

My name is Sue Anderson. I've been a volunteer wildlife rescuer for over 20 years. The stress of what I have learnt to deal with has made me become a hardened person. There have been times when I have had to witness horrible cruelty. On 30/5/21 I was called by Wildlife Victoria to a kangaroo in someone's front yard in Bacchus Marsh.

The member of public said she had something wrong with her face. Due to the way she was facing I could not see the injury, so I darted her to assess her. She had half her face shot off and was gurgling through the blood bubbles from her shattered nose. I felt sick inside..... The poor little girl also had been shot in her pouch because when I looked to see if she had a joey, all her pelvic bones had been shattered. She was still able to get around and would have suffered and finally starved to death if members of the public had not cared so greatly about kangaroos.

The local said that they have had shooters come and shoot next door and the shooters drive away quickly when the member of public shone torches at them and yelled at them.

I have dealt with many of these incidences, but there seems to be no enforcement or monitoring that can lead to prosecution, as the shooters act late at night, and they are too hard to catch. On one occasion the police told another rescuer to "get used to it, you live in the country." Very little is done about the shooters who are caught. I have been to 3 court cases of animal cruelty but the penalties were less than \$1000! Surely something need to be changed in this area! Our communities expect more appropriate penalties for animal cruelty and our wildlife deserve better.

I thought these beautiful creatures were our national icon? There seems to be no respect for them and little protection under the Wildlife Act. Kangaroos are seen as a money-making object, for their skins and meat for the pet food industry.

I have seen first-hand how a few of the survivors of a huge cull in NSW stood on the top of the mounds of a mass grave. I couldn't believe it. They were sniffing the mound, knowing that some of their mob was buried underneath them. Their awareness and distress is evidence of their sentience.

There is a huge impact with rural development where the Kangaroos and wallabies are being displaced due to mass development on their once beautiful grasslands, to become road-kill. It sickens me inside as I've been doing this for over 20 years and have seen the impact on the poor creatures; I've seen them frightened and confused, hopping around near moving bull dozers....Only to be eventually hit by cars.

As someone who cares for the animals who are victims of inadequate protection under the Wildlife Act, I hope this review will be an opportunity to tighten the regulations and better protect our wildlife in the future.