

COALITION OF ANIMAL PROTECTORS

PRESS RELEASE

CAP SLAMS ACT GOVERNMENT - AGAIN

The Coalition of Animals Protectors (CAP) has described as “cruel, stupid and typical” the ACT government’s plans to kill native magpies.

CAP, which includes members of a number of other animal rights and environmental protection groups who work together to run peaceful direct interference on the ACT government’s annual kangaroo slaughter, claim that the action is just the next step in the government’s program of violence and misinformation against native animals.

“When self government first came to Canberra, we led the nation and the world on animal welfare issues,” comments Robyn Soxsmith, spokesperson for the group.

Ms Soxsmith elaborates that the ACT government once protected all native animals including kangaroos and magpies. They banned steel jaw traps, circuses that use exotic animals, and rodeos. They worked reduce the suffering of unwanted companion animals by making desexing compulsory without a special licence. They tried valiantly to ban the battery cage, even though they did not succeed until after the ACT’s last battery egg producer closed down. They were even concerned about the suffering they inflicted on naturalised species – sometimes erroneously referred to as ‘feral’.

In particular, Ms Soxsmith cites the ACT government’s highly successful efforts to relocate kangaroos from Government House about 25 years ago. “There was no thought of killing them. And the relocated animals survived very happily in their new locations.”

“And only a few years ago the ACT government was bragging excitedly about their success in relocating swooping magpies,” Ms Soxsmith continued. “They had found that the swoopers were only a few dominant males with an excess of testosterone, probably brought on my diminished territory due to not enough trees. They found they could be successfully relocated to bachelor flocks well away from their old territory. Not only were the relocated ones readily accepted in the bachelor flocks, but they never swooped again (unless they somehow made it back to their old territory). And the next in line dominant male in the family they left behind was rarely a swooper.

“I suppose relocating them was proving just too much bother,” Ms Soxsmith speculates. “It’s the same with the kangaroos. Actually addressing the degradation in our natures reserves is too much like hard work when it is just so much easier to kill innocent victims, the kangaroos.”

“Nowadays,” Ms Soxsmith notes, “Even though the government knows that lethal control never works on anything, and almost always makes matters worse, they simply cannot seem to think beyond killing things!”

CAP members wonder what has happened to the ACT’s government in the last few years that makes killing suddenly their first recourse for every little problem.

“The ACT used to be a shining light, giving hope to rest of Australia. But now the ACT, along with the rest of the country, seems to be hell-bent on sliding back into the dark ages right when the rest of the world, even Third World countries, are trying to drag themselves into the 21st Century.

“We can only hope that the civilised nations of the world will ultimately bring sanctions against Australia for our savage treatment of our animals and our ecological vandalism,” Ms Soxsmith concludes.

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