

KANGAROO CULLING (according to the U.S.)

This is yet another ‘claw at the heart strings’ about the killing of animals, based on sentiment in the United States about kangaroos.

The facts have been scientifically published and plainly stated: (1) there is an overabundance of the widespread species primarily involved in the take (the eastern grey kangaroo); (2) this abundance causes the species to be regarded by those who live among it as ‘vermin’; (3) this status leads, in its remote and generally inaccessible range, to decimation by uncontrolled hunting way over and beyond the traditional harvest industry, and regardless of any management legislation; (4) the practical collecting method are, in the interests of the hunter, always for a quick kill - by a single shot to the head, mostly of males; and (5) the alternative death for most kangaroos is during frequent droughts by protracted starvation and accompanying disease (though the pouch young are killed quickly by their mothers by denying them milk supply).

If these facts are to continue to be ignored in the U.S., some other indisputable realities also apply: (1) the United States has for the same period of time and in the same order of magnitude permitted the killing of the white-tailed deer (sentimentally known as ‘bambi’); and (2) United Nations’ opinion is that the U.S. should have managed the conservation of its once-superabundant and now extremely scarce bison by controlled harvest rather than through (failed) sentimental pleas. It is otherwise hypocritical - as well as nonsensical - for the U.S. to attempt to impose its contrary form of management on Australia.

In practice, the unintended consequences of any anti-culling campaign constitute an international disgrace:

- 1. In their vast and remote distribution range, absence of a controlled cull promotes wholesale slaughter of kangaroos as ‘vermin’.**
- 2. Conservation management of scarce kangaroo species is completely lacking (funding is feasible only from a controlled culling industry).**
- 3. Alienation of the isolated landholders best positioned and equipped to manage kangaroos effectively is incomprehensible.**

Any thoughtful response from Australia about its kangaroos should necessarily be based on facts, firm, to the point, and unresponsive to opinions that are, indeed, contrary to the actual practices of foreign sources!

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13 April 2021**