



For immediate release

Wildlife Victoria calls for immediate cessation of the Victorian Government's Kangaroo Harvesting Program

In the lead up to the Victorian State Election Wildlife Victoria calls on the Victorian Government to end its controversial Kangaroo Harvesting Program.

The State's Kangaroo Harvesting Program sanctions the killing of Victorian Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos. Trialled from 2014-2018 as the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial (KPFT), the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's own internal report deemed it ineffective, costly to Victorian taxpayers, and highlighted the significant sustainability risk associated with introducing a financial incentive to animal control. [Read the DELWP KPFT Report [here](#).]

Despite this, it was formally introduced as the Kangaroo Harvesting Program and permits the commercial harvesting of Eastern Grey and Western Grey kangaroos for the processing of pet food, human consumption meat and leather. In the first six months of 2022 alone, the Kangaroo Harvesting Program has been responsible for the deaths of over 40,000 Kangaroos, with a total of 127,850 earmarked for slaughter throughout 2022. [See Kangaroo Harvest Program Report Q2 [here](#)].

These figures do not include the at-foot and in-pouch joeys which are killed as a by-product of the Kangaroo Harvesting Program. The Program's own Code of Practice recommends the swinging of live pouch young joeys through the air and bludgeoning them to death. At-foot joeys are dependent on their mothers for up to 18 months and, whilst the Code recommends they be shot, they are often left to perish slowly without maternal care. Additionally, there is virtually no supervision of the killing, which takes place under the cover of darkness. Wildlife Victoria's wildlife rescue volunteers regularly attend to kangaroos who have been shot but are still alive and are suffering terribly, and joeys left orphaned. [Read the Code of Practice [here](#)].

With the recent floods across the state, Wildlife Victoria estimates wildlife losses in the thousands. At the peak of the flood crisis Wildlife Victoria received an average of 500 calls per day with 45% of calls relating to Eastern Grey Kangaroos. The ongoing impact to Kangaroos in flood-affected regions will be seen for years to come with an entire generation of at-foot and in-pouch joeys estimated to have been lost. Even in flood affected regions in Central and North East Victoria, the State Government will allow up to 35,000 kangaroos to be killed by the end of the year.

In light of the current situation, Wildlife Victoria renews its call for the Victorian Government to end its Kangaroo Harvesting Program, which adds unnecessary pressure on Kangaroo populations and the state's fragile biodiversity systems.

"With the impact of the Victorian floods on our wildlife populations, we're urging the State Government to end its controversial Kangaroo Harvesting Program. This is a state election issue for many voters. Victorians don't want our beautiful Kangaroos and joeys killed by for-profit hunters. We call on Daniel Andrews to commit to the immediate end of this heartless Kangaroo massacre."

Lisa Palma, CEO Wildlife Victoria.

If sick, injured or orphaned wildlife are encountered, Wildlife Victoria urges people to call their **Emergency Response Service on 03 8400 7300** and our trained operators will be on hand to assist.

Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

-END-

For additional information or interview requests, contact Wildlife Victoria's media team on 0447 193 121 or email media@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au