

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 79
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Federal Code of Practice for killing joeys
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 31 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:

The RIRDC's 2014 report Improving the humaneness of commercial kangaroo harvesting found that most kangaroo shooters rarely kill young dependent at-foot joeys, leaving them to die in the field for up to 10 days from starvation, predation or the elements. It also found most pouch joeys are not killed immediately or at all via careful blunt head trauma in controlled situations. This raises concerns about in-field killing of pouch joeys which were found to be swung by the tail against a vehicle or stomped on.

In April 2015 I was advised the Australian Government Minister for the Environment had written to ministers in each state and territory in response to the report, asking if the National Code of Practice for shooting macropods should be reviewed, with most responses supporting a review of the Code.

- a. Where is review up to?
- b. What is the timetable for reviewing the Code in relation to the findings of the report?
- c. Have any interim measure been put in place to try to curb the cruelty to joeys when their mothers are shot?
- d. How many joeys are estimated to die from the commercial kangaroo industry each year?

Answer:

- a) A decision is expected before the end of the year on whether to support a review of the *National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes* (the Code).
- b) There has been no decision taken to review the Code.
- c) All state government kangaroo management plans approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* require the implementation of the Code, which describes the current animal welfare requirements that must be followed by state licensed shooters.
- d) Reporting the numbers of joeys killed as part of the commercial kangaroo harvest is not a requirement of the kangaroo management plans.