



Media release, Friday, 4 March 2022:

MARY-ANNE THOMAS MP BRINGS KANGAROO “CARNAGE” TO MACEDON RANGES

OVERVIEW: Victorian kangaroos are in crisis. Average quotas have tripled, rescuers deal with horrific wounding, communities are outraged, and shooters are desperately soliciting for dwindling kangaroos. In the Macedon Ranges, locals feel betrayed by their own representative, Mary-Anne Thomas, who oversees commercial kangaroo shooting in her role as Minister for Agriculture.

Quotes attributable to Glenn Cottier (Full open letter in dropbox), volunteer wildlife rescuer active in Macedon Ranges Shire and Mitchell Shire (contact on request)

“It's tough enough to be a volunteer wildlife rescuer without the additional burden of attending to kangaroos that have been maimed by bullets.”

“We are the first responders, we are the ones consistently exposed to the horrors inflicted on these animals. We see the limbs hanging ragged, the swollen infected, bloated faces and bodies from embedded bullets. We see ones with jaws and noses shot away from what's left of their faces. We witness the wounded mothers unable to tend their pouch joeys. These are the ones that are found by members of our community, but there are many more unaccounted for, suffering and dying alone.”

“Wildlife volunteers have always been aware of this kind of cruelty towards our kangaroos, but it has got so much worse since the commercialisation of the kangaroo industry. We feel betrayed that it was our own representative Mary-Anne Thomas that brought this carnage literally to our doorstep.”



Glenn Cottier with emaciated face shot kangaroo.
Gisborne, Vic. January 2020.
Credit: Sue Anderson.

Quotes attributable to Helen Round, wildlife rescuer and carer, Macedon Ranges (contact on request)

“Because we are a locally well-known wildlife shelter, we are being contacted regularly by distraught landholders who are seeing the roos they love being shot out by their greedy neighbours. These people are devastated and furious that they have no rights. They feel that they have been betrayed by their local member, Mary-Anne Thomas. People move here to live with nature and the MP who is supposed to represent us is actively destroying the reasons why we moved here.”

“We have observed a concerning decline in kangaroos in our region since the onset of commercial shooting.”

Quote attributable to Leanne Johnston, Gisborne resident (contact on request)

“I have lived in Gisborne for around 23 years and I travel around the region for my job in aged care. I would always see kangas grazing in the countryside around this region but there are hardly any now. I have emailed Mary-Anne Thomas many times regarding our kangaroos, but I never get a reply.”

Quote attributable to Alyssa Wormald, Secretary of Victorian Kangaroo Alliance

info@vickangas.org

“We are sick of the relentless killing of kangaroos and tormenting f communities that love them. We want progressive leadership to genuinely protect our kangaroos and foster respectful cohabitation.”

Dropbox link for images and resources. Please copy into browser:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dzvv2zpwf8pltqi/AACEPgvnDFxXWBUI0jK3mt85a?dl=0>