



The article "Kangaroo culling quietly underway" (CT 5 July 2020) gives the impression that the ACT government's assertions about its slaughter of thousands of kangaroos are a matter of undisputed fact. They are neither factual nor undisputed.

The government's assertion that it is killing kangaroos to protect the environment was disproven by the CSIRO Plant Industries analysis of the government's own data, which showed that nowhere on ACT reserves is kangaroo grazing harming other species. In fact, the study found that up to three kangaroos per hectare was better for botanic diversity than less than one per hectare, and nowhere on the reserves were there more than three kangaroos per hectare. This study was commissioned by the ACT government, at ACT public expense. Because its findings did not support killing kangaroos, the government omitted all reference to it from its Kangaroo Management Plan.

The government's basis for claiming the killing is humane is the self-same code of practice which proves that the slaughter is grossly inhumane. This code allows nursing females to be killed, older dependent joeys to be orphaned, and younger joeys to be bludgeoned or decapitated. What's more, there is no enforcement of even the few, flimsy protections provided by the code: no police, no vets, no welfare agencies. The killing is completely unmonitored, except by protestors who are certainly keeping dossiers.

The citizens of the ACT should note that they are financing this cruel and catastrophic slaughter to the tune of nearly \$1m per year.

Frankie Seymour