

# Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Gariwerd Animal and Biodiversity Alliance

@jane\_gibb



- ✓ **Dunkeld an Overview**
- ✓ **Shooting Wildlife**
- ✓ **Case Studies 1 & 2**
- ✓ **Dunkeld the State of Play**
- ✓ **The Aftermath**
- ✓ **Exclusion Fences**
- ✓ **Recommendations**



**Gone.**  
My brothers and sons

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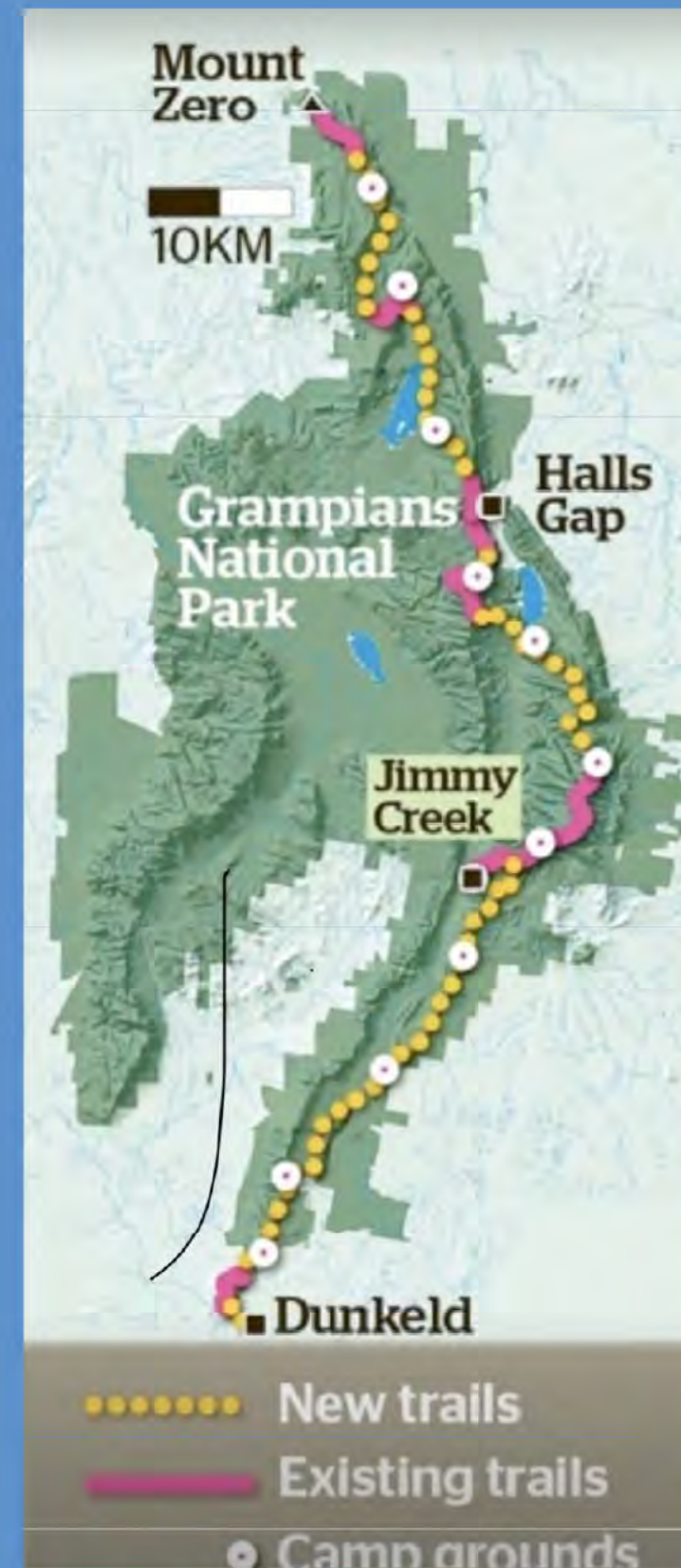
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## Dunkeld: Overview

- 30m dollar walking trail - Dunkeld to Mt Zero
- 2019 - 18.8 Million Visitors or 19% of visitors to Victoria participated in nature-based experiences = 22% of all visitors to regional Victoria. (Tourism Events and Visitor Economy (TEVE) Research Unit, 2019)
- 2007 - 71.1% of international visitors had taken a trip to encounter wildlife. (Liz fredline Sustainable tourism, 2007)

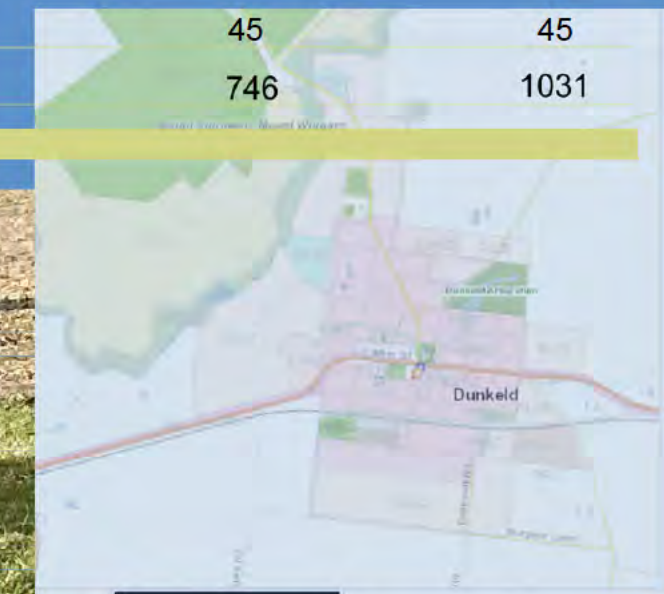


Dunkeld is tourist town located at the southern end of the Gariwerd (Grampians) ranges 250 kilometers west of Melbourne.

The town has received a boost with the building of a new \$30 million walking trail connecting the northern and southern ends of the mountain range

Dunkeld is known for its spectacular mountain views and access to walking trails and wildlife.

Dunkeld (Urban)	2011	2016	
Population	461	508	
Income source %	Tourism/hospitality	20.7	16.8
	Sheep farming	9.9	10
Median age	45	45	
Median wage	746	1031	



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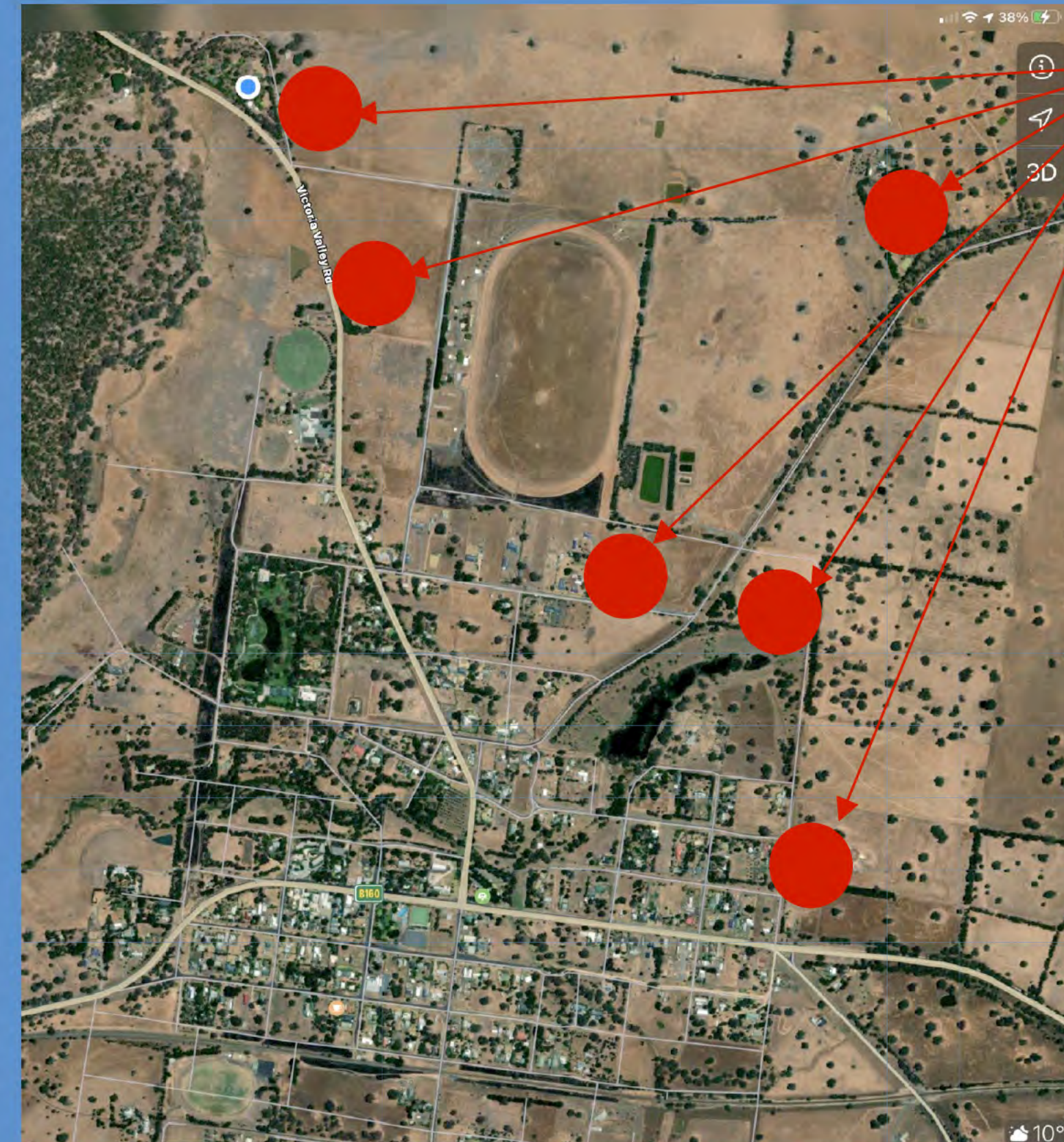
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## ✓ Shooting Wildlife

- Perimeter of Dunkeld now a shooting zone for the commercial killing of kangaroos.
- Shooting intensified after the Andrews Labour Government formally introduced the commercial killing of kangaroos in 2019.
- Frequent shooting near businesses and residences within the Dunkeld tourism precinct.
- Reduced liveability and tourism potential.
- Impact of shooting community trauma, mental harm and terrorised residents.



Location of shooting impacting Dunkeld township

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## ✓ Case Study #1 - Griffins Hill Yoga Retreat

- Griffins Hill retreat is located within the Dunkeld township boundary.
- Hosts international and national yoga guests.
- Griffins Hill is worth tens of thousands of dollars annually into the local economy.
- Frequent shooting has resulted in spotlights flashing through the buildings, gunshots, kangaroo body parts dumped spotlights shone on residents.
- The shooting is occurring on land that is NOT FARMED and is approx. 30 ha in size.
- Between 2017 - 2021 we estimate 120 kangaroos have been killed on this property
- = \$586.5 before costs earnings per year for the shooter.

• Assuming on average each dressed kangaroo weighs 17kg (The State of Queensland, 2019) At today's prices, the shooter gets \$1.15 per kilo of meat. 120 kangaroos x 17kg = total dressed weight of 2040kg. 2040kg x \$1.15 = \$2346 approx. shooters total before cost earnings



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## ✓ Dunkeld the State of Play : Statewide

- **“My estimated value for the total trade (dressed meat) to shooters in the 2020 was \$1,060,000.** (Films, Peter Hylands Creative Cowboy, 2021)
- **2020 - 86 licensed shooters in the state (80 in 2021) so that was an average value to shooters, before costs, of around \$12,300.”** (Films, Peter Hylands Creative Cowboy, 2021)
- **What are the operating costs to Victorian Taxpayer? We don't know but, it would be reasonable to estimate around \$1 million or more annually.**
- **Comparative costs of the kangaroo killing industry to taxpayers**
  - ✓ **The kangaroo trial program cost Victorian Taxpayers \$2.5 million dollars in 2018** (Victorian Government, 2018)
  - ✓ **ACT Government paid \$880,000 to shooters to kill 1568 kangaroos on nature reserves.** (Hylands, 2021)
- **Take out of the economy one or two tourism businesses, and the whole \$1,060,000 turnover negated.**



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## ✓ Dunkeld the State of Play : Locally

- Of the 27,153 kangaroos commercially killed between 1st January 2021 and 8th June 2021 1.2% occurred in areas around Dunkeld = 325 Kangaroos
- 325 kangaroos each with an average weight of 17kg = a total dressed weight of 5525 kg @ \$1.15 per kg the total value of kangaroo meat from Dunkeld between 1st January 2021 and the 8th of June 2021 is approx \$6353.75.
- Of the 1682 incidents of commercial shooting between 1st January 2021 and 8th June 2021 .8% occurred in areas around Dunkeld = 13 incidents of shooting.
- On average, shooting occurred in and around our township 2.6 times per month between 1st January and 8th June 2021.
- Four commercial shooters are operating in Dunkeld = a before cost income of \$1588.00 each.
- Conclusion the commercial killing of kangaroos in and around Dunkeld is NOT economically worthwhile, especially as it is driving out tourism operators that contribute tens of thousands of dollars to the local economy and limiting ecotourism development.

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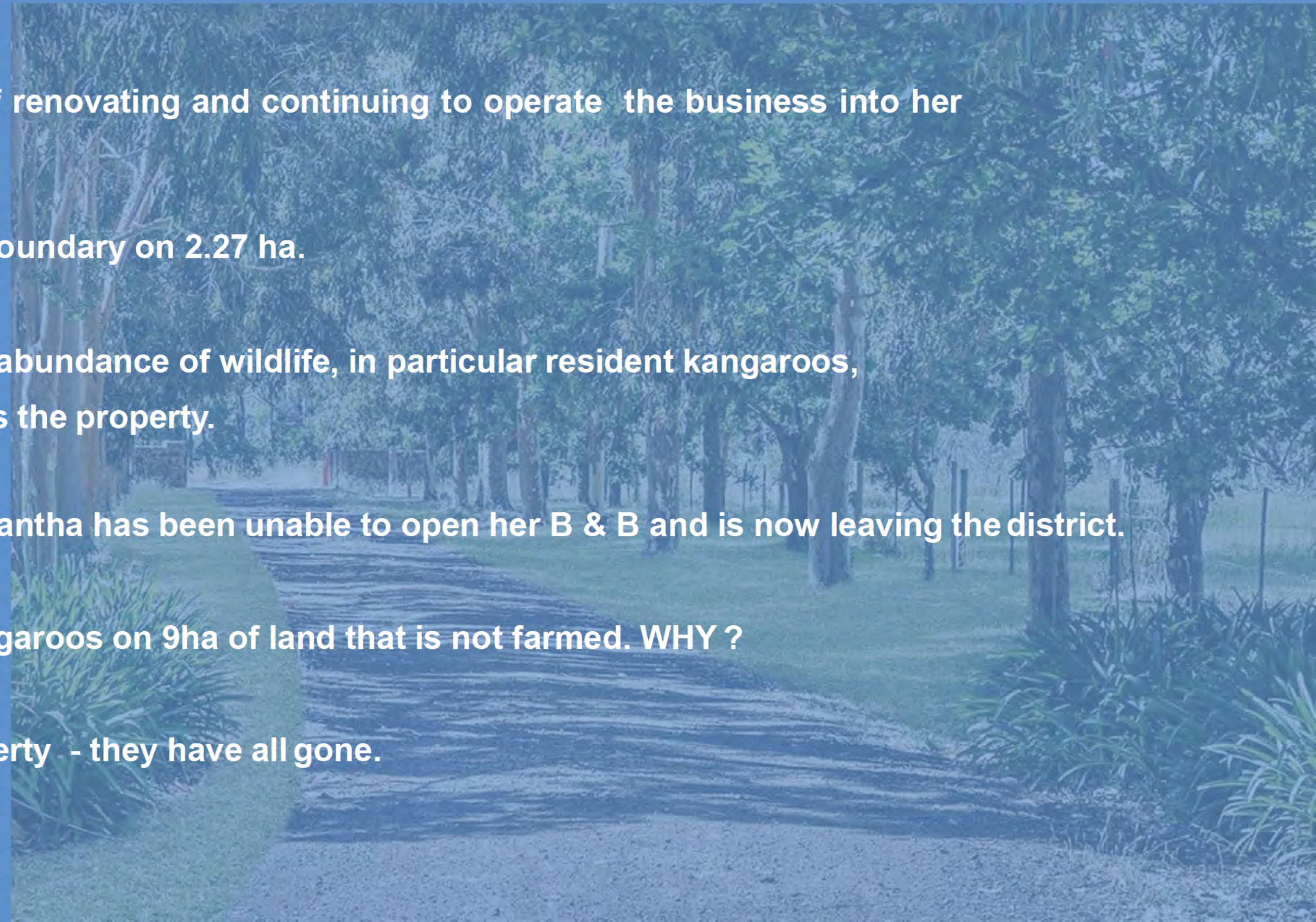
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## ✓ Case Study # 2.- Samantha's B & B

- Samantha purchased an established B & B view of renovating and continuing to operate the business into her retirement.
- The B & B is located 500m from the Dunkeld town boundary on 2.27 ha.
- The close proximity to the Grampians National Park, abundance of wildlife, in particular resident kangaroos, strongly influenced Samantha's decision to purchase the property.
- Because of shooter intimidation and violence, Samantha has been unable to open her B & B and is now leaving the district.
- The adjoining landowner has a permit to shoot kangaroos on 9ha of land that is not farmed. WHY ?
- Now Samantha rarely sees a kangaroo on her property - they have all gone.



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## ✓ Case Study # 2.- Samantha's B & B

- Three independent landowners own approximately 566ha opposite Samantha's property.
- For the past 2.5 years a commercial shooter has had permission to shoot on the properties.
- In May 2021 the farmers wrote  
*"Currently there are large numbers of kangaroos entering these properties and are impacting on our businesses in a major way. To us kangaroos seem to be in plague proportions."*
- Haul of small kangaroos on ute show no evidence of the presence of large numbers
- Farmers perception does not match on ground lived experience
- Why in Victoria is there no size limit on kangaroos being killed for commercial purposes?





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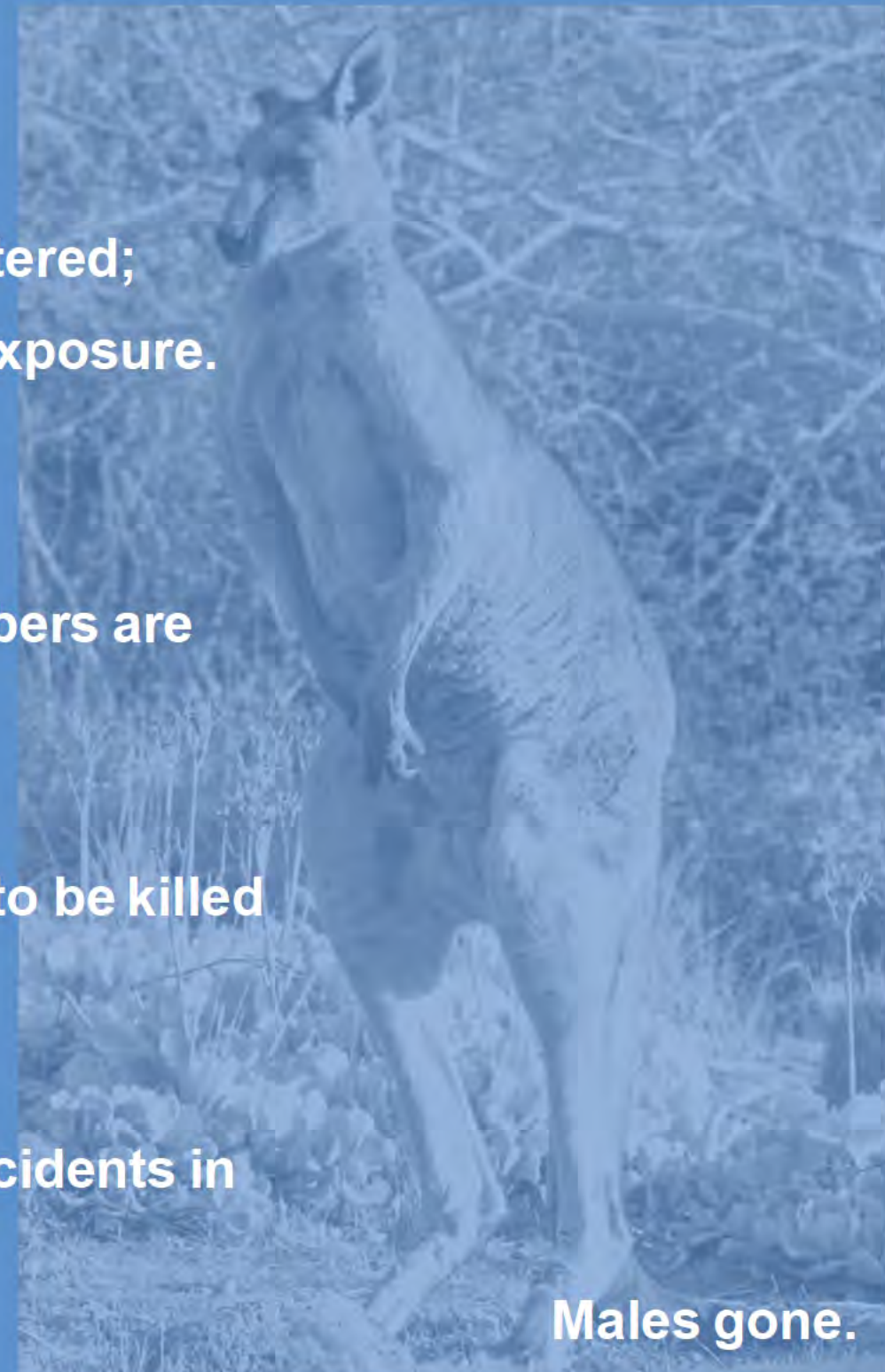
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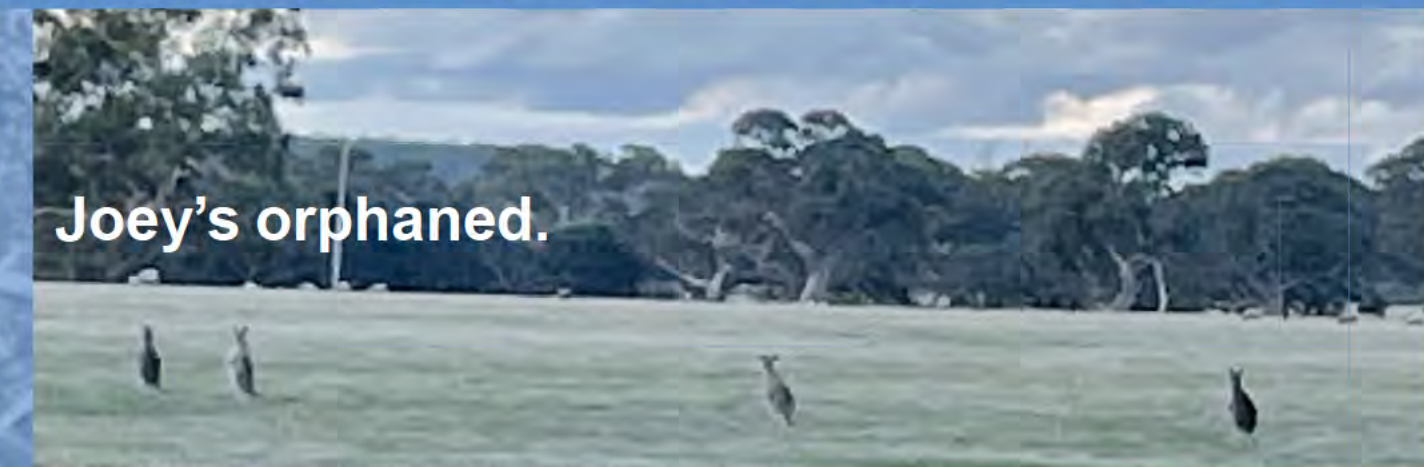


## ✓ The Aftermath

- Our on-ground observations indicate;
  - ✓ Very few older males left;
  - ✓ Remaining females and young at foot are slaughtered;
  - ✓ Orphaned Joey's are dying from starvation and exposure.
- Without a doubt, before our eyes, kangaroo numbers are plummeting.
- Yet in Victoria in 2021, the number of kangaroos to be killed for commercial purposes has increased by 37,780.
- We have experienced an increase in shooting incidents in and around our houses and businesses.



- A typical scene - the aftermath of shooting



Unable to save any of them.  
They all died a slow death over about 2 weeks.  
The four Joeys only represent a small sample.

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## ✓ Exclusion Fences

- Now cropping to the edge of Gariwerd Grampians National Park - represents a change in land use.
- Many kilometres of kangaroo exclusion fencing in Victoria Valley, Mirranatwa and Dunkeld.
- Within the fenced areas, all Macropods killed.
- The first four wires of the fences are electrified even echidnas are excluded.
- The total area of exclusion fencing is unknown but estimated to be many thousands of ha.
- Huge loss of macropod rangelands and vital habitat adjacent to Gariwerd (Grampians) National Park.



•With the increase in exclusion fencing and the mass killing of kangaroos for commercial purposes, how can the total number of kangaroos be increasing?

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- ✓ Recommendations
- ✓ Halt the commercial killing of kangaroos.
- ✓ Set up a new authority to protect wildlife.
- ✓ Establish a national and international expert pannel to develop a system allowing peaceful coexistence between landholders and kangaroos.
- ✓ Remove exclusion fences.
- ✓ Strengthen the Wildlife Protection Act.
- ✓ Prohibit the commercial killing of wildlife.

Gone :

- A place for me to grow tall;
- A place to live a full life;
- A place to live in peace
- My family group;



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*“The shooting only seems to stop when they run out of kangaroos”* Mr Raymond Mjadwesch 2021

NSW Inquiry into

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