

With an ACT election in the offing, it would seem timely to remind Canberrans of the facts about the ACT government's annual kangaroo "cull".

Firstly, it is not humane. The Code of Practice under which the government conducts its killing actively permits its hired guns to bludgeon joeys to death, and to orphan at-foot joeys to die of hyperthermia, hunger, dehydration and myopathy.

Secondly, the government falsely claims that killing them during April to June avoids the orphaning of joeys, while the government's own Kangaroo Management Plan admits that kangaroo joeys take 18 months to wean. So there is no time of year when joeys will not be orphaned in vast numbers by the killing their mothers.

Thirdly, the government claims it kills kangaroos because they are breeding to densities that are harmful to other native species. This claim has been debunked by CSIRO Plant Industries, which found that kangaroos at densities three times higher than those the government claims are "desirable", actually enhance the diversity and species richness of Canberra Reserves.

Fourthly, the annual slaughter is a waste of nearly \$1m of ACT public money because it achieves nothing. The government admits that every kangaroo killed will always be replaced by kangaroos moving in from outside the reserves.

What is needed is not killing kangaroos in perpetuity instead the answer is for a series of corridors to be built across Canberra to allow our precious wildlife and people to move safely around the nature reserves.

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