



Evolution of Earth & Life Systems Research Group
Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences
University of New South Wales
Sydney, NSW 2052

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The Californian Government is about to be asked to make a crucial decision in support of the sustainability of large tracts of Australian rangelands. I understand that you are authoring legislation to ensure the correct decision is made. As a senior scientist, conservationist and environmentalist, I strongly support your legislative initiative to allow Australia to continue its successful management of its four most abundant kangaroo species based on sound science and proven economic factors, including permitting the sale of products made from these four non-endangered species of kangaroo in California.

Australian government's and scientists have over the past 60 years developed robust and well-regulated management programs for the four most abundant large species of kangaroos. These programs are designed to help keep these kangaroo populations from spiralling out of control and presenting a threat to agricultural production and environmental sustainability through excessive grazing pressure.

I understand that some Californian's are displeased by the commercial harvest aspect of our proven management practices. The same is true for some Australians. But, the fact is, a humane and well regulated harvest is critical as part of a successful population control mechanism on kangaroos.

Animal welfare considerations in the harvest are tightly regulated. Adherence to The Code of Practice for humanely harvesting kangaroos is an enforced condition of every kangaroo harvesting licence. It details best practices in all aspects of the harvest.

However, the real importance of the kangaroo harvest to many Australian ecologists is the hope that it can expand to the point where it offers an economic incentive to reduce dependence on environment-damaging, hard-hoofed sheep that are degrading Australia's fragile rangelands and in the gap increase dependence on sustainably-harvested kangaroos that *don't* damage the rangelands.

This is a significant opportunity to increase the real value of our native wildlife and improve the health of the environment on which this wildlife depends. By doing so we can increase the sustainable and economic incentive to provide long-term sustainability for Australia's globally-unique biota.

Add to this the fact that kangaroos produce almost no climate-damaging methane in contrast to conventional agricultural animals, and informed ecologists increasingly see kangaroo harvesting as a scientifically important alternative to conventional dependence on sheep.

By allowing kangaroo products to be marketed in California, your Government would be making a responsible decision to support well-regulated, sustainable resource management. In the process, it would also be promoting the welfare and environmental health of Australia's otherwise sheep-degraded rangelands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form a stylized, cursive name.

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