

One has to wonder what available evidence Annabelle Gilling has read that has convinced her that kangaroo killing in the ACT is necessary. Most of the material which the ACT government claims as supporting the killing, in fact, does nothing of the kind. The few papers that do suggest that some kangaroo management is necessary are by authors who can scarcely be considered unbiased.

Certainly the CSIRO's analysis of the ACT government's own data about environmental impacts of kangaroos on ACT reserves does not support any need to kill any kangaroos at all, let alone 4000 of them.

There is, in fact, no independent scientific analysis which supports killing kangaroos. There is no animal or wildlife protection organisation in the country, nor indeed on the planet, which supports killing kangaroos.

There is, however, an ever-growing cohort of eye witnesses to the ACT's slaughter who will be forever haunted by the suffering they have witnessed: orphaned joeys left to die; panicked kangaroos driven into the path of traffic, into dams, into barbed wire fences; families torn apart, mob coherence destroyed; blood trails all over the reserves the morning after, where wounded animals have tried to flee the guns; at least one wounded kangaroo dying of suffocation after being buried alive in the government's burial pits.

The ACT government does not kill kangaroos for environmental reasons. They kill kangaroos to buy the favour of farmers and developers. The killing is not humane.

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