



**NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service**

Your reference: dcs.gp 10/51
Our reference: doc 10/57055

Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie
Electorate Office
92 Victory Parade
TORONTO NSW 2283

Dear Mr Piper

Thankyou for your letter of 13 December 2010 regarding harm to kangaroos in and around the grounds of Morisset Hospital. I obviously share your concerns about deliberate running down and mutilation of kangaroos in this area.

Local NPWS staff have worked with Hunter Health on a range of options to minimise exposure of animals to people who cause them intentional harm, and will continue to provide advice on habitat management into the future.

Hunter Health has been requested to institute a number of measures to assist the welfare of the animals, including installation of "do not feed" signs, provision of information for staff, patients and visitors regarding the deleterious effect of artificial feeding (including habituation of animals to people, which makes them easy targets for acts of cruelty) and minimising the area of grass, to prevent attracting such large numbers to the area.

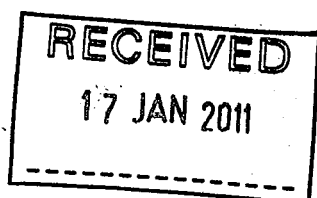
The media has reported that Hunter Health is considering gating the access roads to the hospital at night and that would assist with the protection of the animals.

In regard to acts of wilful cruelty, my officers will pursue investigations where they can obtain information that enables identification of the perpetrators. NPWS staff usually patrol during the day and have not seen any illegal acts. NPWS relies on the staff and security contractors for Hunter Health to provide the number plates of vehicles seen running into animals, as well as details of the offence, including the time, date and place.

An incident report from one of the security contractors was recently provided and is being used to identify the owner of a vehicle seen running down a kangaroo. When the details of the owner are provided by the RTA, the police will be asked to assist further with the investigation.

I am happy to receive reports from any member of the community, or from your office in regard to who might be carrying out these attacks. In order to undertake an effective investigation we need details that allow the identification of the person, evidence that an offence was carried out and a person or people who are prepared to be witnesses in the event of a prosecution.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW is now known as the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water



Department of **Environment and Climate Change** NSW

In conjunction with the investigation of these offences, NPWS will continue to seek media coverage of the issue for public education and awareness raising of the penalties that can apply. The Department does not have any provisions that I am aware of, that enable the offering of a reward along the lines that you suggest.

I would appreciate any person with information about these offences, who contacts your office, being asked to also call the Lakes Area office on 49729001 to speak to the ranger or area manager about what they have seen.

If you wish to discuss this please contact me on 43204201.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Tom Bagnat, appearing to read "TMB A/RM for".

TOM BAGNAT
Regional Manager
Central Coast Hunter Range

Date: 11/1/11