



## THREATS TO KANGAROOS 1



The Aboriginal people lived in harmony with the land for tens of thousands of years. They took from the land only what they needed for survival.

When European settlers arrived just over 200 years ago, they found a land inhabited by unusual birds and animals that they had never seen before.

The settlers cleared the land for homes, for crop planting and for sheep and cattle farming. Soon the native animals were being seen as competitors and pests.

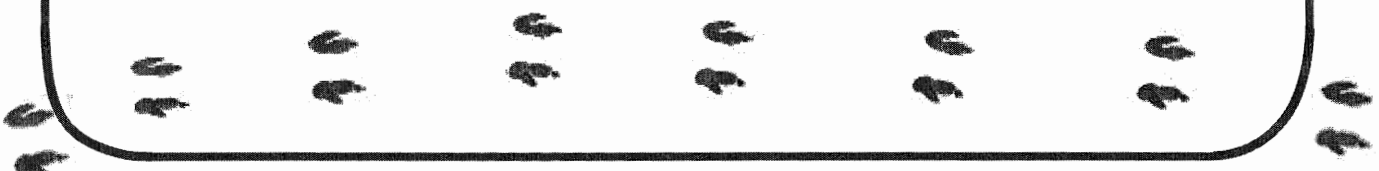


By the 1880s the eastern states had passed a law that encouraged settlers to get rid of animals considered to be pests by offering a bounty. It included kangaroos, wallabies and other marsupials.

The impact on the wildlife was devastating. Tens of thousands of marsupials were killed for their fur and others for the bounty. By 1923 the Toolache Wallaby was already on the road to extinction.


### FAST FACTS


Six macropod species have become extinct since European settlement and a number of macropod species are threatened.







### Kangaroos are still under threat


 Kangaroos killed for their skins, fur and meat  
Around four million kangaroos (Red Kangaroos, Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos, Wallaroos/Euros) are killed each year for profit. Up to a million pouched and at-foot young unable to survive alone, are also killed, or die of starvation or predation.


 Loss of habitat  
Large areas of land are still being cleared for housing, farming, mining or timber logging, forcing kangaroos into smaller areas.


 Drought  
Long periods of drought reduce the available feed and water, leading to many adult kangaroos and joeys dying.

 Bushfires  
Bushfires have become fiercer and more frequent in recent years, killing huge numbers of wildlife.

 Vehicle accidents  
Thousands of kangaroos and wallabies are killed each year in collisions with cars, especially in the early morning and at dusk.

 Shooting  
Many farmers apply for a licence to shoot kangaroos because they say they are 'pests' on their land.

 Introduced predators  
Foxes, feral cats and wild dogs prey on joeys and smaller macropods.

 Climate change  
Higher temperatures and unpredictable rainfall could lead to less grazing areas and waterholes.

### FAST FACTS

Australia has more endangered species than any other continent.

