

# An Open Letter to the People of Canberra from Wildcare to Correct Misinformation about the Belconnen Kangaroo Translocation Project

Wildcare is a volunteer Animal welfare organization specializing in native animals. We are not an Animal rights organization. We respect all creatures which share our planet including all the endangered species. We have had 15 years of day-to-day, hands-on experience in the rescue and rehabilitation of kangaroos and other wildlife which reside in this geographical area.

The decision not to allow translocation is by no means a quicker and more humane option as stated by the ACT Government and the RSPCA (ACT). This is not a cull using guns. The two options here are darting and killing by lethal injection, or darting and transfer to another area for release. In both instances the kangaroos have to be darted first, so why not give them a chance elsewhere?

Wildcare does not believe translocation is possible in every case where kangaroos need to be moved off their own home area for the benefit of others. However we believe in the case of the Belconnen kangaroos, large-scale translocation is possible.

Translocation is possible in the particular case of Belconnen because there are experienced kangaroo handlers available; there is suitable land to move the animals to; and in the last few years there have been great strides forward made in dealing with the effects of capture myopathy. Small scale translocations are carried out throughout

Australia all the time, by scientists, zoo keepers and animal welfare groups.

In reality, one large translocation is a series of smaller translocations over time.

The consultancy firm who won the Defence tender have already successfully translocated kangaroos.

The kangaroos are not and never were starving as originally suggested. This has now been confirmed by numerous experts.

The new homes the kangaroos would be moved to, are very large tracts of land offered by private individuals with no likelihood of the kangaroos being a perceived nuisance to other farmers.

The science being used as a basis for the ACT government's refusal to give the Defence Department export permits to allow the kangaroos to be moved is out of date and up to 14 years old.

Wildcare was willing to undertake the translocation for free as volunteers. Wildcare did not tender for the project, because to submit a tender to Defence is hugely costly and beyond the resources of a volunteer organization such as ours.

Wildcare has a link to a petition, see [www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au) to be presented to the ACT Government.

Wildcare commends the Department of Defence for trying to find alternatives to mass slaughter as a first option.