

# KANGAROO INQUIRY SUBMISSION GUIDE

## The Basics

There are some simple things you can do to increase the chances of information from your submission being included in the inquiry.

### Dos:

- Talk about your own experiences and provide as much detail as possible;
- Use your own words;
- Include any evidence you have: date, times, attach photos and videos where relevant;
- Use spell check and proofread.

### Don'ts:

- Swear;
- Rant: stick to the facts and your experiences;
- Talk about issues that are not covered by the Terms of Reference.

This is a NSW inquiry, so the information needs to be NSW focussed. People from other states and even overseas can submit to the inquiry but must provide information and evidence that relates to NSW, for example:

- I spent 10 days travelling in the Central West and did not see a kangaroo;
- I was at a campsite and recreational shooters started shooting kangaroos in the paddock next to us;

If you live on the NSW border in ACT, VIC, SA or QLD, your knowledge will also be particularly relevant.

### Remember:

- You don't need to answer all the Terms of Reference, just respond to the ones you have knowledge of;
- Your submission can be anonymous;
- If you are called to give evidence this can also be done anonymously.

## The Terms of Reference

*You do not need to answer all of the terms of reference - just stick to the ones that are relevant to you.*

### **a) Historical and long-term health and wellbeing indicators of kangaroos, and other macropods, at the local, bioregional and state levels, including the risk of localised extinction in New South Wales.**

We want to make the case that there are local extinctions happening:

- If you live in a regional or rural area and you can describe a drop in macropod numbers. For example: 5 years ago I had a mob of kangaroos on my property now there are none.
- If you are a wildlife carer, describe your experiences. For example: I am a wildlife carer and there are no safe release sites due to commercial and non-commercial shooting.
- If you have been to a regional or rural area recently you can describe:
  - The impact of kangaroos forced out onto roads as a result of shooting;
  - If you have seen an increase in kangaroos being hit and killed on roads;

- Known danger areas on roads where kangaroos and people are at risk of collisions;
- Seeing kangaroos caught in fences;
- Visible impacts of commercial, non-commercial or recreational shooting.
- Describe any observations and evidence you have about the impact of shooting (commercial, non-commercial and recreational) on family and community structure of kangaroos - in particular please detail any changes in behaviour you have witnessed.
- Share any observations you have on the impact of the “male only” policy of the commercial industry on kangaroo family and community structure. Detail any change in behaviour, like increasing fights amongst younger males that you have witnessed.

**b) The accuracy with which kangaroo, and other macropod, numbers are calculated when determining population size, and the means by which the health and wellbeing of populations is assessed.**

This is a very specific question and requires specific knowledge - unless you are a statistician, conservation biologist or have done significant work or research on population monitoring and counting there is no need to answer this question.

**c) Threats to kangaroo, and other macropod, habitat, including the impact of:**

- (i) climate change, drought and diversion and depletion of surface water sources,**
- (ii) bushfires,**
- (iii) land clearing for agriculture, mining and urban development,**
- (iv) the growing prevalence of exclusion fencing which restricts and disrupts the movement of kangaroos.**

We want to show that kangaroos are facing threats from all sides:

- If you have witnessed kangaroos starving or having no access to water, kangaroos suffering and in the heat, kangaroos affected by floods, or lower breeding numbers, highlight the impacts of climate change, drought and diversion and depletion of surface water sources.
- If you have witnessed the impact of fires on kangaroos, highlight their impacts including: kangaroos fleeing, dying later, and kangaroos not returning after the fires (depletion of numbers).
- If you have witnessed extensive land clearing for agriculture, mining and urban development, mention if you have seen kangaroos being displaced, being forced onto roads, having no access to food and water, and seeing mobs being split up.
- If you have witnessed kangaroos fleeing development and exclusion fencing, share what you have seen including: animals trapped inside exclusion fencing, mobs being cut off from one another, corridors being severed, animals being excluded from water and/or food sources.

**d) Current government policies and programs for kangaroo management, including:**

- (i) the method used for setting quotas for kangaroo culling,**
- (ii) the management of licences to cull kangaroos,**
- (iii) temporary drought relief policies and programs.**

Include a response here if you:

- Have any knowledge, information or evidence of the way that quotas are set.
- Have information or first hand knowledge of farmers and land holders getting licences to harm macropods on their property, and information about how the killing was conducted including:
  - Commercial or non-commercial shooters

- Welfare issues
- Impacts on you as a neighbour or a local wildlife carer
- Have direct experiences of kangaroo shooting. For example: Every weekend there is shooting on the property next door - my children are traumatised by what is happening to the kangaroos and can't sleep.
- Have knowledge regarding the impact of the removal of tagging and scrutiny around the issuing of licences to harm (the impact on kangaroos of the current system where farmers and landholders can simply ring or email and their request to kill x number of kangaroos is granted - without any checks).
- Have any information on restrictions on kangaroo access to water points on private or public land or national parks.

**e) Current government policies and programs in regards to 'in pouch' and 'at foot joeys' given the high infant mortality rate of joeys and the unrecorded deaths of orphaned young where females are killed.**

If you have experience finding orphaned joeys who have been left to fend for themselves, or dead joeys (joeys that have been bludgeoned to death or decapitated), detail them here. If you are aware of whether this occurred at commercial, non-commercial or recreational sites also make sure to include this information.

**f) Regulatory and compliance mechanisms to ensure that commercial and non-commercial killing of kangaroos and other macropods is undertaken according to the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and other relevant regulations and codes.**

If you are a former shooter or have first-hand evidence of noncompliance e.g. witnessing breaches of the code by commercial and non-commercial shooters, share them here.

If you live in a regional or rural area, and have seen body shot kangaroos being left in paddocks by commercial shooters, describe your experiences.

**g) The impact of commercial and non-commercial killing of kangaroos and other macropods, including the difficulty of establishing numbers killed by landholders since the removal of the requirement for drop tags.**

If you have a regional or rural property, share your observations about the impact of the commercial and non-commercial slaughter of kangaroos.

**(h) Current and alternative measures to provide an incentive for and accelerate public and private conservation of kangaroos and other macropods.**

If you have ideas for any changes to laws, regulations or policy that would make it easier/more attractive/financially viable for landholders to set aside areas for kangaroo habitat include it here.

If you have any ideas for protecting kangaroos on public land, share them here. Proposals might include:

- Protected kangaroo corridors through the landscape along known migratory paths;
- Investment in regional tourism to view kangaroos in their native habitat;
- A great kangaroo national park.