

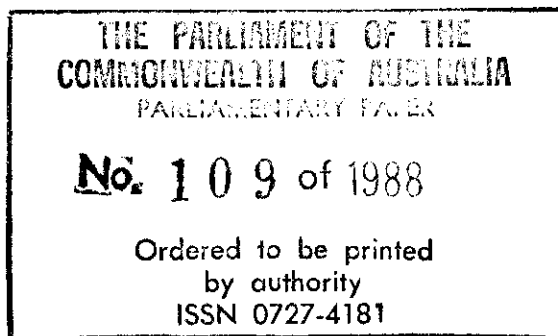
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

## KANGAROOS

Report by the  
Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare

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## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REPORT

AAHQs	Australian Agricultural Health and Quarantine Service
AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
ABAH	Australian Bureau of Animal Health (later became AAHQs)
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACS	Australian Customs Service
ANPWS	Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service
ANZFAS	Australian and New Zealand Federation of Animal Societies
BAE	Bureau of Agricultural Economics
CONCOM	Council of Nature Conservation Ministers
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization
CUA	Commercial Utilisation Area (in South Australia)
KMP	Kangaroo Management Programme
KMZ	Kangaroo Management Zone (in South Australia)
NFF	National Farmers Federation
NPMK	National Plan of Management for Kangaroos
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals
USFWS	United States Fisheries and Wildlife Service.

## PREFACE

The kangaroo has a special place in the history of Australia and enjoys the affection of people both within and outside the country. It is a national symbol of which Australians are justifiably proud and its status as a protected animal is not in question. It must be preserved and in abundant numbers.

Human habitation especially since 1788 has impacted on kangaroos. Development of areas of Australia has affected their numbers.

The Committee concludes that a balance must be struck between the need to preserve kangaroos in abundant numbers and the need to use Australia's resources for the well being of all.

The Committee found that a proper balance involves the development of a strictly controlled management programme.

## LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee RECOMMENDS that aerial surveys of red and grey kangaroos be conducted in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia at least annually but preferably twice a year. (paragraph 2.66)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service undertake or commission more research into either the further refinement of the aerial survey method or into alternative survey methods or combinations of survey methods to arrive at more reliable indices of abundance and estimates of total population size of kangaroo species. (paragraph 2.67)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service commission or conduct regular surveys by appropriate methods of all species other than red and grey kangaroos which are subject to legal killing. (paragraph 2.70)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the quota include both the commercial and non-commercial kill and that it be incorporated into the kangaroo management programme. (paragraph 5.55)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service commission or arrange research into the effects of a male sex bias in the commercial shooting of kangaroos. (paragraph 5.62)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that before any licence or permit is issued to kill kangaroos or wallabies, the applicant must demonstrate that he is the owner of an appropriate firearm as specified in the Code of Practice. (paragraph 5.86)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service commission as a matter of urgency an independent research project to establish conclusively whether or not shotguns or rimfire rifles are appropriate to kill any species of wallaby humanely. (paragraph 5.87)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that adherence to the Code of Practice should be a requirement of any licence or permit and failure to adhere should be grounds to suspend, withdraw or refuse to renew a licence or permit. (paragraph 5.98)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that all new applicants for a kangaroo shooter's licence pass a test of marksmanship before being issued with a licence. (paragraph 6.39)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that commercial shooters applying for a renewal of a licence and who did not kill at least five hundred

kangaroos under the kangaroo management programme in the preceding year, pass a test of marksmanship before being issued with a licence. (paragraph 6.39)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that commercial shooters kill kangaroos for the carcasses and not for their skins only, except where the relevant fauna authority considers a carcass trade is impracticable and authorises skin-only killing. (paragraph 6.46)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Australian Customs Service, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the State fauna authorities establish arrangements for the random inspection of consignments of kangaroo products which are to be exported. (paragraph 7.33)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service establish a fauna squad to investigate the illegal export of fauna. (paragraph 7.38)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service establish controls over the export of kangaroo skins by appointing inspectors to check kangaroo skins at fleshing works and to seal containers containing skins for export at those works. Only skins sealed in containers should be exported. (paragraph 7.44)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that skins taken under approved management programmes be tattooed or be able to be identified in some other way after being fleshed when the royalty tag has been detached. (paragraph 7.45)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that fleshing works which treat kangaroo skins for export be licensed by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. (paragraph 7.46)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service conduct or commission research to determine the nature and level of suffering of wallabies and non-target species which ingest 1080 poison or any other poison used to kill wallabies. Depending on the results of that research, a decision should be made by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service on the future use of poison to kill wallabies in Tasmania. (paragraph 8.49)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that all methods of killing kangaroos other than by shooting be banned in mainland Australia. (paragraph 8.50)

The Committee further RECOMMENDS that in Tasmania the use of poison to kill kangaroos be permitted only until such time as the research recommended by the Committee has been completed, provided that the research is carried out expeditiously. (paragraph 8.50)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that, as a fundamental principle, the kangaroo remain a protected animal. However, its deleterious effects on human land use must be taken into account. (paragraph 9.27)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Commonwealth and the States and Territories work out on a co-operative basis over time a system for national management of kangaroos. (paragraph 9.30)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that fauna authorities conduct inspections of properties where kangaroos are allegedly causing an unacceptable level of damage to assess the extent of the problem and to advise landholders on methods of coping with the problem. (paragraph 9.38)

The Committee also RECOMMENDS that the killing of kangaroos be permitted by fauna authorities only where non-lethal methods of containing kangaroo damage are impracticable. (paragraph 9.38)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that funds be made available by the Commonwealth for research into kangaroo proof fences. (paragraph 9.39)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that commercial shooting of kangaroos continue to be permitted in areas where there is a need to reduce populations of kangaroo for damage mitigation purposes. (paragraph 9.61)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that in a non-commercial area, where a landholder does not possess an appropriate firearm or does not pass a test of marksmanship, the fauna authority arrange and subsidise the use of a commercial shooter to contain kangaroo damage, provided that no non-lethal method is practicable. (paragraph 9.91)

The Committee RECOMMENDS that fauna authorities be allocated more resources to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities for the management and protection of kangaroos and other wildlife. (paragraph 9.92)