



AJP Press Release on the announcement by the ACT Government to kill more 3253 Kangaroos - 3 May 2018

The Animal Justice Party (AJP) has urged ACT residents to demand an end to the ACT government's annual kangaroo massacre.

The ACT government has announced yet another year of slaughtering kangaroos on ACT reserves despite recent revelations from a long suppressed CSIRO study commissioned by the ACT government. The study "could not identify any upper limit of kangaroo density beyond which vegetation richness, diversity and overall condition declines".

The Convenor of AJP ACT, Mr Bernard Brennan, comments, "Instead of ending the mindless annual slaughter, the government has increased, by still another thousand, the number to be killed this year. By their own estimates the number the government proposes to kill this year exceeds the number of kangaroos remaining across all ACT reserves. The government is killing them at a rate of *30-40 per cent per year* when their maximum possible population growth rate is *10 per cent per year*. If the government reaches its target, it is likely by next year there will be no kangaroos left on ACT reserves except those from NSW that have recently moved into the empty space left after the slaughter."

The AJP believes that this is not an accidental extinction. "The ACT government, along with other state governments around Australia, is clearly aiming for the permanent solution of kangaroo extinction," Mr Brennan said.

The AJP is not only concerned about the extreme cruelty the slaughter inflicts on the kangaroos themselves: the lack of hunter supervision which permits high wounding rates; pouch joeys bashed to death; hundreds of at-foot joeys orphaned and left to die of dehydration, hypothermia and starvation. We are also concerned about all the animals in the ecosystem.

"Kangaroos are a keystone species, critical to the survival of other animals which share these ecosystems. Constantly robbed of enough kangaroos to sustain those ecosystems, other animals, including threatened reptiles, are now dying out," Mr Brennan warns.

Mr Brennan notes the extreme hypocrisy of the ACT government, which claims that the massacre is for environmental reasons. "It is abundantly clear that is not about anything other than placating affluent farmers and developers.

"If the government gave a damn about cars colliding with kangaroos, it would reduce speed limits near reserves, and build wildlife corridors instead of bisecting every bit of green space with high speed roads.

"If there really were a kangaroo population problem – for which there is no credible evidence whatsoever – the government would have long since stopped killing kangaroos and introduced the cheap and effective alternative of fertility control which has been developed and trialled by Animal Army founder, Marcus Fillinger. The dart costs \$5, the vaccine costs \$22 per kangaroo. So for \$27



ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

you can remotely administer the fertility vaccine which will last five to six years," he said Mr Brennan concludes.

Media Contact - Robyn Soxsmith, Secretary ACT Branch Committee, 0424 191 561
act@animaljusticeparty.org