

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**19 June 2021**

### **Golf Course Kangaroo killing field traumatizes seasoned rescuers**

**Wildlife Victoria**, the State's wildlife emergency rescue service, has condemned the actions of unknown individuals who appear to be killing kangaroos under stealth at the Heritage Golf and Country Club.

The Club came under attack from wildlife advocates and residents recently when it announced plans to kill kangaroos living on the grounds. The public outcry resulted in the Club withdrawing its plans to kill the kangaroos for pet food.

However, since the withdrawal of the planned kill, Wildlife Victoria has been attending the Club grounds almost daily to deal with multiple incidents of kangaroo injuries and mortalities on the property.

Wildlife Victoria CEO, Lisa Palma, said the wildlife rescue organization had received a disproportionate amount of call outs to the Heritage Golf and Country Club over the last few weeks.

"What we're seeing is the result of a prolonged and sustained attack on the kangaroos living at the property. Someone is clearly attempting to reduce kangaroo numbers on the grounds by stealth."

"I have personally attended some of these cases and am deeply traumatized and troubled by what I have seen," Ms Palma added.

Wildlife Victoria was called to the site again today, when a local resident witnessed six deceased kangaroos in a driveway on the property.

The resident reported that one kangaroo was still alive but appeared to be too injured to move. It required veterinary attention.

Upon arrival at the site, Wildlife Victoria's Lead Vet, Dr Natasha Bassett could not find the injured kangaroo. Victoria Police were requested to attend, as Dr Bassett needed to undertake a proper assessment of the injured animal.

Despite requests from Dr Bassett and Victoria Police for assistance in locating the injured kangaroo, the owner of the Heritage Golf and Country Club refused to co-operate.

Ms Palma said that Wildlife Victoria would be seeking a full investigation into recent kangaroo killings from the local Council, Victoria Police and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

"Wildlife Victoria will be providing case files on all the incidents to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning," she added.

"This unethical and cruel behaviour must stop. It is illegal to kill kangaroos in Victoria without the appropriate authority being granted.

"For any human being to deliberately inflict pain and death on an innocent animal is just horrific. It's just sickening to know that a person or group of people are deliberately engaged in a sustained and lethal attack against these beautiful creatures."

Ms Palma said that she would be calling in professional psychological support to help volunteers who had been exposed to the traumatic circumstances on the killing fields at the Heritage Golf and Country Club.

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#### **For further information and enquiries contact:**

Wildlife Victoria media team on 0447 193 121 or by email at [media@wildlifestvictoria.org.au](mailto:media@wildlifestvictoria.org.au)

## **About Wildlife Victoria**

- Wildlife Victoria is a not for profit wildlife Emergency Response Service that has been operating for more than 30 years as an independent, not-for-profit organisation focussed on the welfare of Australia's unique wildlife.
- Annually, Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service receives more than 88,000 requests for assistance and assists over 50,000 sick, injured or orphaned animals.
- Wildlife Victoria educates the community about wildlife, and helps the community manage wildlife incidents.
- Wildlife Victoria advocates for wildlife whenever their welfare is under threat or compromised.