



Kangaroo cull needed to protect endangered species

The ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Dr Maxine Cooper has recommended that ACT and Australian Government urgently cull kangaroos in order to protect the endangered Natural Temperate Grassland areas that also sustain a number of other endangered species.

Canberra's Natural Temperate Grassland areas are the home for threatened species including the Grassland Earless Dragon (lizard), the Golden Sun Moth and Ginninderra Peppercross (herb).

The Commissioner says grazing by over abundant populations of Eastern Grey Kangaroos has severely degraded some grassland areas.

"To protect the ACT's endangered species, there is a need to reduce the number of kangaroos on some sites", the Commissioner said. "The ecological condition of some sites is declining because of the over abundance of kangaroos. Reducing the numbers of kangaroos, particularly in rural locations, such as Majura Valley and in the Belconnen area near the ACT and NSW border is needed. As well as on one site in southern Belconnen. Fencing off some of the grassland areas in Majura Valley has been effective in that it does protect the grassland but it has shifted the problem such that another threatened ecosystem, the adjoining woodlands is being adversely affected. Fencing is only a short-term measure. The next step that is needed is culling kangaroos to protect our endangered species for future generations".

The Commissioner also determined that re-locating large numbers of Kangaroos was not an option.

"The experts have told me that this is simply not an option. It sounds good but when the facts of what is involved are scrutinized, it doesn't add up. Our advice is that a humane cull, conducted under strict supervision, is the best way of reducing large numbers of kangaroos".

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