



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

Senior Strategic Planner
Research and Planning
Parks, Conservation and Lands
Department of Territory and Municipal Services
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The National Parks Association of the Act supports the ACT Kangaroo Management Plan (2009) in its approach to managing the environmental, economic and social impacts of eastern grey kangaroos in the ACT. Our members consider that it is essential that the problems being experienced in some areas of the ACT be addressed urgently to protect the eco-systems and endangered species put at risk by overgrazing by the eastern grey kangaroo.

Our members have not taken this decision to support the management plan lightly and it was the subject of a special discussion at the April General Meeting. We are fully aware of the negative publicity about the proposal to cull eastern grey kangaroos when necessary but we accept that the artificial situation created by fencing and restricted land use requires an artificial solution like culling.

The issue for us comes down to the fact that an over abundant species, the eastern grey kangaroo, is putting at risk less iconic or visible species which nevertheless play an important role in the viability of the eco-system as a whole. We firmly believe that it is unethical to move the problem elsewhere, as has been proposed from time to time and that the solution must be found within our own borders.

It is essential that the management plan is adequately resourced, not just the culling strategy but the full range of research and management initiatives outlined in the plan. We would expect to see an announcement of additional funding for these purposes, should the plan be adopted in full.

Our continuing support is dependent on key strategies as outlined in the management plan being carried out in full, in particular that:

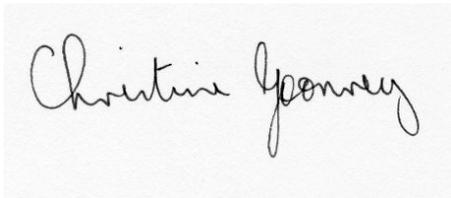
- the most controversial aspect of management of over-population, that is the culling process, be carried out on a case by case basis and that it not become normalised as a management practice;
- on-going scientific research be carried out to develop more effective long term responses to both the management of the grasslands and the over-population of the kangaroos.

We also note that the carcasses produced by the cull should not be wasted if at all possible but that the cull should not become an excuse to establish a commercial kangaroo meat industry.

In addition, we would like to point out that the title of the plan does not reflect its sole emphasis on eastern grey kangaroos and it would be more accurate to call it the "ACT Eastern Grey Kangaroo Management Plan" to save later confusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft strategy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Christine Goonrey" in a cursive, flowing script.

Christine Goonrey
President
1 May 2009