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Kangaroos are currently harvested sustainably and humanely under sophisticated Management Plans developed by each State of Australia. These state plans are then reviewed and ratified by the Federal Government to ensure that export standards are upheld. Few informed scientists would disagree with this.

The kangaroo species that can be utilised by the industry are in large enough numbers in many seasons to impact significantly on farmers' livelihoods. The commercial industry is the most humane, efficient and regulated strategy available for kangaroo population management. Without it numbers fluctuate more widely, and landholders are more likely to take matters into their own hands to control numbers. This unofficial activity is unregulated and wasteful.

However it's the potential for the kangaroo harvest to improve the sustainability of the rangelands which interest many scientists such as myself. I see considerable environmental benefits accruing from a kangaroo harvest that takes the full quota of 15% of the population and have developed business models for kangaroo harvest to become a viable farm enterprise. Australian consumers are open to eating more kangaroo and there is potential for demand to significantly increase the price. These initiatives will bring greater value to kangaroos and generate conservation benefits.

Finally, kangaroos don't emit methane, a damaging greenhouse gas emitted by sheep and cattle in huge volumes. Any substitution of kangaroo meat or leather for sheep or cattle products therefore is a potentially important contribution to reducing greenhouse emissions. By allowing the ongoing sale of kangaroo products California would not only be assisting us to help develop more sustainable agricultural systems in our rangelands, it would also be making an active contribution towards minimising global warming.

Sincerely,