



ACT Government trapped in Australia's colonial past of extensive wildlife killing habits

ACT Parks and Conservation Service director Daniel Iglesias claims that the purpose of its proposed slaughter of 1568 Eastern Grey kangaroos on Canberra reserves in 2021 is to "manage" grazing pressure.

Thankfully, these days many Canberrans are seeing through this lie. They understand that the government is killing kangaroos three to four times faster than it is possible for their populations to recover by breeding alone. They realise that the only possible purpose for the killing so many so fast is, ultimately, to lure all of the ACT's remaining kangaroos into the routinely emptied reserves where they can be easily killed.

The killing is not humane, it is every bit as cruel as the slaughter of baby seals in Newfoundland. Baby kangaroos are bludgeoned to death, decapitated, or orphaned to die of hunger, thirst, cold and stress. Adults are often wounded and die slowly, or are shot hours later. Fleeing animals impale themselves on barbed wire or rush into the paths of oncoming traffic. The government's claims that the killing is humane is just another lie.

Nor is there is anything remotely necessary about killing kangaroos. It does not protect the environment, it damages it, maintaining kangaroos at numbers too low to fulfil the keystone services they provide to plants and other native animals, too low to maintain the diversity and richness of vegetation that maximises habitat for other species.

But the government does not care about animals or plants. It cares only for developing what used to be wildlife habitat so it can get paid in rates. It cares only about grazing cattle on whatever open land is left so it can get agistment fees.

Instead of building a series of overpasses to allow wildlife and people to pass safely in and around Canberra, the ACT Parks and Conservation Service itself cares only about its (almost) \$1m budget of taxpayers money that keeps them all in jobs.

As always, animal and environmental advocates will be out at the reserves this year, protesting against the cruelty to both the kangaroos and the other creatures that depend on them. We will be out there as always bearing witness to the cruelty, and monitoring and documenting the behaviour of the shooters.

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