

31 August, 2015

California State Assembly
State of California
State Capitol, Room 4164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for California Assembly Bill 1188 (Gipson)

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

We wish to express the strong support of WoolProducers Australia (WPA) for this initiative. WPA is the peak national body representing the views of Australian wool growers – an industry worth over \$3 billion per year to the Australian economy.

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.

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

Importantly they are critical to enabling our members to sustainably farm in these regions. Damage by uncontrolled kangaroo populations has a significant impact on farm sustainability in the rangelands. If not adequately controlled kangaroo populations cause fence and other infrastructure damage, crop loss and most importantly prevent pastoralists from setting aside standing feed reserves for dry times. Any paddock shut up as a feed reserve is often quickly inundated with kangaroos and the pasture disappears.

I note that in the debate much is being made of the proposition that kangaroos cannot increase in numbers quickly. This, I assure you, is not the opinion of anyone who has to live with kangaroos. My members know only too well, to their economic cost, just how quickly kangaroo's numbers can rise following good rains and the staggering levels their populations can increase to.

No farmer wants to see kangaroos removed from the landscape altogether, but they do need to be controlled to prevent environmental and agricultural damage. The commercial kangaroo harvest is the most effective tool available in doing so. In the interest of the ongoing viability of family farms across the rangelands I urge you and your colleagues to support the Bill to allow ongoing sale of kangaroo products in California.

Regards



Richard Halliday
PRESIDENT