



# Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council

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31 August, 2015

The Honorable Mike Gipson  
California State Assembly  
State of California  
State Capitol, Room 4164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for California Assembly Bill 1188 (Gipson)

Dear Assembly Member Gipson,

The Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council (CLALC) is the peak Aboriginal Representative body in Coonamble and as such advocate for the best interests of the Aboriginal Community of Coonamble.

We would like to tender this letter in the support of humane culling of Kangaroos for the following reasons:

- The Industry creates both employment opportunities and business opportunities for the local Aboriginal people. Not only do the meat works employ Aboriginal workers, but the Aboriginal people have the great opportunity to start their own business centred around this industry by either becoming an accredited Kangaroo Trapper or through the Transport of the final product.
- The meat would be utilized for human consumption and pet food, and the pelts for soft toys and other items. These Kangaroos will not simply be killed and wasted. Their lives, meat, and pelts will be put to a use, and this will give meaning to the lives of these kangaroos, making the culling, at least, more humane than if these resources were simply thrown away.
- The proposal is not to eradicate Kangaroo populations. It is, rather, to make the Kangaroo population in Australia manageable. The idea is to ensure that the Kangaroo can co-exist in Australia sustainably. This is consistent with Australia's national identity connection with the Kangaroo.
- While national symbols have value, they are not absolutes. They should not get in the way of reasonable government actions that uphold the national interests of the country (a sustainable Kangaroo population).
- Once Agriculture Minister Tony Burke has defended the culling of Kangaroos, saying the animals would starve to death if numbers are not reduced.
- So therefore we believe that, many consumers around the world are doing the Kangaroo population a big favour by buying the products because that market enables a proper commercial culling to ensure the on-going survival of a sustainable number of Kangaroos.

If you have any comments or queries regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me on 0488 424 568 at anytime.

Regards

Brendon Harris  
CEO