

RAPAD

Incorporating Central Western
Regional Organisation of Councils



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 Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD – www.rapad.com.au) is a unified local government owned organisation that aims to assist and facilitate the growth and development of our Central Western Queensland region of Australia.

RAPAD is owned by and represents the affairs of:

- Barcaldine Regional Council - www.barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au
- Barcoo Shire Council – www.barcoo.qld.gov.au
- Blackall-Tambo Regional Council – www.btrc.qld.gov.au
- Boulia Shire Council – www.boulia.qld.gov.au
- Diamantina Shire Council – www.diamantina.qld.gov.au
- Longreach Regional Council – www.longreach.qld.gov.au
- Winton Shire Council - www.winton.qld.gov.au

Together our local governments cover almost 25% of the State of Queensland. Our region is typified by a small and dispersed regional population. Our major economic drivers are agriculture and tourism. Our regions communities are tightly knit and these communities hold, with great value and pride, our social fabric and environmental assets.

I understand legislation to allow the ongoing sale of kangaroo products is about to be introduced to you Parliament.

I wish to express the strong support of RAPAD for this initiative.

Australia has developed a comprehensive and rigorous management program for the four super-abundant species of kangaroos, which are commercially harvested. We believe these Management Programs represent world best practice.



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They ensure kangaroo populations remain sustainable and that our rangelands environment is not threatened by unregulated kangaroo numbers which could lead to serious bio-diversity loss.

Importantly they are critical to enable sustainable grazing and farming in these regions. Damage by uncontrolled kangaroo populations is a significant impact on farm sustainability in our region. If not adequately controlled kangaroo populations cause fence and other infrastructure damage, and most importantly, prevent pastoralists from setting aside standing feed reserves for dry times. Any paddock that is shut up as a feed reserve is often quickly inundated with kangaroos and the pasture disappears. This is further exacerbated at this present time of severe drought in our region.

In addition to the important grazing and environmental land management benefits the sustainable harvesting of kangaroos brings, kangaroo harvesting and processing provides real and valuable job opportunities and income across our region.

The Californian market is critical to this important industry in our region and I urge all efforts be done to enable ongoing access for kangaroo products to your State.

If you require further information I can be contacted on 61427512314 or alternatively you can contact RAPADs CEO, David Arnold on 61746525600.

Yours Sincerely



FOR

Cr Rob Chandler
Chairman of RAPAD

The Central Western region of Queensland, Australia

