drought and bushfires. Again, the new report touts biologically impossible figures and completely ignores the impact of the 2022 floods.

[Our full analysis of the quota report](#)

Quotes attributable to Alyssa Wormald, VKA president

"We were appalled but unsurprised that Victorian Labor once again dug the knife into the wildlife community over the holidays when they know hard-working wildlife volunteers were trying to get a much-needed break."

"The claim that kangaroo numbers are increasing is completely incongruous with reports we receive from across the state. Residents are reporting dwindling numbers and despite commercial shooters [soliciting desperately](#) across the state for kangaroos to kill, they have again not come close to filling their quota."

"We have absolutely no faith in government figures and are calling for an urgent inquiry into the treatment of kangaroos in Victoria and the [impact the slaughter is having on residents, wildlife volunteers and Indigenous People](#). Ultimately we need a royal commission to independently analyse this nightmarish wildlife trade across the nation as the state and federal governments are openly in cahoots with the kangaroo industry."

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

"We are regularly called out to properties adjoining those where shooting has occurred. As self-funded volunteer rescuers and carers, our role should be to rescue, rear and rehabilitate rather than mop up after massacres. From personal experience, I can tell you that miss shooting is a regular and unavoidable occurrence. It takes weeks for these roos to die slow and agonising deaths."

"We are horrified and deeply angered by the lies and misinformation in this quota setting report. Like the last quota increase, this year the government has cited biologically impossible population increases and has refused to take into account the natural disasters that impact kangaroo populations. We have seen almost an entire generation of pouch joeys wiped out by the floods only two years after the Black Summer Fires that killed over 3 billion animals. But for the Andrews' government, it's business as usual."

"Kangaroo shooting is not sustainable. Show me a successful farmer who kills his best and biggest bulls first and then slaughters his stock at a faster rate than they can reproduce. Yet these inflated quotas based on false data are doing just that."

Quote attributable to Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnstone, Victorian Aboriginal Elder

"As an Aboriginal Elder plus researcher/academic I totally abhor the way ongoing invasive colonists have taken this Country and her creatures and absolutely destroyed the very spirit of this land and harmed our Kin the Kangaroos."

More from Aunty Janet [here](#).

**Commercial incentive more than
TRIPLED average quotas for PROFIT**

KANGAROOS 'APPROVED FOR CONTROL'

PRE-COMMERCIAL		POST-COMMERCIAL	
Year	Quota	Year	Quota
no earlier data		2015	135,887
		2016	169,544
		2017	189,086
		2018	168,992
2009	64,152	2019	136,502
2010	39,559	2020	137,800
2011	34,721	2021	191,200
2012	45,717	2022	185,850
2013	75,139	2023	236,350
Average	51,858	Average	172,357

≈3.3x



vic kangas .org

*excludes 2014 (quota 84,100) as commercial system started in April



Eastern Grey Kangaroo mother and joey, permission to use without credit