

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 29

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 5

Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division

Topic: Kangaroos – Commercial Kangaroo Trade

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 27 November 2013

Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon asked:

There are significant animal welfare concerns with the methods employed shooters in the commercial kangaroo trade. For example, while the industry code of practice requires an instantaneous shot to the brain, mis-hits occur regularly; joeys suffer as collateral damage, and unlicensed shooting is commonplace. Given the federal government approves the shooting of kangaroos for the commercial industry via state kangaroo management plans, what is the government's oversight in this regard:

- a) What is the process for investigating concerns or complaints about animal welfare with regard to the commercial shooting of kangaroos?
- b) What are the guarantees that investigation is carried out completely separately to interests in the commercial kangaroo industry?
- c) May I have copies of reports or outcomes of such concerns, and if not why not? What reports of breaches have occurred and what are the details of any investigations or compliance actions undertaken with regard to the commercial kangaroo industry in the last five years?
- d) What are the measures is the government taking or will take to improve animal welfare in the commercial kangaroo meat and skin industry?

Answer:

- a) Complaints and concerns about animal welfare are handled by the relevant state or territory government.
- b) State government agencies investigate breaches of animal welfare requirements under the kangaroo management plans, and take actions independent of the kangaroo industry.
- c) Breaches are investigated and prosecuted by state governments and are recorded in their annual reports. The annual reports are reviewed by the department as part of the five year review of kangaroo management plans. The relevant state government should be approached for details on compliance investigations.
- d) The *Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies (Commercial)* is the current standard for ensuring animal welfare issues are addressed in the harvesting of kangaroos.