



MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In reply please quote: MOF23327

Mr G Brown
Convenor
ADI Residents Action Group
PO Box 4134
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26 JUN 2006

Dear Mr Brown

Thank you for your email of 9 May 2006 to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Bob Debus MP, concerning kangaroos at the ADI site in Sydney. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As you are aware, the former ADI site contains a captive population of kangaroos within a fenced area. This allows the population to breed to numbers well above natural or sustainable levels. The major conservation values of the site are based on the native vegetation, especially endangered Cumberland Plain vegetation communities, and endangered species of native plants. The overly dense population of red and grey kangaroos is threatening this vegetation, and there is evidence of damage from overgrazing in parts of the site.

The kangaroo shown on your website had been injected with a tranquilliser prior to the implanting of a contraceptive. The kangaroo then escaped and could not be found despite an extensive search. Post-mortem examination showed that the kangaroo almost certainly died from "post-capture myopathy". It is very likely that the kangaroo would have gone to sleep from the tranquilliser fairly soon after escaping and would have died peacefully.

The kangaroo did not drown, and had no other major injuries. The blood referred to in the video was from a crow (or similar) pecking at its eye after it had died.

While there have been many allegations made about the treatment of kangaroos and emus at the ADI site, no evidence has been provided to DEC that substantiates these claims.

The fertility control program currently being used is the most humane and accepted method of reducing captive animal numbers to a sustainable level. It will allow the maintenance of a stable population of kangaroos within the 900-hectare regional park that is being created.

DEC constantly reviews management methods on site to ensure best practice management of the kangaroo population.

Yours sincerely

Scott Cardamatis
Policy Advisor