

VICTORIAN COMMERCIAL KANGAROO INDUSTRY

A GRAPHIC OVERVIEW



CONTENT WARNING: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS HIGHLY DISTURBING IMAGES OF THE HORRIFIC TREATMENT OF VICTORIAN KANGAROOS

Background

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.

Victorian kangaroos have long been persecuted through Authority to Control Wildlife permits (known as 'culling') when they are perceived as an inconvenience. There has been virtually no leadership from the government to encourage respectful cohabitation with this keystone species.

In 2014, the Victorian Government created the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial. Then Agriculture Minister, Peter Walsh, told Victorians commercialising kangaroo shooting ["will not mean any increase in the wildlife control permits at all, it is just utilising the waste that is there from the current controls"](#).

AVERAGE COMBINED QUOTAS HAVE SINCE MORE THAN TRIPLED.

It was flagged in the [Kangaroo Pet Food Trial Evaluation Report](#) (2018) that commercialisation threatens sustainability and is rife with corruption and lawlessness, yet this warning was brazenly ignored by Victorian Labor. Victorian Labor launched the 'Kangaroo Harvesting Program', [removed the need for landholder permits](#) and opened nearly the whole state to 'harvesting'. [Commercial quotas continue to increase](#) and the [industry is trying to expand](#).

Despite desperate solicitation, shooters only managed to fill 66% of the commercial quota in 2021.

In 2022 they increased the commercial quota by a further 34,210. The [2023 quota report](#) estimated only 58% of the 2022 quota was filled yet they increased it again by 38,900 on the basis of biologically impossible population survey results.

Expert biostatistician, Clare Galea, [analysed the methodology](#) used to count kangaroos in Victoria and found it so flawed that it threatens the ongoing viability of Victorian kangaroo populations.



VICTORIAN COMBINED QUOTAS			
KANGAROOS 'APPROVED FOR CONTROL'			
PRE-COMMERCIAL		POST-COMMERCIAL	
Year	Quota	Year	Quota
		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

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

1. Soliciting

Shooters are leafleting and doorknocking, and we have recorded hundreds of posts seeking kangaroos to shoot in over a hundred Victorian community Facebook groups since late 2020. This shows their desperation to find dwindling kangaroos and proves the industry is about profit, not 'reducing waste'.

 **Myrtleford Community** · [Join](#)
Zac · 2 Jan · 🌐

Properties wanted.
Free pest control.
I do this for a living so keeping propertie owners happy is my priority.
References available if required.
Im an accredited game meat harvester/professional shooter.
All animals are utilised for human consumption.
Property owners are covered by my public liability insurance.
My services are Free of charge.
I have my own tags so **no need for a permit.**
My licence covers Rabbit, Hare ,Kangaroo, Deer.
I am happy to travel.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

 **Korumburra Community Noticeboard** · [Join](#)
Aaron · 22 Nov 2021 · 🌐

G'day guys I'm looking for shooting properties in the Gippsland region professional shooter looking for kangaroos/deer to harvest, i have tags and licences up to date so **no need for permits**, if interested inbox me please and we will go from there.

 **Loch Community Noticeboard** · [Join](#)
Darren · 1 Jul 2021 · 🌐

Farmers, landowners or stock agents

Are 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

Pm me for details, travel all Over Vic

100% free service and everything above board.

As noted in the KPFT review, Vic landholders are also being approached by shooters offering financial incentives for access to kangaroos. This is an abuse of the system.

 **Whittlesea Buy Swap And Sell** · [Join](#)
Gerard · 7 Aug 2021 · 🌐

Professional roo harvester, if you have a property needing a cull inbox me for more details

 **Glenburn Community Group (Australia)** · [Join](#)
Daryn · 9 Mar 2021 · 🌐

Admin delete if not allowed

-Not selling but offering help-

Roo or deer damaging property ? Eating the stocks food sources?
Can't get a permit to control animals on property?

Accredited harvester, available!!
Fully insured and licensed, **can process and removed animals off property without permit.**

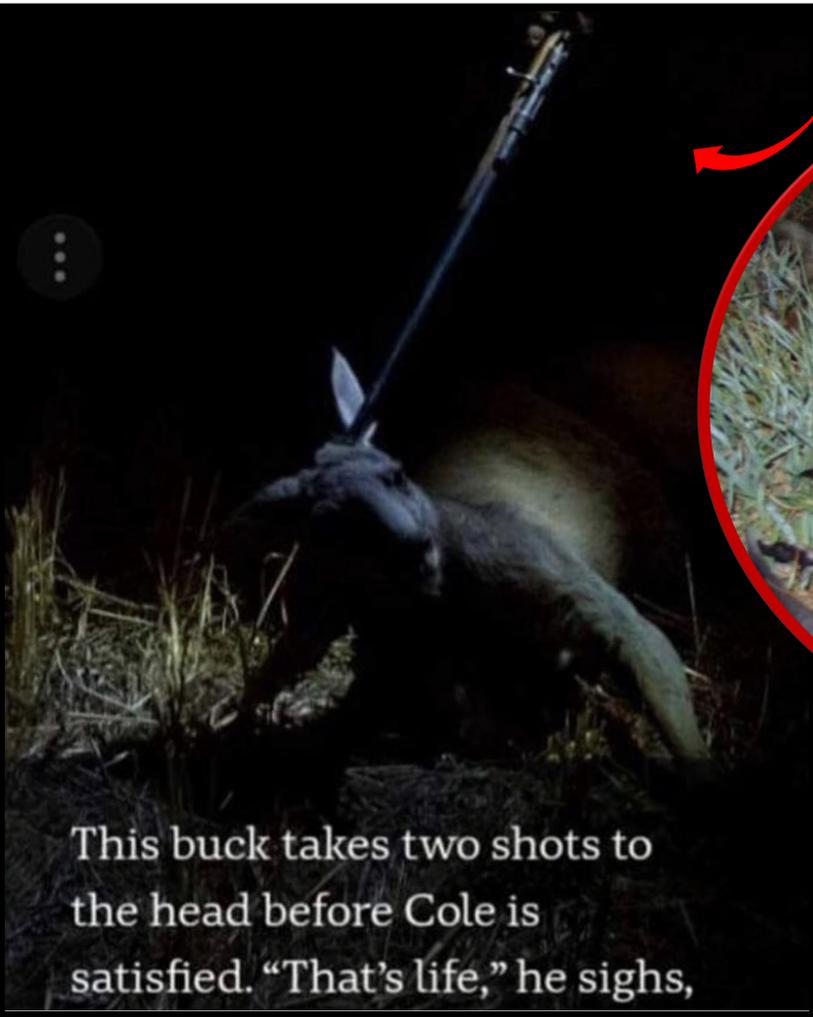
Pm me for details, travel all Over Vic but based in S.E. Melbourne

Abn set up all above board.
Thanks in advance

2. Shooting

Kangaroos are shot in the wild, none are farmed. They are supposed to be shot in the head but realistically that does not always happen. In-field compliance is virtually non-existent.

The image below comes from a [2018 ABC article](#) by Jane Cowan where she spent the night with a Victorian kangaroo shooter. Though highly experienced, he mis-shot several kangaroos, and lost two out of eighteen.



This buck takes two shots to the head before Cole is satisfied. "That's life," he sighs,



Joeys are considered a waste product and will be decapitated or bashed to death. This dead joey in an offal pile was found by [Kangaroos Alive](#) rescuers in NSW.

GOVERNMENT GUIDE TO BLUDGEONING LITTLE JOEYS

"The most suitable method that is currently available for the euthanasia of partially-furred to fully-furred young is a concussive blow to the head (also called **BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA**)."

"**REMOVE THE YOUNG FROM THE POUCH...** hold the young firmly by the hindquarters... and then swing firmly and quickly in an arc so that the rear of **THE JOEY'S HEAD IS HIT AGAINST A LARGE SOLID SURFACE** that will not move or compress during the impact (e.g. the tray of a utility vehicle)"

"The efficiency and humaneness of this method **DEPENDS ON THE OPERATOR'S SKILL AND DETERMINATION**. The concussive blow must be delivered with sufficient force and be **PRECISELY ON TARGET TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE DAMAGE OCCURS** to vital structures of the brain to cause immediate and sustained unconsciousness and death."

"**IF THIS PROCEDURE IS NOT PERFORMED CORRECTLY** there will be varying degrees of consciousness and it is **LIKELY THAT THE ANIMAL WILL SUFFER** prior to death. If the first blow does not hit the skull but hits, for example, the jaw or a limb, or if the brain is not sufficiently destroyed, then the animal will **EXPERIENCE PAIN AND DISTRESS.**"

Source: National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes 2020

#STOPKILLINGKANGAROOS
#KANGAROOTRUTH

3. Hanging

Kangaroos are collected from the field and hung by the leg from the back of the shooter's ute. They are stabbed in the neck to bleed out.



Young children and untrained offshoots attend and handle the bodies. Though highly unhygienic, this is legal.



4. Field Dressing

Kangaroo heads & limbs are chopped off and their organs removed in the wild. This is highly unhygienic & cross-contamination is rife, both between kangaroos & other species such as wild boar & deer. Shooters often wear no protective equipment.



Note the lack of gloves and protective clothing



Cavities exposed to heat, dust and insects



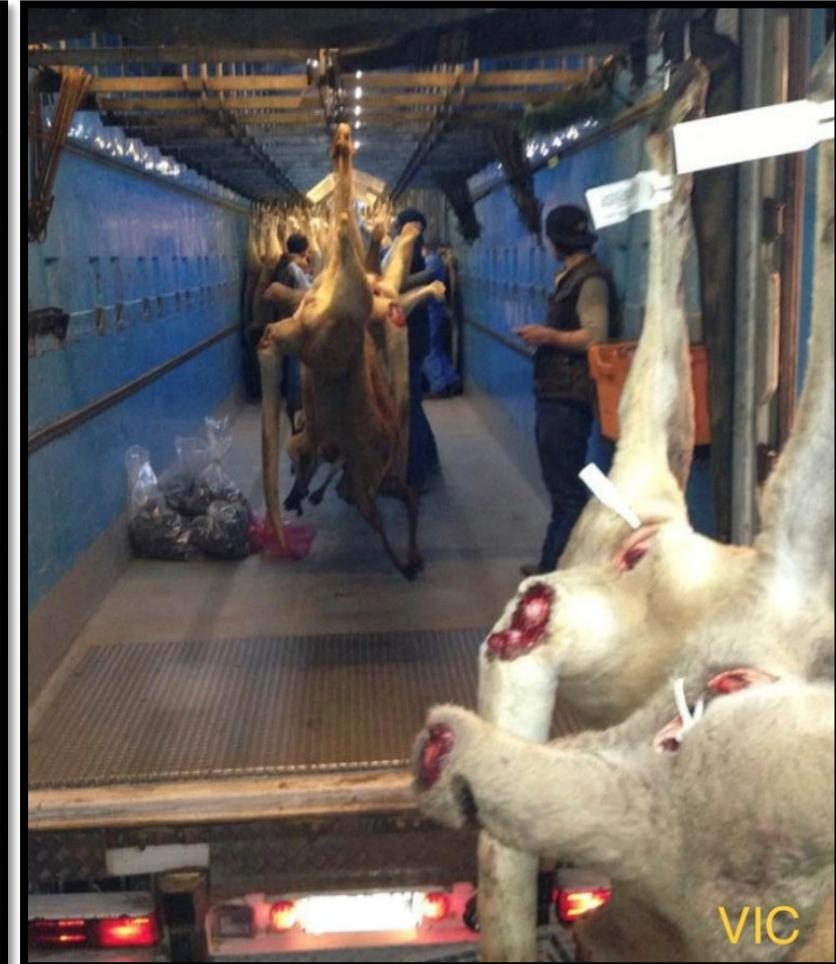
5. Transport

Kangaroos are packed tightly together, including with other wild species such as wild boar and deer. The open carcasses can be driven around all night with dust, mud, faeces, insects and high ambient temperatures. This is highly unhygienic and [disturbing to members of the public](#).



6. Field Depots

Kangaroo bodies return to field depots (often filthy retrofitted shipping containers) within two hours AFTER sunrise, arriving in broad daylight regardless of temperature. Mixed wild species hang there for up to two weeks before transport to processors.



There are minimal hygiene standards. Note the lack of gloves and protective clothing.

Images from www.facebook.com/kangarootruth

7. Processing Facilities - Loading

After up to a fortnight in the field depot, again the bodies are exposed to the elements, insects and cross-contamination when they are transported and unloaded at processing facilities.



There is no minimum carcass weight in Victoria. Note the many small individuals.

8. Processing Facilities

These images from inside Victorian processors were leaked by a whistleblower alleging mistreated workers smoke and drink in filthy conditions.



Deer and Kangaroos crammed together in onsite chillers. Video evidence shows a leaking roof.



Workers apparently smoking & allegedly under the influence



9. Aftermath – Joeys

Joeys are considered a waste product and pouch joeys will be bashed to death. At-foot joeys often escape to perish slowly, crying for their mothers.



These joeys were orphaned after a commercial shoot. Despite rescue and the best care, their spirits and bodies were broken and they did not survive.



This youngster died alone without care from its mother. Found by devastated locals.

The Victorian Kangaroo Harvesting Report 2020 showed that one third (33%) of kangaroos commercially killed were female and 13,850 joeys were killed. This is horrific enough, but it does not include the toll of joeys left orphaned.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo joeys are dependent on their mothers for 18 months for milk and care. Without their mother they will die slowly from exposure, stress, starvation, dehydration and predation.

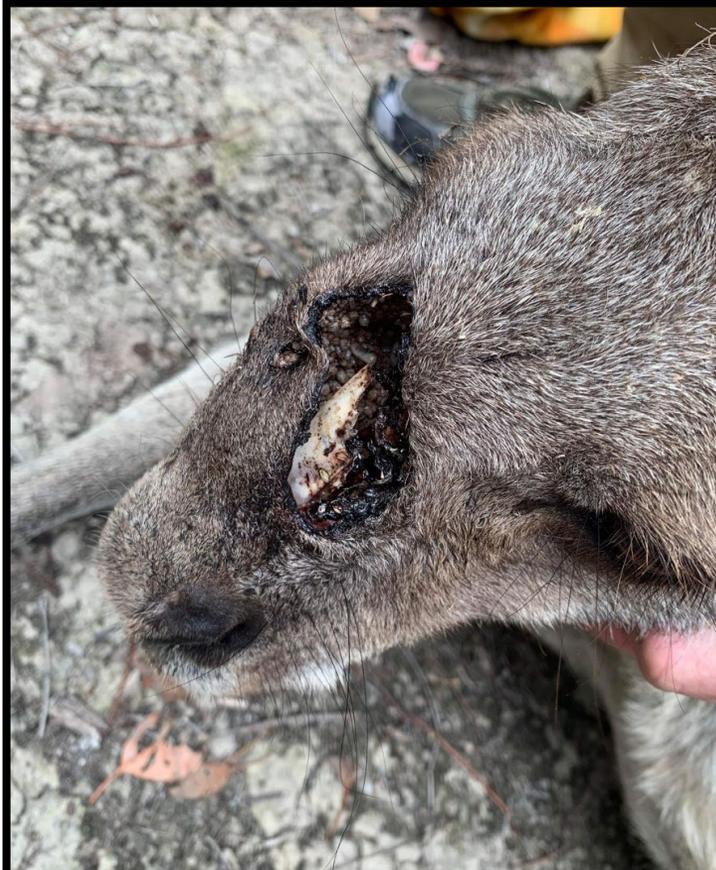
Older joeys are highly mobile and hard to catch. By the time they are weak enough to be caught by rescuers they often cannot be saved.

10. Aftermath – Wounded

Volunteer rescuers are left with the trauma of euthanising horrifically wounded kangaroos found by community members. Whilst rescuers are called to many incidents, untold others die slowly in the bush. In 2022, the RSPCA removed all kangaroo meat from their stores on welfare grounds.



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



Panton Hill, Vic. Found alive.
Credit: Stringybark Wildlife Shelter



Gisborne, Vic. Feb 2022. Sue Anderson.
Neck injury so severe she could not clean her joey.

“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... there are many more unaccounted for, suffering and dying alone.” ~ Glenn Cottier, Victorian volunteer wildlife rescuer

11. Aftermath – Community

Horrified community members witness shooting and field dressing, and find the remains of kangaroos they loved in stinking offal piles dangerously close to homes and businesses. Some people have been forced out of their homes due to the killing.



Dunkeld, Victoria. Approx. 100m from homes and businesses.

[Resident: 'My life is full of anxiety, distress, sadness'.](#)

Colonial exploitation draws criticism from First Nations people.

[Vic Aboriginal Elder: 'The indiscriminate slaughter must stop'](#)



Chirnside Park, Victoria. Approx. 500m from a residential area.
[Resident: 'The scene made me physically ill, it was horrific'.](#)

HOW TO HELP!

Please see www.vickangas.org/how-to-help for many ways you can help create a brighter future for kangaroos.



See the [#kangarootruth](https://www.kangarootruth.com)