

## SUBMISSION TO REVISE THE WILDLIFE ACT

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

My name is Gayle Williams. I am 69 years old and worked as a Registered Nurse for 35 years. I have travelled throughout Australia and was extremely proud of being an Australian.

I would like to title my submission.

TERIOCIDES OF OUR KANGAROOS AND WALLABIES IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

The estimated number of animals killed or displaced by the Australian climate fires that occurred in 2019-20 was 3 billion.

Imagine their suffering being burnt to death and if they escaped, many were gunned down by shooters.

I have read about the killing of wallabies and kangaroos outside Canberra, the commercial kangaroo killing industry in Victoria, NSW, also other states. I am heartbroken.

I wrote to Sussan Ley on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 pleading for her to stop the killing of kangaroos.

Then I read the National Code of Practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies for commercial purposes. Agri futures Australia Publication No. 20-126

Signed by The Hon Sussan Ley MP and the Hon David Littleproud MP

This whole report is about killing viable living animals' males, females and their joeys – entire families and mobs, it's horrific.

## REVIEW WILDLIFE ACT VICTORIA

I have concern for all wildlife, but I have made the decision to concentrate of kangaroos and wallabies in Victoria.

Predominately kangaroos and wallabies are killed for commercial use. Anyone who decides that kangaroos are a nuisance can go online and get a list of local commercial shooters. NO QUESTIONS ARE ASKED this means kangaroos are unprotected in Victoria. The licences of shooters are done by the GMA, the DJRP administer tags to shooters and set the quota limit. This killing is done in 7 harvest zones. The DELWP still issues ATCW permits but only has a limited role in the commercial industry-overseeing the estimation of numbers and setting quotas for the commercial kangaroo industry.

If there is a complaint of cruelty the only agency is the RSPCA, police but most times their hands are tied.

ONE BIG PROBLEM IS THE ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF KANGAROOS, I HAVE BEEN TOLD IT IS BY AERIAL SURVEYS AND IT SEEMS A VERY POOR WAY OF COUNTING THE NUMBERS OF KANGAROOS IN REGIONS OF VICTORIA.

I would like to see a reform in the way this is done, drones with infrared technology have been suggested.

They have sophisticated technology in parts of Africa and the USA.

Another problem I would like to be address is:

That people/landowners and shooters become more accountable.

Before permits are given applicants should be questioned regarding their problems with kangaroos, as this might be handled without the killing of the kangaroos. The current Wildlife Act offers inadequate protection for kangaroos and wallabies by not requiring land owners to detail the nature of their complaint and demonstrate that all non-lethal means of control have been tried before applying for an ATCW permit.

If the shooter is killing kangaroos for meat, there should be more stringent regulations around this activity. Shooters should have to bring to the police their gun licence, have their vehicle and refrigeration vehicle checked once a year and before a killing, take permits to the police to be checked.

SHOOTERS: Must have

Licences, training and that they wear a body camera.

That they have an ABN and must submit BAS statements.

Also, that they have refrigerated vans on site.

Not chiller boxes.

If you view

[www.friendsofmotherearth.org.au](http://www.friendsofmotherearth.org.au)

They reference the Health Risks Associated with the Kangaroo Wildlife Trade.

Contamination and disease and bacteria Toxoplasmosis can cause serious illness and death.

Kangaroo meat contains high levels of L-carnitine, which causes the build up of plaque in the arteries responsible for heart attacks and vascular disease.

In Victoria kangaroo meat can be for human and pet consumption.

Recently, I watched a webinar about the shootings going on around Dunkeld.

The lady JANE GIBB from the Gariwerd Protection Alliance giving the presentation, was frightened, threatened and traumatised by the shooting near Griffin Hill. The land where the shooting was going on was not farmed, no cropping was being done. These properties are near the Gariwerd National Park or the Grampians National Park. In the Victoria Valley there is exclusion fencing but the only problem is that it stops the kangaroos escaping and many get trapped on exclusion fencing. The Wildlife Act should allow for community consultation to be undertaken before the issue of permits for this type of wildlife killing, and locals should also be permitted to provide community impact statements.

Kangaroos have no protection under the:

Wildlife Act

Catchment and land Protection Act

Meat Act 2018.

I would like kangaroos and wallabies to have more protection under the new Wildlife Act.

We are not doing very well in biodiversity loss in Australia, especially with the climate crisis looming, stated by Professor Brendan Wintle Director Threatened Species Recovery Hub.

Most people say we are in an extinction crisis, if our government has the numbers wrong regarding the kangaroos and wallabies, they may well become extinct in the future. The Wildlife Act states prevention of extinction as one of its purposes, I would like to see this better addressed by the revised Wildlife Act. We need to learn from our traditional owners, kangaroos have existed in Australia for about 30 million years.

We need the right rules in place to protect our kangaroos.

Also, if the numbers of kangaroos are a problem, there are other non-lethal options available, forms of birth control and relocation as was done with the Kinley Kangaroos.

Kangaroos can co-exist with people and the community e.g. Anglesea Golf Course and they are a great tourist attraction.

My sister had a large orchard AUMANN Brothers in Warrandyte and kangaroos came down to drink at the dam without a problem.

Please help protect our kangaroos for the future generations.