



2 September 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via e-mail

RE: Continued importation and sale of kangaroo products in California

NSW Farmers' Association is Australia's largest state farming organisation representing the interests of farmers across the State of New South Wales, Australia. Our members grow food and fibre for the domestic and export markets, from beef, sheep and goat meat to wool, grains, cotton, horticulture, poultry, dairy, oysters, eggs and pork.

It has recently come to the attention of NSW Farmers that legislation overturning the prohibition on the sale of kangaroo products in the state of California will expire at the end of 2015. During the operation of the legislation, the Californian market has become the largest single market for kangaroo derived leather goods in the world, and we understand that without such legislation California will revert back to a state prohibiting the sale of such goods. I write on behalf of farmers in NSW to seek your support for the continuation of such legislation.

The Californian kangaroo product market is essential to Australia's commercial kangaroo industry. A robust kangaroo industry here in Australia means better management of our natural resources as well as the management and viability of farm businesses. Maintaining kangaroos at ecologically sustainable levels is crucial for our farmers, particularly livestock farmers, who suffer feed loss due to rising kangaroo numbers where market uptake is low. This is particularly the case during times of severe drought which parts of NSW are currently experiencing, and feed is at an all-time low.

We are currently advocating for improvements to the operation of commercial kangaroo markets both domestically and globally.

We seek your support for the continued importation of kangaroo products into the essential market of California.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Schoen'.

Derek Schoen
President

NSW Farmers' Association

ABN 31 000 004 851 PO Box 459 St Leonards NSW 1590 Level 6 35 Chandos Street St Leonards NSW 2065
Member Service Centre 1300 794 000 T 02 9478 1000 F 02 8282 4500 www.nswfarmers.org.au