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30 July 2020

The Hon Jaclyn Symes
Minister for Agriculture
Level 36, 121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Minister for Agriculture

Jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Kangaroos Harvesting – Dunkeld

I am writing to you regarding concerns raised with Council by local residents surrounding the culling of kangaroos around Dunkeld in Southern Grampians Shire. Permits for the culling of kangaroos is a sanctioned program and authorised by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) – Agriculture Victoria.

Following a briefing between officers and Councillors the following points have been raised for further investigation by your Department:

1. The process for requiring notification of surrounding residents prior to any shooting taking place. There are some concerns as to how effective this process is at present, especially with night time shooting occurring.
2. The proximity to urban areas and enforcement of codes of practice relating to the shooting of kangaroos close to residences within a township. It is unclear what shooting occurring in the area relates to the Kangaroo Harvesting Program as opposed to farmers using the Authority to Control Wildlife process and even illegal shooting.
3. The process for an exclusion zone around the township of Dunkeld given the recent evidence of shooting occurring within close proximity to private residences and local businesses.

I would be happy to receive advice on these above issues.

Further discussions and information can be made by contacting Andrew Goodsell, Director, Planning and Development on 55730246.

Yours sincerely

Cr Chris Sharples
Mayor

cc The Hon Lisa Neville, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister for Environment Land Water and Planning