



**Kangaroo Industries
Association of Australia**

25 January 2023

Statement regarding US States Considering Legislation Prohibiting the Sale of Kangaroo Products

The Kangaroo Industry Association Australia (KIAA) will be approaching the Australian embassy in Washington in response to misinformation fueling the US states of Connecticut and Oregon to consider legislation prohibiting the sale of kangaroo products. We believe the recent move is driven by emotive misinformation by animal activist groups targeting US politicians.

We are calling out the misinformation being circulated around kangaroo management and highlighting the need for greater awareness around the benefits of managing an overabundant species including increased biodiversity and sustainability, a reduction in adverse animal welfare outcomes, and waste reduction.

The industry is confident in its robust standards of excellence in animal welfare, sustainability and food safety. We follow the advice of government and scientists and comply with all regulations and codes.

The commercial kangaroo industry is worth more than \$200 million to the Australian economy and employs more than 3,000 people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and members of remote communities. We create high-quality, traceable meat and leather products responsibly sourced from an open range environment where kangaroos graze on the natural pastures and foliage of the Australian bush.

In the absence of a commercial industry, conservation culling would still need to occur to manage the populations of certain species. A strictly regulated and ethical commercial industry has the ability to make use of kangaroos that would otherwise need to be discarded.

The national kangaroo population is estimated to be 40 million, but can sharply increase in good seasons, causing damage to farmland, habitats, along with posing a risk to motorists and suffering starvation from over-grazing. Australian state government conservation programs, not the leather industry, dictates how many kangaroos are harvested every year.

We respect the life of the animals harvested under government-controlled conservation plans by utilising all parts of those animals including the meat and skins. No animal is slain just for the skin to make soccer cleats.

Dennis King, Executive Officer, Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia

Media contact: media@kangarooindustry.com.au