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FOI – Information Management Team

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

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CANBERRA ACT 2601

This request is made under the Freedom of Information Act of the ACT 1982, on behalf of the ACT public, and as an urgent matter of public interest. The information is required to ensure probity, integrity, transparency and accountability in relation to the disposition of public property obtained (through extreme violence and as a matter of belated but rapidly increasing public controversy) on ACT public land: namely kangaroos shot under government contract in the reserves of the Canberra Nature Park.

None this information is currently published on ACT government websites. It is information to which the ACT public have an unequivocal right, and in which they have an indisputable interest. We therefore request that all costs of compiling and providing this information be waived.

**Requested information**

In relation to the 2022 Canberra slaughter, an ACT government publication, the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate stated:

*As in previous years, a proportion of the kangaroo meat resulting from the cull will be processed into baits for use within the ACT Government wild dog and fox control programs.*

*Carcasses, or parts thereof, will also be made available for indigenous cultural use again in 2022.*

In regard to “indigenous use”, noting the word “again, we request **documents** or **documented and referenced information** answering the following questions, in relation to all years since the ACT government’s contracted slaughter began:

1. How many kangaroo bodies and/or what tonnage of kangaroo meat has been supplied for “indigenous cultural use”?
2. To precisely which entity or entities representing Indigenous people was it supplied?
3. What are the credentials of this entity in terms of providing verifiable representation for Indigenous people?
4. What “cultural uses” were proposed for this meat, as distinct for how it would be have been used if it had been sold commercially?
5. In what form was the meat provided to these entities (eg corpses, butchered meat, boned meat)?
6. Did the Directorate require or receive any remuneration from the Indigenous people for the supply of this meat, and, if so, in what form and of what monetary value?
7. What records has the Directorate required and received from the entity to which the meat was supplied, as to the fair and reasonable distribution of the meat to Indigenous people?
8. Were other local First Nation tribes, besides the Ngunnawal, consulted about whether they wished to receive any of this meat?

In regard to “baits for use within the ACT Government wild dog and fox control programs”, noting the words “as in previous years”, we request **documents** or **documented and referenced information** answering the following questions, in all years since the ACT government’s contracted slaughter began:

1. How many kangaroo bodies and/or what tonnage of kangaroo meat was used to make poison baits (1080 or other poison) for foxes, dingoes and wild dogs?
2. How many poison baits were made from this meat and where were they deployed (eg CNP reserves, local farms, non-reserve public land, ACT national parks), including how many were deployed in each area, and in which years?
3. How is the government measuring the effectiveness of this dog and fox killing program, for example how many individual animals of which species have been killed with this poison?
4. How is the government ensuring that non-target species and animals (such as magpies, currawongs, kookaburras etc) are not killed by these baits?
5. How is the government ensuring that non-target animals (such as companion animals) are not killed by these baits?
6. Is the government keeping records of non-target animals killed by these baits?
7. If so, how many, and of which non-target species, have been killed by these baits since the program began?

In addition, we request **documents** or **documented and referenced information** answering the following questions:

1. How many kangaroo bodies were buried?
2. Where were the bodies buried?
3. What measures has the government taken to protect residents of these locations from the health concerns resulting from ongoing development on such recent burial sites?

We understand that in at least one previous year, some of the bodies have been provided to feed carnivores in a sanctuary or sanctuaries. We request **documents** or **documented and referenced information** answering the following questions:

1. In which years were kangaroo bodies supplied to a sanctuary or sanctuaries?
2. To which sanctuary or sanctuaries were they supplied?
3. How many kangaroo bodies and/or what tonnage of kangaroo meat was supplied to feed carnivores in this sanctuary, or to each sanctuary (if more than one)?
4. To precisely which entities representing these sanctuaries was the meat supplied?
5. What is the legal status of this sanctuary or each of these sanctuaries (if more than one), eg do they have charity status, what are their mission statements and by what codified strategies and programs do they service their missions?
6. In what form was the meat provided to this sanctuary or sanctuaries (eg corpses, butchered meat, boned meat)?
7. Did the Government/Directorate require or receive any remuneration from these sanctuaries for the supply of this meat, and, if so, in what form and of what monetary value?
8. What records has the Directorate required and received from the sanctuary or sanctuaries to which the meat was supplied, in relation to the number and species of carnivores to which it was fed, and over what period of time?

We have heard reports that some of the kangaroo meat from the government’s slaughter may on occasion have been supplied to feed carnivores at Canberra’s Zoo and Aquarium.

1. Is this true?

If it is true, we request **documents** or **documented and referenced information** answering the following questions:

1. How many kangaroo bodies and/or what tonnage of kangaroo meat were supplied to feed carnivores in the Canberra Zoo and Aquarium, and in which years?
2. In what form was the meat provided to this business (eg corpses, butchered meat, boned meat)?
3. Did the Government/Directorate require or receive any remuneration from the Zoo and Aquarium for the supply of this meat, and, if so, in what form and of what monetary value?
4. What records has the Directorate required and received from the Zoo and Aquarium in relation to the carnivores to which is was fed – for example what species of animal received what quantity of meat over what period of time?

Finally, we request that the Directorate confirm or deny whether:

1. Meat from Canberra’s kangaroos has ever been supplied (purchased or otherwise) to any commercial vendor of meat or meat products, for possible sale for consumption by either humans or companion animals?
2. Fur from Canberra’s kangaroos has ever been supplied (purchased or otherwise) to any commercial vendor of or fur products, for possible purposes of selling it?

If answers to some of these questions are unavailable because the Directorate does not collect this information (for example number of animal, target or non-target, killed by poison baits), **please state this explicitly**, and give some indication as to why the information is not available (eg the Directorate is not resourced to collect this information, or has not been directed to collect this information).