It mystifies me how Mick Gentleman (Confronting: roo doco hits big screen, 11 March 2018) can claim that culling of kangaroos in the ACT is conducted to protect the environment. This statement defies the CSIRO report commissioned by the government to analyse ACT kangaroo grazing data. This report concluded that there does not appear to be any density of kangaroos at which the environment suffers any harm at all.

Most ACT residents already understand that the reason for kangaroo culling in the ACT is to secure the votes of farmers and the money of developers.

Gentleman’s reference to the code of practice under which culling is conducted in the ACT is ingenuous. What he does not mention is that the purpose of a code of practice under ACT law (Animal Welfare Act, S20) is to permit acts of cruelty that would otherwise be prohibited.

Thousands of motorists driving past ACT reserves after a night of culling can confirm the expert witness statement of a veterinarian who observed one ACT cull that an entire ‘ghost population’ of unweaned at-foot joeys are orphaned by the cull every year (ACAT 2014).

Gentleman describes the ACT cull as small scale. In fact the government’s own policy document, Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan admits that, in addition to several thousand killed every year by the government itself, more than 20,000 kangaroos a year are killed under private licences issued by the same government.