

Action for Wildlife

- Write to Warren Truss, Minister for Agriculture , Robert Hill, Environment Minister and John Howard, Prime Minister - all at: **Australian Parliament House**, Canberra 2600, ACT, Australia. Or email John Howard by clicking on www.pm.gov.au. Also contact the **Australian Embassy**, Michael L'Estrange, High Commissioner, Australia House, Strand, London WC2B 4LA Tel 0207 379 4334.
- Demand an end to the world's biggest wildlife massacre.
- Refuse to buy or eat kangaroo meat or any shoes, bags or accessories made with kangaroo skin.
- Complain to any restaurant which has kangaroo on the menu.
- Demonstrate with others outside any kangaroo meat or leather outlets and ensure that all customers receive a copy of this leaflet.
- Support *Viva!*. Ask for a free pack, order our report and donate (see coupon).
- Write letters to your local newspapers, radio and TV stations and give them the facts.



Viva!

A million reasons not to eat kangaroo meat



"Viva! is bringing the misery of our wildlife to people at home and abroad and we praise their work. We implore Australian and Europeans alike to support this campaign to save the kangaroo." Australian Wildlife Protection Council

"I support the campaign by Viva!. Huge numbers of pregnant female kangaroos and their babies are being slaughtered every night. Families are destroyed and scattered through the blood lust of an indescribably cruel industry." The Hon Richard Jones, Member of the Legislative Council, Sydney.

Photos courtesy of Viva!, IFAW/Richard Sobol & Mary McCartney



- Yes, please send me a free pack to help kangaroos
- Yes, please send me Viva!'s report, Under Fire (£2 each, inc. p&p)
- Yes, I want to end the kangaroo massacre. I enclose a donation of £

Please make cheque/PO payable to:

Viva! Campaigns.

OR please debit my credit/Switch card:

Expires:..... Switch Issue No:.....
 Title: First name:
 Surname:
 Address:
 Postcode:

Clubbed to death, stamped on or left to die from starvation - that's how Australia deals with 1.3 million joeys every year after their mothers are shot for meat or leather. These are the pathetic little by-products of the world's greatest wildlife massacre.

The *largest* massacre of wild land animals the world has ever known is taking place in Australia *right now*.

Imagine this. A mother kangaroo with her beautiful joey at night in the vast outback. It's a scene millions of years old. What's new is the roar of a four-wheel drive. She turns towards the noise and is transfixed by a searchlight. A rifle cracks and a bullet tears a hole in her neck. She falls, in pain and unable to save her joey, who retreats into her pouch for safety. The first thing the hunter does is to search the pouch and, feeling a joey inside, pulls him out. The hunter tosses him to the ground and stamps on his head. The joey writhes in agony. The mother struggles as her leg is slit open and a hook inserted through it. She is hauled up on to the truck and slowly dies. The scene is repeated all night long. Older joeys frantically hop away when their mother's are shot - to die a slow and lonely death from cold or starvation. This is the



reality of kangaroo killing. But the killing continues. Every store, restaurant and cafe that sells kangaroo meat or skin supports this massacre. And they are all fed a string of excuses by the Australian government. Not one of them stands up to scrutiny.

Viva! has virtually ended the sale of kangaroo meat in Britain - we persuaded 1,500 supermarket stores to withdraw it. Viva! is now working with Australian and European groups. We aim to drive more nails into the coffin of an industry which threatens kangaroos with genocide.



"There is an urgent need for action to protect kangaroos from a barbaric industry which slaughters them for meat and leather. Please

do all you can to help Viva! end this shameful massacre."
Sir Paul McCartney



Myth - Kangaroos destroy wheat crops

A four year study by CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation)

found that 95 per

cent of wheat crops are never visited by kangaroos. Yet farmers and the Australian government still refer to kangaroos as pests.

"Pests is an emotive word. It conjures up visions of animals destroying crops. I can think of no situations where this is likely to be true for kangaroos." Dr. Graham Arnold, CSIRO

In fact, commercial killing takes place in the outback where crops are never grown.

Myth - Kangaroos compete for grazing

A six-year study by Dr Steven McLeod (University of New South Wales) - the biggest ever undertaken - examined whether red kangaroos affected sheep farming.

It found no competition for food between sheep and red kangaroos - even in drought conditions.

Myth - Killing kangaroos helps preserve them

The kangaroo massacre destroys the process of natural selection - the largest and fittest animals are always targeted. "This has the potential to cause the extinction of a number of species". (Dr Ian Gunn, Animal Gene Storage

Resource Centre of Australia.)

Australia has the worst wildlife record in the world - six species of kangaroos extinct, four more extinct on the Australian mainland, 17 species endangered or vulnerable.

Myth - The killing is strictly controlled

No one monitors, let alone controls, the killing. Kangaroos are shot at night in the vast outback. Joeys at foot, still reliant on their mothers, are not even mentioned in the Code of Practice. "Shooters often have a thorough contempt for the law. They commit cruelty on a regular basis." (Dr John Auty, veterinary scientist and former Chief Agronomist).

Myth - Kangaroos are killed to save the environment

Kangaroos have evolved with and are part of the Australian environment. Destruction comes from 160 million hard-hoofed sheep and cattle.

Myth - Kangaroos are in plague proportions

Kangaroos have never been a plague. They have been wiped out in many regions. In others, their numbers build up in order to withstand the regular droughts which wipe out half the population. Kill quotas for 2001 were 5.5 million - but this figure ignores joeys, road deaths, illegal and non-commercial kills. This annual death toll amounts to 10 million - a patently unsustainable figure.

Fact - Kangaroos are killed to earn foreign currency, which is why the meat and leather is promoted around the world. Having built an industry with political clout, self interest will ensure it carries on killing, whatever its impact on kangaroos.