

POLICIES OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW ON KANGAROO MANAGEMENT

Adopted at 1980 Annual Conference:

After a lengthy and lively debate at the NCC's 1980 Annual Conference, agreement was arrived at on the following policy:

1. The NCC believes that the aim of any kangaroo management programme in NSW should be to ensure the survival of abundant and viable populations of all species of kangaroo over as much of their present and past range as possible. The Council is generally opposed to the killing of kangaroos but acknowledges that there might be the need to cull certain species of macropod in times of over-population.
2. NCC supports the establishment of a NSW Kangaroo Management Committee to assess the state of the kangaroo population and to advise the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service On:
 - a) Current population levels on a regional basis;
 - b) Methods of maintaining desirable levels of kangaroo population;
 - c) Research required; and
 - d) Culling quotas for each year.

The NCC also supports the establishment of a national kangaroo study group to review the work of the States in relation to kangaroo management and desirable kangaroo population levels and conflicts between grazing and kangaroos.

3. NCC supports the concept that both groups should include representatives of the voluntary conservation movement. The committees should also include independent scientists, and a majority of representatives should not be from the kangaroo industry or pastoral and land-holding interests combined.
4. NCC believes kangaroo protein and products may be utilised, provided strict controls are exercised over culling, including strict adherence to annual review of culling licences.
5. NCC supports the introduction of an export ban on kangaroo products, and calls upon the Federal Government to place an immediate embargo on the export of all kangaroo and wallaby products.
6. NCC opposes any commitment of resources made to the industry for one year in advance.

7. NCC calls for substantial increases in State Government funding of:-

- c) administration of the State monitoring survey of the kangaroo population;
- d) research into endangered species; and
- e) the purchase of marginal farming and other land for wildlife reserves.

Resolution of NCC Executive at its July 1986 Meeting:

THAT The NCC Executive opposes the "skin only" shooting of kangaroos.

Resolution 16 of 1987 Annual Conference:

A motion was submitted by the Royal Zoological Society of NSW on the subject of Land Degradation and Kangaroo Marketing. After considerable debate an amendment to the motion was carried. It was then resolved;

THAT The NCC support any initiative for a feasibility study which would examine the possibility of a marketing drive for kangaroo products, raising prices to an extent that will encourage graziers to reduce their traditional hardfooted stock in favour of free range kangaroos as the best way to counter the spread of deserts in our marginal grazing lands.

Kangaroo Management in NSW

The Executive are submitting a motion for the Annual Conference calling for a moratorium on the commercial killing of kangaroos because of the decline in kangaroo numbers following the recent devastating drought.

Council's existing policy on kangaroos, which recognises that products from kangaroos shot in response to proven problems to the agricultural or pastoral industry may be utilised but should **not** be exported, was adopted after 6 hours' debate at the 1980 Conference.

The Executive motion would, if adopted by the 1983 Conference, amend our existing policy. Copies of the 1980 policy will be distributed to delegates attending the 1983 Conference.

In August, the National Parks and Wildlife Service arranged a seminar at Dubbo to put forward its kangaroo management policy (and the manner in which it estimates macropod populations in NSW) to a poorly attended meeting of representatives of the grazing and kangaroo processing industries and animal welfare and conservation interests.

I was asked to chair the seminar by the Service, who came into criticism from animal welfare interests for not permitting them to formally present their point of view.

- 10 It would appear that the doubts of some conservationists concerning the accuracy of the Service's kangaroo population estimates will remain unaltered for the foreseeable future. In the meantime, the Service responds to political and public pressure by spending fifteen times more on research and management of the common large macropods than it does on all other wildlife combined, including endangered species.
- 15 This is a matter of grave concern.