

PRESS RELEASE

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COALITION OF ANIMAL DEFENDERS CONDEMNS KANGAROOS SLAUGHTER AND VANDALISM OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Since the ACT government first began killing kangaroos on public reserves in 2004, many individuals have spent the long cold nights during winter guarding reserves to protect the kangaroos. The people engaged in this activity come from a range of organisations, including Animal Liberation (both local and interstate), Australian Society for Kangaroos, RSPCA, wildlife carer groups as well as numerous unaligned individuals.

The Coalition of Animal Defenders (CAD) has been formed to speak on their behalf, and wishes to notify the ACT public that they unequivocally condemn and disown the vandalism that has occurred at the ACT government depots of Farrer and Holder.

Spokesperson, Robyn Soxsmith said today:

It is hard to imagine what possible motive people think our volunteers might have for acts of such pointless vandalism. CAD views these acts as counter-productive, undermining all the effort being put into monitoring the reserves for the last six weeks.

“The allegations made without evidence in some of the media blaming animal activists for the vandalism is causing considerable distress amongst CAD volunteers.

“The Police have access to the membership lists of incorporated organisations such as Animal Liberation ACT and the RSPCA and have also had ample opportunity to note the registration numbers of the cars which have been used for watching the reserves. They also have CCTV footage at the Holder Depot. Despite media reports implying there is a connection, the Police have made no move to link any CAD volunteers with the vandalism.”

“CAD is as eager as anyone in Canberra to learn what the evidence actually shows,” said Ms Soxsmith.

Kangaroos are being persecuted to extinction on the basis of no scientific evidence. That is the most appalling violence anyone could imagine, genocide of a whole species. All our efforts are devoted to preventing that, on the ground where it's happening. We have no time to engage in acts of vandalism ourselves.

CAD members will continue their watches on the reserves until this year's slaughter concludes on Thursday.

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