

In answer to Jim Derrick's (5/1/19) comments on my letter (3 /1/19), it is an intriguing fact that, when objectively analysed, animal rights issues and environmental issues always end up being on the same side.

Derrick asks what would be wrong with harvesting kangaroos on resumed livestock pastures provided this is done at sustainable levels. The answer, leaving aside the ethical issues, is that no one since European settlement has yet determined a sustainable way of harvesting kangaroos. In fact, even without the wildlife extinctions attributable to habitat loss, human hunting everywhere on Earth since the Age of Exploration and the Industrial Revolution has been nothing short of catastrophic.

Mr Derrick notes that some of Australia's livestock pastureland is not suitable for cropping. The same observation obviously does not apply to the vast tracts of land that are currently used to grow crops to feed livestock. Crops from that land alone would easily take up the shortfall in food for human consumption left by ending animal agriculture.

The rest of the resumed land could be revegetated as wildlife habitat and greenhouse gas sinks. The most degraded land could be used for solar and wind farms.

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