

WILDLIFE ADVOCATE

Representing The Quiet Australian

ISSUE

ACT Kangaroo Management Plan

Background

In March 2009, the ACT government released its first draft Kangaroo Management Plan for public consultation. This draft plan was a ostensibly consolidation of three reports issued by the Kangaroo Management Advisory Committee over the period Feb 1996 to Oct 1997

The draft Kangaroo Management Plan was a significant piece of work totalling 192 pages. It outlined not only the overarching policies but provided detailed plans in respect of each of the public nature reserves.

Action

Wildlife Advocate matched the draft plan with a significant submission of its own. Totalling 29 pages, Wildlife Advocate's submission addressed each of the policies and detailed plans proposed by the ACT government.

As with all of Wildlife Advocate's submissions, we worked from the premise that Australian native wildlife is, like Australian weather, something to be endured and not managed. Failing that, all management of wildlife must be humane. On this basis, Wildlife Advocate made some notable, and possibly controversial, departures from the policies proposed by the ACT government.

The issues on which Wildlife Advocate took exception to the draft Kangaroo Management Plan included:

- ▶ claims by the ACT government that there are relatively high densities of kangaroos in the ACT in comparison with surround areas in NSW. Using the data provided by the ACT in the draft management plan, Wildlife Advocate showed that kangaroo densities in the ACT are only 50% higher than in Surrounding NSW...this differed from the 500% claimed by the ACT government;
- ▶ the continuance of ACT practice to kill orphaned, but healthy, joeys. Wildlife Advocate argued that the most humane outcome for health orphans was for them to be raised and then released back into their natural environment; and
- ▶ the ACT government's aversion to allowing commercial slaughter of kangaroos in the ACT. Whilst strongly opposed to any form of kangaroo slaughter, Wildlife Advocate pointed out that commercial shooters are more likely to slaughter kangaroos humanely than non-commercial, on-farm operations.

Wildlife Advocate members can download a full copy of the submission from the Members Only portion of our website.