

# KANGAROOS IN THE A.C.T.



'Culling' kangaroos is unnecessary and harms the environment





- \* Kangaroos are a keystone species, ie, at natural (not "culled") densities, they are critical to maintaining the other native plants and animals that share their habitat.
- \* Killing kangaroos is therefore NOT protecting threatened species. It is actually further endangering them.
- \* CSIRO Plant Industries has confirmed that, on ACT reserves, three kangaroos per hectare are better for the environment than none, and more than three per hectare could not be found.
- \* Kangaroos do not overpopulate. At natural (not "culled") densities, their death rate equals their birth rate. When food is scarce kangaroos simply stop breeding.
- \* Female kangaroos give birth only once a year. They also suffer a high (50% to 100%) level of infant mortality.
- \* This means that when kangaroo populations are reduced (e.g. by "culling"), they cannot grow back faster than about 10% per year. The ACT Government kills them at 30% per year. This guarantees extinction within a few years.
- \* When urban kangaroos are made homeless by development, translocation is a well-proven, humane alternative.

For further information, including source references, see the Animal Protectors Alliance website at <http://animalprotectors.com.au>. Follow the links though: Issues > Native Animals > Kangaroo

# Killing Kangaroos in the A.C.T.

<b>Excuse</b>	If they aren't culled, they eat all the grass and starve	<b>Fact</b>
	No study has ever shown kangaroos in the ACT to be starving	

Moreover, after 8 years of killing, no study has ever shown any ecological benefits from the "culls"

<b>Excuse</b>	Culling is conducted humanely under a Code of Practice	<b>Fact</b>
	The Code of Practice permits gross cruelty that would be illegal under the Animal Welfare Act	

This cruel and senseless slaughter costs ACT taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars every year

<b>Excuse</b>	They cause car accidents	<b>Fact</b>
	Wildlife corridors would fix this and preserve the "bush capital"	

Collisions with kangaroos are caused by the ACT Government's failure to plan for wildlife corridors, together with inappropriate speed limits and inadequate road safety enforcement

## The ACT kangaroo slaughter is cruel



- \* Under ACT law, animal welfare codes of practice exist purely to permit acts of cruelty that would otherwise be prohibited.
- \* The ACT code of practice for killing kangaroos allows the killing of females with young, orphaning thousands of unweaned young-at-foot.
- \* The code requires pouch young to be bashed to death or decapitated.
- \* The "cull" is conducted annually at a time when many, if not most females have both pouch young and an unweaned young-at-foot.
- \* Kangaroo families are terrorised night after night, for months, year in, year out. Stress is often fatal to kangaroos and the level of stress caused by recurrent large-scale shooting is extreme.
- \* ACT contract shooters do not always adhere to the very limited protections in the code of practice. In 2012, an autopsy by a wildlife veterinarian, confirmed that one kangaroo found in a government burial pit, had been shot, stabbed and bludgeoned before dying of blood loss or suffocation.

### So why is the ACT Government killing kangaroos?

- \* The escalating consumption of kangaroo habitat for urban development would seem to be the main reason.
- \* FOI material from the ACT Government's slaughter at Googong in 2004 suggests that pressure from farmers is a major driver.

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## Killing Kangaroos in the A.C.T.



This birth rate maintains their population in equilibrium with their environment



Kangaroos, at natural (ie unculled) densities, are critical to the health of the environment and to the survival of all the native species that share it



Some wildlife experts estimate that there may be only 10% left