

c/ International Union for Conservation of Nature  
Rue Mauverney 28  
1196 Gland  
Switzerland

31st August 2015

The Honorable Mike A. Gipson  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly member Gipson,

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature ([www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)), is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation, with more than 1,200 government and NGO Members, and almost 11,000 volunteer experts (in some 160 countries) in its six Commissions.

We write to you in our capacities as Chairs of two Specialist Groups of IUCN, the Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), and the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group of the SSC and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.

We write to express our view on **the ecological sustainability of Australia's commercial harvest of kangaroos.**

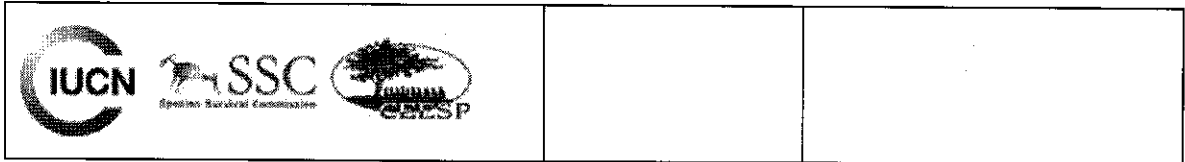
1. All four commercially harvested and traded species (*Macropus fuliginosus*, *M. giganteus*, *M. rufus* and *M. robustus*) are listed as "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ (see [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)). The IUCN Red List is widely recognized as the most comprehensive and objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. The conservation status of all the harvested macropods was recently assessed in *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012*<sup>1</sup>, and this confirmed their status as Least Concern.

2. The over thirty years of survey data available on the commercially harvested species<sup>2</sup> provide no indication that the commercial harvest poses any conservation concern to the harvested species. All four species remain abundant. While populations of all four species fluctuate significantly with rainfall, there is no indication of any long term decline.

3. Available data strongly suggests that from a scientific perspective, the Australian programme of commercial kangaroo harvesting provides a very good example of long term ecologically sustainable use of wildlife.

<sup>1</sup> Woinarski J, Burbidge A and Harrison P (2014) *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012* CSIRO Publishing, Canberra ACT Australia

<sup>2</sup> Publicly available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/natives/wild-harvest/#kangaroostats>



Best regards,

Prof Chris Johnson  
Chair, Australasian Marsupial and  
Monotreme Specialist Group

Dr Rosie Cooney  
Chair, Sustainable Use and Livelihoods  
Specialist Group [www.iucn.org/suli](http://www.iucn.org/suli)

**SULi** Sustainable Use  
and Livelihoods  
Specialist Group