

9/06/16

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Dear Ms D'Ambrosio

I would like to strongly urge your department to stop the culling of kangaroos, especially on land that borders wildlife shelters. It has been brought to my attention that this is happening next to the Pastoria East Wildlife Shelter near Lancefield; which is a gross conflict of interest.

How is it acceptable that a cull permit can be given to a farmer to be used on land near a wildlife shelter? I expect our government to take the lead and give our native animals the respect, protection and habitat that they need and deserve.

DELWP in fact funds some of the cost of wildlife rehabilitation through an annual grant program. Many kangaroos killed (e.g. hit on the road or burnt in fire) have orphaned joeys that are taken into care. Members of the public are always happy to help and would be appalled to hear that a joey saved from a dead mum's pouch was eventually shot using a permit from DELWP.

What is the point in rescuing a joey, feeding it day and night for months, nurturing it for thousands of hours? Going through the hard and stressful work required to raise it for release, only to have the animal shot or maimed as soon as it's released or even years later? Why rehab an adult kangaroo that has been burnt in a bushfire, only to have it shot dead the next year?

It is also cruel and inhumane, as evidenced in photographs of the dead animals, not all were killed according to the DELWP regulations.

The animals are increasingly being pushed off their land, fenced out, and gathering in smaller pockets of land. This gives the appearance of bigger numbers than there actually are. We need better ways to manage the land so that farms and wildlife can exist together. Killing kangaroos is not the answer.

Yours sincerely,

Eve Kelly