

Dear Review Panel

I have read David Rowlands submission and find it commendable. Thank you David for speaking out.

The mere mention of culling sends some people into frenzy. They are entitled to their view, but maybe they should look at it from other than their own view. I think David is providing a professional service by the humane culling of invasive animals when required.

I am a farmer, (no, not a red-neck), in East Gippsland and have a perennial problem with an increasing population of resident kangaroos. From a mob of 80 about four-five years ago, they now number around 300, and with a generous crop of joeys each year they will number over a thousand in a few more years. What then?

Don't get me wrong. I like kangaroos; I think the big males, in particular ,are magnificent creatures, and I don't mind seeing some on the property, but I don't want hundreds grazing the pasture I have grown, especially during the winter when I have to supplementary feed hay or silage which sometimes (including this year) has to be purchased.

The property has a portion of bushland, and neighbours thousands of hectares of Crown land in the form of State Forests and National Parks (which were devastated in the uncontrollable 2019-20 bushfire) ,but the roos prefer to live and graze on pasture on the farm that is grown for livestock.

The standard 5 barb –wire fence means nothing to the kangaroos. They either go under it, or the larger roos jump over it. Ringlock fencing can be more effective in blocking the smaller roos until they or wombats make a hole underneath. I have not had success with electric fencing.

If I didn't cull my livestock, usually by selling each year's offspring, their number would increase to a point where there would be insufficient feed and an animal welfare issue would develop.

As for protecting deer, this is a nonsense.

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