

Wednesday 6th October, 2021

The Hon. Mark Pearson MLC

Animal Justice Party

Dear Mr Pearson,

Re: AWMS Support of the Commercial Kangaroo Industry



Thank you for your letter.

There is broad agreement amongst ecologists that kangaroos—particularly those inhabiting the rangelands—have increased in abundance since European settlement due to the proliferation of water points, modification of vegetation communities to favour foods preferred by kangaroos and reduction in predation. This increase in abundance has brought them into conflict with many pastoralists and crop growers who contend that kangaroos compete with stock for food and water, consume crops and damage fences. To reduce the potential for conflict, kangaroos are culled or commercially harvested.

AWMS recognises that, in the interests of sustainable land use and the conservation of biological diversity, there is a need to reduce overall grazing pressure in Australia's rangelands. Therefore, AWMS supports the commercial use of those species of macropod which are now harvested, subject to adherence to an approved management program, ongoing monitoring, evaluations, and improvements where needed, adherence to the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes and the satisfaction of the other criteria identified in the AWMS position paper on the Commercial Use of Wildlife. The addition of any other species should be undertaken only after careful consideration with respect to the same criteria. Recently, AWMS and 22 other similar organisations supported the publication of a National Statement on the management of kangaroos.

While many of the members of AWMS contributed to the NSW enquiry, the committees report has not yet been completed, and as such I will refrain from commenting on its findings.

Kind regards,

Dr Thomas Newsome,

Acting President

Australasian Wildlife Management Society