

## **MEDIA RELEASE: KANGAROO MASSACRE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHIRNSIDE PARK**

**DATE:** Wednesday, 22 December 2021

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Katarina Ivanovic, on request



### **Overview:**

Residents of the Yarra Valley are again angered by appalling abuse of kangaroos. On the evening of Tuesday 21 December, a Chirnside Park resident made a grisly discovery whilst looking for her lost dog. Approximately twenty kangaroos had been slaughtered and their internal organs, heads, hands and feet discarded in a field just 500m away from homes.

### **Quotes attributable to Katarina Ivanovic, Chirnside Park resident**

"I felt compelled to report this incident whilst searching for my lost dog. I came across the most horrific scene of slaughter and what I thought was extreme acts of cruelty with kangaroo paws cut off, heads cut off, bodies cut off, innards everywhere and have since learnt this scene was more than likely what is described as an authorised kangaroo cull. I've heard that term used but nothing prepared me for what that actually meant. I assumed it was a humane animal control measure required in country areas over populated with kangaroos, not a massacre of a small mob of kangaroos that live harmoniously with the local residents of Chirnside Park."

"We have seen the headlights recently in the paddocks at night but they must have been using silencers so that nobody actually knew what was happening because there is no doubt the local residents would have been outraged. One by the fact they were killing this mob, but two the scene made me physically ill, it was horrific. Please stop this from happening. These animals deserve to live and certainly not be discarded in such a disgusting manner."

### **Quotes attributable to Alyssa Wormald, Secretary of Victorian Kangaroo Alliance:**

"This incident is further evidence that kangaroos are not meaningfully protected in Victoria. Kangaroos can be legally killed either through Authority to Control Wildlife permits ('culling') or via the commercial Kangaroo Harvesting Program."

"The reason for the Victoria Road slaughter is not officially confirmed, but it shows obvious hallmarks of a commercial shoot. The bodies were field dressed and apparently taken for processing, even down to the ears being removed as they garner a few cents as dog treats. There is a pet food processing facility in nearby Yering which may contribute to the region being targeted by shooters."

"No kangaroos are farmed in Australia and commercial killing takes place virtually unmonitored, with inevitable wounding of adults, bashing of in-pouch joeys and orphaning of dependent at-foot joeys who then die slowly without their mothers. The rampant slaughter of kangaroos constitutes an animal welfare crisis, a sustainability risk and a risk to human health, safety and wellbeing."

"It is baffling that Victorian Labor authorised the commercial industry when the review of the initial trial showed it was an abject failure. They aimed to reduce waste from disgracefully prolific 'culling', yet the review showed the financial incentive increased numbers being targeted by 260% and likely amplified waste. Furthermore, commercial shooting was exposed as lawless, corrupt, a threat to sustainability, and low-value to the tax payer. Labor approved it regardless and the industry is continually trying to expand, as we see with the proposed Inglewood kangaroo processing facility under consideration in northern Victoria. We are fighting this facility because the current situation is dreadful enough without increasing demand."

"It was highly traumatic for the resident to witness the horrific fate of her gentle local mob. A child stumbling across a sight like this would be scarred for life. The continual threat to kangaroos in the area is negatively impacting the wellbeing and peaceful amenity of residents. This is the case throughout Victoria with residents and businesses terrorised by kangaroo shooters. We are sick of the relentless killing of kangaroos and tormenting of communities that love them."

**WARNING: IMAGES ON FOLLOWING PAGES ARE GRAPHIC** – supplied anonymously with permission to share. Impactful video of Katarina's reaction to the site available on request.







