

MEDIA RELEASE: WORLD WILDLIFE DAY PROTEST FOR KANGAROOS

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Overview: This World Wildlife Day, Friday 3 March, we gathered at the Premier Dan Andrews' office in East Melbourne to oppose the Victorian Labor Government's abhorrent treatment of kangaroos. The broadscale persecution and commercial exploitation of kangaroos is an animal welfare crisis, sustainability risk, and risk to human health and safety. The rally was prompted by the devastating and reprehensible [2023 Kangaroo Quota Report](#) released just before New Year's Eve showing Labor has increased the overall kill quota by 27%, **preparing to kill more kangaroos than ever before.**

This [event](#) was hosted by Victorian Kangaroo Alliance, Animal Justice Party Victoria, Defend the Wild, Collective Fashion Justice and Kangaroos Alive. It was a memorial, complete with headstone and flower display, for Victorian kangaroos that have suffered at the hands of Labor. The event was opened by Georgie Purcell MP (member for Northern Victoria), and speeches covered topics including the colonial underpinning of kangaroo killing in Victoria, the cruelty, impacts on wildlife volunteers and residents, and the need for better ways of living alongside our unique kangaroos. The speeches were concluded with a moving reflection from Victorian Elder, Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnstone. We then marched into Treasury Gardens, lead by Macedon Ranges wildlife shelter operator, Helen Round.

Victorian Kangaroo Alliance requests from Victorian Labor:

1. Immediately cease the commercial kangaroo industry.
2. Immediately cease approval of unregulated kangaroo killing under the ATCW system.
3. Urgently follow the NSW example and conduct a thorough inquiry into the wellbeing of macropods in Victoria.
4. Produce legislation to prohibit deliberate harm to macropods and increase penalties for wildlife cruelty.
5. Promote progressive and respectful cohabitation with kangaroos.
6. Invest in the development and implementation of non-lethal solutions to help landholders coexist with wildlife.
7. Commission wildlife overpasses (or underpasses) and virtual fencing.
8. Invest in infrastructure for sustainable and lucrative eco-tourism.
9. Support wildlife volunteers.

Quotes attributable to Georgie Purcell MP, Animal Justice Party member for Northern Victoria

"The slaughter of our kangaroos is government-sanctioned cruelty, and the ministers who approve these disgraceful programs will never personally see the mess they've made. I challenge them to come out to the regions and watch joeys being legally bludgeoned on a tow bar, or a kangaroo with half of their face blown off but still alive. Perhaps maybe then they will reconsider."

"Kangaroos have fallen victim to a hate-campaign by a greedy, profit driven industry that is hellbent on promoting the narrative that our wildlife don't deserve to be here"

"When it is convenient, we exploit our native icon for tourism. We put them in captivity, and we export them overseas. But when we have cleared all of their land for factory farming and development, we find them trying to survive, trying to find food and shelter - inconvenient."

"One of the things I am most proud about in my electorate is the dedicated hardworking network of wildlife carers. We have the largest electorate that spans across to borders, yet we can find someone willing to help protect and rescue wildlife in all corners. The government should not be making their lives harder"

Quote attributable to Alyssa Wormald, President of Victorian Kangaroo Alliance:

"We are sick of the relentless killing of kangaroos and the tormenting of communities that love them. We are in the middle of a sixth mass extinction and biodiversity crisis with wildlife making up only four percent of the world's mammalian biomass. Now is the time for Labor to start conserving our unique and iconic kangaroos and treating them with the respect they deserve."

Quote attributable to Helen Round, wildlife rescuer and shelter operator, Macedon Ranges

“We demand this cruel, dirty and unsustainable trade is shut down. No kangaroo meat is farmed. All kangaroo meat comes from animals shot and processed in the wild where industry practices are as filthy as the trade itself. Australians are upset by the Japanese dolphin slaughters, by the clubbing of Canadian fur seals and the wet markets of China without recognising the same barbaric practices occur here, every single night.”

Images

Pictures of the event are by Ross Spirou. High resolution kangaroo images are also available on request.



Georgie Purcell MP addresses the crowd



Helen Round leads the march



A large crowd gathered for the event



The march into the Treasury Gardens