

SouthEastTIMBERassociation

South East Timber Association Inc PO Box 773 Eden NSW 2551

Feral Animal Control & the Welfare of Native Fauna

A face book post by a couple, who care for orphaned and injured native animals, was recently brought to the attention of the South East Timber Association. The carers had been walking in a forest, when they came across a female black wallaby caught in a trap set to catch wild dogs and/or foxes.

While trying to free herself, the wallaby had badly injured her leg. Unfortunately, over the next two days, both the mother and her joey died. As black wallabies are one of my favourite local animals, I was sad that these two animals had died.

To give some context to this animal welfare issue, I thought of my drive on the Princes Highway that morning. In a distance of less than one kilometre, I had stopped to remove the remains of two black wallabies from the highway. The first was a large healthy male, in the prime of life and the second, smaller wallaby was so badly damaged by passing traffic, I did not try to determine its' sex.

As this is a regular occurrence on the highway and other roads, I wondered why, a relatively uncommon occurrence, had generated so much hate, while the daily carnage inflicted on black wallabies by motor vehicles goes largely without comment. A sample of comments posted in response to the reported trapping included:

[Irene Cooper](#) I HATE FUCKING HUNTERS

[April 18 at 8:37pm](#)

[Susan Ellsworth](#)

[April 18 at 9:42pm](#)



[Beryl Jensen](#) These subhumans should be torched alive

[April 18 at 10:29pm](#)

[Wendy Sanderson](#)

[April 18 at 11:08pm](#)



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The type of trap shown in a photo is used to trap wild dogs and foxes. Reducing feral predator numbers reduces attacks on livestock and also reduces predation of native species. I wonder at the fate of two black wallabies that were seen wildly hopping across a bush track south east of Bendoc about four years ago.

The reason for their panic became apparent less than a minute later, when a pack of eight wild dogs came through. When they saw the vehicle and an unarmed human, there was a brief hesitation, before they continued the pursuit. A question that remains unanswered is, did the wallabies escape, or were they torn to shreds by the wild dog pack?

So whatever Ms Cooper, Ms Ellsworth, Ms Jensen and Ms Sanderson think, wild dog trappers save many thousands more black wallabies and other native animals, than might ever fall foul of a wild dog trap.

I understand the fact, that trapping and baiting predators is beneficial to biodiversity. I understand that this practice will not be accepted by the one dimensional thinking of many people who claim to care for our native fauna.

As a result of this unfortunate incident, Greens member of the NSW Legislative Council, Mehreen Faruqi, has asked 14 questions to the NSW Primary Industries Minister, regarding the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) wild dog control program. Ironically, as a result of the FCNSW wild dog control program in south east NSW, threatened and vulnerable species such as Southern Brown Bandicoots and Long-nosed Potoroos, have had large increases in their populations on State Forests.

<http://southeasttimberassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Why-is-Goods-News-About-Southern-Brown-Bandicoots-Bad-News-for-Forest-Activists.pdf>

Not once, have green hypocrites like Ms Faruqi asked the Forestry Minister to explain why there has been such a significant increase in critical weight range (animals vulnerable to predation by foxes and wild dogs) mammals and in south east NSW forests.

The green hypocrites, who seize on issues such as this poor wallaby and her joey, progress their anti-native fauna campaign by seeking to create management programs, that will give cats, foxes and wild dogs free range to continue to decimate our precious fauna.

Given Ms Faruqi's line of questioning in the NSW parliament, it is clear that the Greens would not reward those who protect Australian fauna from predators by the use of padded jaw traps and 1080 poison, instead punish them by laying criminal charges. The right to lay criminal charges would also be granted to vigilante activist groups.

The Greens want to minimise any physical, psychological and emotional suffering of animals caused by human activities. Not once do these hypocrites seem to give any thought to the non-humane slaughter these introduced predators deliver to hundreds of millions of birds, mammals and reptiles across Australia every year, let alone the toll on domestic animals.

Note to the Greens and Ms Faruqi: Removing the testicles and uterus from predators may stop their breeding, but it does not suppress their appetite, when you release them again.



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A Fox With a Recently Killed (by the Fox) Bandicoot



Greens Party NSW MP Mehreen Faruqi

Why do the Greens seem to put the welfare of wild dogs, foxes and feral cats ahead of native fauna welfare? If you think this is all a joke, read the Greens animal welfare policies in full.

