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The reason kangaroo management is failing in the ACT and south eastern NSW (CT editorial 6 / 9/2015) is that the eastern grey kangaroo population is in steep and alarming decline. This is why NSW commercial shooters have been able to kill only 3000 of their 128,835 quota. This is also why the ACT government had to stop culling kangaroos 800 short of their target in 2015.

Even the ACT government's science-free arguments for culling kangaroos have absolutely nothing to do with reducing car accidents. They claim, erroneously, that they are trying to protect the Canberra Nature Park from overgrazing.

The causes of the poor condition of the Canberra Nature Park are fairly straightforward. Before it was reclaimed as reserve, this land had its biodiversity exterminated in order to graze sheep. Now, its kangaroos are being shot in large numbers instead of being allowed to get on with their five million year old job of maintaining the land and maximising biodiversity. Meanwhile government vehicles routinely chew up the fragile soils on the reserves, further hindering any chance of recovery.

Road accidents involving kangaroos are indeed a serious problem for both kangaroos and motorists. What we need are interconnecting wildlife corridors which allow wildlife to move around without crossing roads. Speed cameras and traffic calming devices in wildlife hotspots would also reduce wildlife accidents.

The idea that animals should be killed to prevent the same animals from being killed is logical and ethical nonsense.

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on behalf of The Coalition of Animal Protectors