

MEDIA RELEASE: Call for urgent moratorium on kangaroo killing due to Victorian flood crisis

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Overview:

With the devastating floods impacting huge swaths of Victoria, once again our wildlife are in crisis.¹ Kangaroos are being washed away and joeys drowned in the pouch, or they are stranded or displaced near roads and other unsafe areas. The death toll from drowning, injury, stress, starvation, illness and disease will undoubtedly be high.

Victorian kangaroos are killed both non-commercially ('culling') and commercially ('harvesting'). The Australia wide persecution and exploitation of kangaroos is the world's largest mammalian wildlife trade. The so-called 'Victorian Harvest Management Plan' allows for immediate suspension of the 'Kangaroo Harvesting Program' in zones affected by natural disasters², but to our knowledge there has been no such suspension of Victorian Labor's extensive kangaroo shooting programs due to these floods. With kangaroo numbers obviously low enough to trigger a recent quota cut in two zones³, a natural disaster of this scale should trigger an immediate state-wide moratorium on kangaroo shooting.

We are supported in this call by Andy Meddick MP, Animal Justice Party Member for Western Victoria and Georgie Purcell, Animal Justice Party Candidate for Northern Victoria.

Quotes attributable to VKA president, Alyssa Wormald:

"How is it morally acceptable that whilst exhausted wildlife volunteers scramble to save flood affected kangaroos, elsewhere in the state shooters are still busy killing and maiming them for profit?"

"Victorian Labor, we call on you to enact an immediate moratorium on this cruel ecocide. Our kangaroos have suffered enough."

Photos on following pages

¹ <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/the-photo-that-tells-the-story-of-australias-devastating-flood-crisis/o5120vfiv>

² https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/505624/Victorian_Kangaroo_Harvest_Management_Plan_2021-2023.pdf (see page 10)

³ <https://vickangas.org/blog/f/quotas-cut-in-two-shooting-zones>



An exhausted displaced mother kangaroo stuck in a fence with her face in the muddy water in Gisborne. She was euthanised and her joey taken into care. Credit: Debbie Gwyther-Jones.



Gisborne orphaned joey caked in mud, likely suffering from a respiratory infection from the mud and water. Credit: Krysti Severi.



Young male kangaroo caked with mud after fleeing floodwaters in Kialla. Credit: Kirsty Ramadan