



NILLUMBİK KANGAROOS

ABUNDANCE

The true abundance of kangaroos in Nillumbik is unknown. Expert biostatistician, Clare Galea, has recently analysed the methodology used to count kangaroos in Victoria and found it so flawed that it threatens the ongoing viability of Victorian kangaroo populations.¹

The Victorian Kangaroo Survey estimated there was 5100 kangaroos in Nillumbik in 2018. In 2020 the Victorian Kangaroo Survey estimated there was 12,200 kangaroos in Nillumbik. This is a 139% increase. The biology of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo allows for a ~10% population increase per annum under ideal conditions.² So, if the 2018 survey was correct then over two years at the most we could expect ~20% increase in population by the 2020 survey. This means the 2020 survey is showing an increase that is roughly five times the biologically possible rate of increase. This is even less plausible given the harsh conditions from 2018-2020.

These incongruous figures mirror those in the Mornington Peninsula where the 2020 Victorian Kangaroo Survey estimated 7000 kangaroos yet a rigorous citizen science project run by Dr Greg Holland found only 2200 in the region.

GRAZING PRESSURE

Kangaroos contribute minimally to the overall grazing pressure and prefer different foraging situations to livestock with minimal competition except in times of drought.³ One cow has the grazing pressure of sixty kangaroos, and one sheep has the grazing pressure of five kangaroos.⁴ Kangaroos are a keystone species, aerating the soil with their long claws whilst fertilising with nutrient rich dung.

The Victorian commercial kangaroo industry was sold as preventing waste from 'culling' but since then average quotas have tripled. This demonstrates the dangers of a financial incentive.

SOLICITING

One example of many Facebook posts soliciting for kangaroos in the Nillumbik and Yarra Ranges region. There have also been community reports of shooters doorknocking and leafletting in Nillumbik.



Kangaroo Ground Noticeboard · Join
Darren Smith · 8 Dec 2021 · 🌐

I know some people will understand, others will be offended but this is an issue and I offer a sustainable result for those in need.

If kangaRoo or deer damaging your property ? Eating stock food sources, or damaging the fencing and land???

But you can't get a permit to control animals on the property?

Fully Accredited harvester, available!!

- *Fully insured \$10M
- *licensed and certified
- *process and remove animals off property *you don't need to arrange a permit
- *confidential
- *references on request
- *20+ properties currently serviced

¹ <https://au.news.yahoo.com/shot-to-extinction-concern-for-kangaroos-after-damning-report-released-045546980.html>

² Mjadwesch, R. (2011). *Nomination to List the Large Macropods as Threatened Species under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. MESS, Bathurst.

³ Mjadwesch, R. (2011).

⁴ Grigg, G. C. (2002). Conservation benefit from harvesting kangaroos: status report at the start of a new millennium, a paper to stimulate discussion and research. *A Zoological Revolution. Using native fauna to assist in its own survival*. D. Lunney and C. Dickman. Mosman, Royal Zoological Society of NSW: 53-76.; Mjadwesch, (2011).

CRUELTY

Two examples of non-fatal wounding from many such cases documented by local wildlife rescuers.



IMPACT ON RESCUERS

Stringybark Wildlife Shelter

"I have been rescuing kangaroos in Nillumbik for almost four years now. In that time myself and other rescuers have come across dozens of kangaroos that have been shot and wounded and left to die. We've seen kangaroos with half their face missing, kangaroos with bullet holes in their rump or legs, and even bullet holes in their abdomen. They are called in by concerned residents who find them suffering and slowly dying of infection. The pain and fear they must feel is unimaginable. As wildlife rescuers we deal with suffering every day - road trauma, dog attacks, fence hangers etc - but seeing these kangaroos being deliberately slaughtered and maimed is absolutely soul destroying. We dedicate our lives to helping wildlife while our neighbours call in shooters to needlessly kill them. There is no justification needed, no reason. Studies have shown time and time again that kangaroos do not compete with livestock in any measurable fashion, and that damage to fences can be avoided with some very simple and cost-effective modifications. And yet our government continues to encourage the persecution of our beautiful native fauna. I live in what should be kangaroo heaven but I will not release my hand-raised joeys here because I often hear shooters in nearby properties. I hope that Nillumbik will take a stand against this needless cruelty and protect our precious kangaroos."

Narelle Trippett, Nillumbik rescuer and carer

"Pouch checks leave you with lots of unanswered questions, did you die instantly? did you lie here terrified? Where is your Joey? Alone or with the mob? Will it be old enough to survive? The distress, anger and sadness to find the kangaroo has also been shot in the back as well as run over is devastating. Sadly it's not uncommon in the outskirts of Melbourne and I'm no longer surprised by it."

IMPACT ON RESIDENTS

Robyn Dahl, Kangaroo Ground resident

"I live in Kangaroo Ground, Nillumbik, the heart of the Green Wedge. That means most residents choose to live here because of our love of wildlife and nature. We love our kangaroos which already contend with increasing urbanisation, carnage on our roads, unsuitable fencing and now SHOOTERS! We feel let down by our state government. Please stop killing our kangaroos. They deserve better."