



Manager,  
Conservation Research  
Environment Planning and Sustainable Development  
Directorate  
P.O. Box 158  
Canberra A C T 2601

A Submission.

My background: two years weekly attendance at Taronga Park Zoo, seven years field observation with a mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos (EGK) living 24/7 in close vicinity i.e., 5 to 10 metres average distance away from wild EGK. Fifty-seven years travelling in Australia, all states, all areas including Aboriginal lands, plus off-shore islands observing our wildlife.

My conclusions.

1. Nothing is to be gained by killing (culling). Natural deaths, road deaths, illness and hunting on rural properties deplete the number of EGK.
2. Severe weather, either extreme cold or extreme hot and drought naturally depletes the number of EGK.
3. Birth of young in weather extremes is extremely low.
4. Bushfires are also responsible for reduction in EGK populations.
5. There is no habitat destruction when the EGK is allowed to roam free.
6. Any form of fencing or restriction of movement causes over grazing just as it does with farm animals.
7. My seven years of constant observation has shown they are extremely delicate eaters and practice rotation of eating areas. They allow the poor grass areas to regenerate before they graze the area again.
8. Most destruction of grasses is from hares and rabbits. Introduced farm animals e.g., horses, goats, cattle and sheep who tend to tear the grass instead of the delicate nibble of the EGK.
9. Developers of estates who scour the landscape take away all topsoil grasses and any small ground creatures that happen to be there.
10. Proliferal animal species, such as lizards and skinks, are not affected by kangaroos. My area of surveillance shows a plentiful supply and continuing good number and variety of reptiles of all sizes. Birds are the main killers of reptilian animals and the scraping of the earth for development. If EGK were responsible for loss of grasslands and some reptiles, why do we still see these in 2017 when the EGK has been in this area for centuries?
11. Large numbers of EGK gatherings means a mixture of breeding genes and ensures healthy animals. Dominant Alpha males can move from group to group giving a better gene pool. Gathering in numbers is a means of protection. They are not solitary animals.
12. The EGK in my field of study seem to stay in a very restricted range. The females would not go past a half kilometre area and I see the same females and their new young each year. At no time did I attempt to feed or tame the animals, but they did

recognise me and ignore me, putting their heads down to continue eating. They are very timid but would tolerate me being only 5 to 10 metres away working with noisy tools. The land was also visited by a horse and nearly all the grass and plant destruction occurred with the unshod feet and the tearing action of the horse's teeth.

#### The Problems of People Moving Into An Animal's Habitat.

1. Money resources from the sale of land to developers, is so huge that governments take the opportunity to sell where-ever they can.
2. No wildlife corridors are left to move EGK to outer less settled land or reserves.
3. Wilfully changing the use of Nature Reserves or Bush Reserves to entrap wildlife in this case the EGK and making them shooting preserves for government approved hunters.
4. The cost of hunters with guns and the removal of carcasses would be NO MORE than tranquilizer darts and removing by animal trucks to a new territory.
5. The present ad hoc destruction of whole mobs of EGK from one reserve or park is compromising the gene pool and the subsequent health of escaping or non-targeted kangaroos.
6. To say kangaroos would be traumatized by tranquilizer darts and trucking must be hard to explain the difference with trapping them against fences and shooting the terrified animals.
7. Why aren't EGK reserves set up well away from future development sites ?

#### The Moral Issues.

- a) EGK are part of Australia's unique mammals. They are exclusive to Australia and are admired world-wide.
- b) Because the natural habitat seems to be the limestone plains of Canberra and the ACT area plus the coastal area close to the ACT territory they have been singled out for destruction of numbers.
- c) World interest in these animals means Australia and especially the ACT are under scrutiny by other countries.
- d) How does the ACT killing (not culling) appear to Japan when Australia was so vocal at world conferences concerning the killing of whales by Japan?
- e) What does Malaysia think when we kill kangaroos and other world countries including Australia are trying to save Orang Utangs?
- f) What does China think when we kill kangaroos which are unique and China is trying to build up its unique Panda populations?
- g) What do Americans say who nearly lost all their buffaloes and had to make up gene pools from other similar animals to get back buffaloes ?
- h) The ACT had to re introduce the Quoll to our nature reserves. Why was that ? Did its habitat become valuable for building development?
- i) The old saying, 'Be careful what you wish for!' is not to be taken lightly.

#### Authorities, Scientists, Academia.

An unbelievable mix of a little knowledge can be spread far and wide with little time and experience to support its findings. Paid research is always suspect, any answers can be arranged if enough research grants can be funded. You too can have academia find in your favour.

Too often science is proved wrong, however the results are catastrophic. To name a few animal examples.

1. The introduction of cane toads in Queensland, now found at Mt. Kosciusko National Park.
2. Myxomatosis in rabbits. A new RDHV - K5, the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease has made domestic rabbits vulnerable.
3. Anti-biotics in fish farming. This is now requiring different anti-biotics for humans.
4. Killing (culling) emus in Western Australia. Where are the emus now?
5. Herpes virus to kill carp in waterways shared by other water creatures and humans. This is an example to watch closely!
6. Human disasters introduced by science also occur eg., thalidomide.

When research has lasted a generation or generations, there may be enough reliable evidence to evaluate the findings! The period from 2010 to 2017 is too short a span of research for any real evidence to show. Even the chemistry world uses 20 years for testing.

Contraception.

What a potential termination of the EGK ! Looking at how susceptible our native wildlife is, to suggest using such a method is prone to natural calamity.

1. Wombats have body skin cancers.
2. Koalas suffer from chlamydia.
3. Tasmanian Devils have face cancers.
4. Tasmanian Tigers extinct due to farmers and hunters.

Do we want to endanger another Australian mammal? They have enough dangers in the modern world of pesticides, insecticides and man-made chemicals plus total habitat destruction. Can we now add outright murder by law!

The ACT and NSW roads, many farmers, hunters and gun lobbyists, bushfires, droughts are doing an ongoing job of killing EGK without any counting or recording the numbers lost. The present counting system is not reliable. Spot checking and doing interpretations is as loose as counting dots on a paddock and multiplying.

What will contraception do ?

Finally.

1. Why is the ACT the most anti-kangaroo territory/state in Australia ?
2. It is obsessive and has gained the attention of animal welfare groups, governments and media outside Australia and UNESCO.  
This surely is enough to reconsider current policies ?
3. Not only are the government policies anti EGK but there is inherent bias by threat of legislature, by word as reported by newspapers and local magazines printing only ACT policies. Where other views should appear, there are none .
4. New legislation is being conceived to block any alternative means of dealing with EGK.
5. Notification of submissions for the NEW PLANS was so small and under the radar that only the really observant would find the one line printed date and website in one newspaper and one magazine in the ACT.
6. EGK roam between two areas both in the ACT and in NSW. There is no provision for people outside the ACT to see notice of the date and request for submissions.

7. Those persons without qualifications to match the ACT scientists and naturalists have in the past been treated as a non event despite their years of experience with the land and EGK.
8. Bathurst Regional Council were able to remove excess kangaroos from Mt. Panorama without 'murdering' them, and would be happy to discuss their methods with the ACT.
9. There is the identification of any person showing sympathy for the plight of the EGK as an "activist" which has an unpleasant tone. The appellation of the title "Animal Lover" is more accurate. However in keeping with the ACT government attitude, it is a derogatory term for supporters of saving EGK, not killing them.

I would submit the implausibility of the argument that some species of lizards and grasses are likely to die out if EGK live in the reserves and local areas.

1. How come the EGK have been there eating for hundreds of years and you can still find these lizards and grasses. Why didn't the kangaroos eat out their habitat over the decades and especially in times of drought?
2. The scouring of the land for development at Gungahlin on the north-eastern edges of Horse Park Drive would show the real culprits. Kangaroos are not to be seen in the reserve after the hunters did their work
3. Would the ACT government support WILDCARE to save the injured kangaroos and joeys after the slaughter has finished?

Beware that this whole operation can be considered a true KANGAROO COURT.

