Neville Nixon’s letter of 3/9/18 requires some corrections.

First Nixon asserts that kangaroo numbers are increasing during a drought when food is short. This is, of course, biologically impossible. Kangaroo numbers always crash during a drought, not so much due to starvation as due to cessation of breeding.

I am prepared to accept that what Nixon really meant was that we are seeing more kangaroos right now, as remnants of the crashed populations move into the suburbs seeking food and water.

He suggests that kangaroos numbers in our region are beyond our carrying capacity. Nothing could be less likely, especially given the CSIRO Plant Industry findings that the kangaroo population on Canberra Reserve is beneficial not the vegetation.

The suggestion that “skilled” shooters kill less horribly than cars is disingenuous given the numbers shot by so-called “skilled” shooters that do not die instantly. It is disingenuous to suggest the shooters leave fewer joeys orphaned, given the evidence from ACAT 2104, supported by the evidence of our own eyes every culling season. It is disingenuous to suggest that shooting is an alternative to car collisions since there is never more risk of Canberrans hitting panicked, fleeing kangaroos than when people are shooting at them.

Obviously protecting these survivors from all three threats, shooting, cars, and hunger, is the responsibility of all Canberrans, and we need people to take on that responsibility, not make excuses for inexcusable government actions.

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