

MEDIA RELEASE

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Planned stealthy kangaroo cull outrages local residents

Wildlife Victoria, the State's wildlife emergency rescue service, has been alerted to Heritage Golf and Country Club's intentions to execute a kangaroo cull on its grounds at Chirnside Park this evening.

Wildlife Victoria CEO, Ms Lisa Palma said that she was shocked to hear of the plans to kill this family mob.

"This particular mob of kangaroos are well loved by the local residents. The area occupied by the kangaroos abuts Mount Lofty bushland."

"Heartbreakingly, there are a number of young joeys and pouch young amongst this mob. They will suffer immeasurably if they lose their parents. Also, there is no guarantee that the joeys will be spared," said Ms Palma.

Local resident, Mrs Iris Balish, who has lived on the fringe of the St John's Golf Course for 16 years said the local community watched out for the kangaroos, and kept an eye out for their wellbeing.

"We have a special place in our hearts for 'Scar-face', a big fellow that suffered an injury some years ago. It's absolutely devastating that he was rescued, went through rehabilitation at a wildlife shelter and was brought back to the golf course, only to face a firing squad," she said.

"These are incredible animals. We get to see the joeys climbing out of their mums' pouches, bouncing around, learning to stand up and skip about. It's an absolute joy to watch."

"The idea that the little ones might lose their lives is just devastating," Ms Balish said.

"It's just unbelievable, because we know a lot of the grounds men and the golfers look out for them too."

Local residents are preparing to line their golf carts up and shine their lights at the location this evening to prevent the cull from taking place.

Residents are encouraging others who care about the kangaroo mob's wellbeing to gather at the golf course this evening in an attempt to stay the execution of the animals.

The cull is scheduled to take place from 9pm this evening until 3am tomorrow morning.

Residents have been warned that it is in their best interest not to be out after dark whilst shooting is taking place.

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For further information and enquiries contact:

Wildlife Victoria media team on 0447 193 121 or by email at media@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au

About Wildlife Victoria

- Wildlife Victoria is a not for profit wildlife Emergency Response Service that has been operating for more than 30 years as an independent, not-for-profit organisation focussed on the welfare of Australia's unique wildlife.
- Annually, Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service receives more than 88,000 requests for assistance and assists over 50,000 sick, injured or orphaned animals.
- Wildlife Victoria educates the community about wildlife, and helps the community manage wildlife incidents.
- Wildlife Victoria advocates for wildlife whenever their welfare is under threat or compromised.