



The assertion that killing kangaroos would be good for either the kangaroos or the environment (ANU Professor George Wilson wants Australian farmers to sell kangaroo meat to reduce emissions, improve welfare, CT 4/11/21) is ill-informed and ecologically dangerous.

This particular "ANU professor" is scarcely independent. He makes his living from killing wild animals which misguided governments and farmers think need to be managed. Of the organisations supporting his assertion, not one has a track record of any interest in animal welfare, nor of any understanding of the critical keystone role of kangaroos in managing Australian ecosystems.

An unremitting extermination campaign, for money, for "management" and for fun, has been waged against kangaroos by the European settlers since 1788. Additionally, kangaroos have lost almost all their natural habitat, due to land clearing, the worsening droughts and fires of anthropogenic climate change, and the recent proliferation of exclusion fencing. A respiratory virus kills kangaroos in their thousands whenever a drought finally breaks. And no one bothers counting the number that die on our roads. Not surprisingly, all kangaroo species everywhere are now in calamitous decline.

The suggestion that these animals, well-known for routinely dying of stress when chased or trapped, can somehow be farmed, is utter nonsense. Thankfully, after the recent NSW Parliamentary enquiry into the wellbeing of kangaroos, and the enormous success of this year's World Kangaroo Day, people all around the world are now well aware of the desperate plight of Australia's kangaroos.

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