



The Animal Protectors Alliance is deeply disappointed that the ACT government has decided to go ahead with its annual kangaroo massacre.

"We are heartbroken," spokesperson Robyn Soxsmith declares. "It is outrageous, cruel, insensitive and environmentally disastrous. So many kangaroos have already died in this year's bushfires, and wildlife carers are still spending every moment of their time and every dollar they have trying to bring a few burned and starving survivors back to health."

The APA predicts that the government's hired guns will not find 1,958 kangaroos on ACT reserves this year, claiming that the government has wildly overstated the reserve populations for several years now.

"Unless the government is simply lying about how many they have managed to slaughter in each of the last five or so years, the only way the shooters can be making up the numbers is by shooting on adjoining farmlands, presumably with the permission of local farmers and land mis-managers."

It should be noted that ACT farmers and land managers are already licensed to kill some 20,000 of our national icons every year. They don't really need any help from the public purse.

"As usual, the government spouts its rubbish about needing to 'cull' the kangaroos to protect the environment – an argument that has been debunked by the findings of the Plant Industries Division of CSIRO. It is entirely obvious that the real reasons are: the endless expansion of ACT development into kangaroo habitat; and keeping the farmers happy."

Another well-established public theory for why the government persists in its cruel and environmental damaging killing program is the revenue the government can claim by hiring out kangaroo habitat for the agistment of ecologically disastrous cattle.

As usual the government claims the killing is humane because (they claim) it adheres to a code of practice. This code of practice is, in fact, inherently inhumane, allowing the killing of females with dependent young, the orphaning of at-foot young to die from hunger, dehydration and hypothermia, and the bludgeoning to death of pouch young. Even though the Code itself allows so much cruelty, it does at least require that wounded kangaroos are dispatched as soon as possible. Yet many eye witnesses have reported that this requirement is routinely breached by the government's shooters, with hours passing before wounded kangaroos are found and killed.

As always, the ACT's animal protectors will be on site at the closed reserves peacefully protesting the slaughter, and documenting the breaches of the Animal Welfare Act, the Code of Practice, and ACT firearm safety legislation.

"We never know which of the reserves the killers will be shooting on, or what time of night, during any night of the slaughter, so keeping them all under surveillance all night is usually a



stretch for animal protectors," observes Ms Soxsmith. "We do what we can, and we rely heavily on local residents affected by the shooting to keep us informed."

"This year will not be so much of a stretch for us as usual, because we have to do it for only seven weeks, rather than eleven or twelve, as in previous years," Ms Soxsmith adds.

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