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ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION AND CRUEL DEATHS TO CONTINUE

The Animal Protection Alliance (APA) is urging all concerned ACT residents to phone, email or meet with their own MLAs, urging them to disallow the 2017 Kangaroo Management Plan (KMP) as a 'Controlled Native Animal Management Plan' and seek a review of the Plan by independent scientists and welfare experts. The public consultation period for the new KMP, which supplements rather than replacing the 2010 KMP, closed last Friday. APA's submission is available online for public reference.

The APA notes that, of 'over 400 references' cited across the two KMPs, only eight papers actually appear to support the government's claims that ACT kangaroos are overpopulated and capable of damaging the environment.

APA co-founder, Frankie Seymour, observes, "These eight papers are the work of only five authors, and most are collaborations with at least one other of the same five. Indeed, none of the five authors can be regarded as independent of either ACT government influence, or the influence of the industries that make money from killing animals."

"The KMP claims that some 125 of the papers it cites have been extensively peer reviewed. But it does not claim outright that this includes any of the eight papers on which it bases its contention that kangaroos damage the environment," Ms Seymour notes.

Ms Seymour is appalled, though not surprised, that the KMP 2017 has made no better case for killing kangaroos than the KMP 2010. "After all, they have conducted no monitoring or evaluation of the impacts of the annual killing program since it began seven years ago."

"Kangaroos are, in fact, critical to the well-being of all the other native animals in our grasslands and woodlands," Ms Seymour argues. "Yet, on the basis of non-existent evidence, the government is trying to artificially suppress their numbers well below the densities at which kangaroos are needed to do the job they have evolved to do."

"And this non-existent evidence is being used to justify the ongoing annual slaughter of thousands of healthy kangaroos, the brutal bashing to death of pouch joeys, the orphaning of thousands of at-foot young, the destruction of mob structure and integrity, and ultimately the local extinction of the species" Ms Seymour states.

Ms Seymour notes that the KMP attempts to excuse this cruelty on the grounds that it is permitted by a Code of Practice. "It fails to note that the only legal purpose of a code of practice in the ACT is to exempt from prosecution actions that would otherwise be crimes under the Animal Welfare Act – such as bashing baby animals to death."

"Given the number of roads, new suburbs and other development that has sprung up everywhere in the ACT where kangaroos have been systematically exterminated over the last few years, we have no doubt at all about the government's real motive for wanting the kangaroos gone," Ms Seymour concludes.

Contact: Frankie Seymour, APA Co-founder: 0405 252 980