



COALITION OF ANIMAL PROTECTORS

MEDIA RELEASE

The Coalition of Animal Protectors (CAP) rejects as nonsense Brett Howland's alleged research showing that "kangaroos threaten endangered lizards".

CAP spokesperson, Robyn Soxsmith cites the following glaring errors in the so-called research.

1. The alleged research repeats the ACT government's error, equating biodiversity and ecological health to biomass. Biodiversity is about diversity and quality, not quantity. Ecological health requires heterogeneity of vegetation, not homogenously tall grass.
2. Even if ecological health was about how high the grass is, the conclusions of the alleged research are laughable. If indeed "the current number of kangaroos in some of Canberra's parklands... removes all tall grass", how does Howland explain what all that waist-high green stuff is that you have to wade through when walking in the grassland reserves lately.
3. If kangaroo culling really is good for reptiles, how does Howland explain why so many threatened reptiles are thriving in the Queanbeyan Nature Reserve, where kangaroos are never culled. Geographically and ecologically, the Queanbeyan Nature Reserve is part of the same system of grasslands as the Jerrabomberra Grasslands. All you have to do to get from one to the other is walk underneath a railway line. If anything, the comparison between the ACT and Queanbeyan would seem to show that slaughtering kangaroos also exterminates endangered reptiles.

CAP regards the publication of this alleged research as another ploy by the ACT government, in its unholy alliance with certain areas of the ANU, to "soften up" the ACT public in preparation for yet another kangaroo slaughter in 2015.

Spokesperson, Robyn Soxsmith assures the ACT public, "In 2014, activists, by their presence on the reserves, saved about 450 kangaroos from the cruelty of the ACT government's hired guns. In 2015 – and any other years we have to do it – we plan to save many, many more."

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Note: CAP promotes the use of direct action to rescue and protect animals and to expose cruel and unlawful treatment of animals, but utterly rejects all forms of "protest vandalism".