

It seems a bit strange for the Canberra Times Editorial 'Prepare for protests as roo cull announced' (15 May 2016) to note, on the one hand, that 'Arguments abound within the scientific community over the classification of "abundance" and overpopulation of the animals' and then to end up accepting, as though it were a matter of fact, that 'Like it or not there is an abundance of kangaroos in Canberra'.

There is absolutely no scientific evidence to support this statement. There are no base-line data from which to develop such a hypothesis and no subsequent data on kangaroo numbers, let alone the ecological impacts of reducing them, to reach any kind of conclusion.

It may be true that opponents of the slaughter would indeed 'value the life of a living creature over the grass and land it is eroding', if the creature was, in fact, eroding the grass. But the science shows that kangaroos are not eroding the grass and land. Where they are permitted to thrive, eg across the border in Queanbeyan, they are maintaining the vegetation in precisely the diversity of landscape required by the other creatures, many of them threatened reptiles and insects, that live in the grass.

If the ACT government still believes there is an abundance of kangaroos in Canberra, why has it not at least tried to prove it by monitoring and evaluating the impacts of its kangaroo slaughtering policy, as required by its otherwise science-bereft Kangaroo Management Plan.

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