

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-Date 26/07/2015

ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY – The Hon. Mark Pearson, MLC

NSW Animal Justice Party MP Mark Pearson leads mob to China to protect our National Icon on the tail of Barnaby Joyce’s kangaroo meat trade delegation.

In the interest of animal welfare and public health concerns, recently elected Animal Justice Party NSW MLC, The Hon. Mark Pearson is headed to Beijing with an aim to halt the plan to import kangaroo meat to China. He will be leading a well versed delegation in response to the Federal Government’s proposal to open up a commercial kangaroo meat trade¹.

Mark Pearson will be joined by revered Elder of the Yuin people and author **Uncle Max Dulu-mun-mun Harrison** and **Dror Ben-Ami**, an Environmental Scientist with a PhD in Ecology. The delegation is departing this Saturday 01/08/2015 for Beijing and is seeking to strike out any proposal to import kangaroo meat to China due to concerns for animal welfare, public health, and the potential insult to the spiritual significance of the kangaroo or Malu to the Aboriginal people.



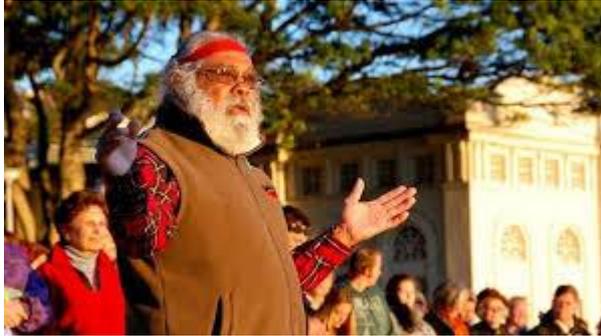
Mark Pearson *“It’s ironic that the Government’s coat of arms and one of the national icons of this country, the kangaroo, will be defended by a delegation flying to China via a QANTAS aircraft adorned with the symbolic image of the hopping kangaroo. The symbolic nature of this mission could not be stronger”*

Amongst other discussions the group will be meeting with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture’s approved *International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare* (ICCAW) in Beijing on the 03/08/2015. ICCAW was established in the wake of the contaminated baby formula scandal that killed a number of infants and exposed the deliberate contamination of imported dairy products².

Russia has previously banned kangaroo meat due to unacceptably high levels of E.coli and salmonella³. Leaked documents between Macro Meats and its kangaroo shooters revealed that shooters were ordered to spray all kangaroo carcasses with **acetic acid** in an attempt to mask **E.coli** levels. This led to a permanent ban in 2014. Mr Pearson and his delegation will be encouraging China to follow Russia’s lead and ban the importation of kangaroo meat.

MEDIA RELEASE

Mark Pearson *"We have damning evidence of industry's systematic attempts to cover up the public health risks of kangaroo meat and their kangaroo meat processing practices. The Report contains recent evidence from tests of kangaroo meat in Australian retailers detecting unacceptable levels of E.coli, salmonella and also acetic acid. Not only is the commercial harvest of kangaroos the largest mass slaughter of wild animals in the world but it is inherently cruel, unsustainable, unhygienic and flies in the face of the Indigenous cultural and spiritual beliefs."*



Uncle Max *"The Malu is an important totem in Aboriginal culture and plays a significant role in maintaining our Song Lines, i.e. the lines and centres of energy upon which our culture and all humanity is dependent for sustaining its balance and centredness. The broader Australian community has adopted it as a national icon as well. The Kangaroo is part of the Australian Coat of Arms and there are many Australians who do not support their slaughter because of the cruel manner in which this is conducted."*

Furthermore current meat storage practices are likely to be harmful to human health. Traditionally, Kangaroos were hunted and killed only when necessary and they were immediately thrown on a fire and cooked. This prevented both the build-up of harmful bacteria in the meat and a deterioration in its quality".

Mr Pearson's delegation will also meet with Ms Jill Robinson, MBE and founder of the Animals Asia Foundation to discuss the unacceptable animal cruelty involved in the "commercial harvesting" of kangaroos and grave concerns about the sustainability of killing hundreds of thousands of healthy kangaroos each year.



For further information please contact Mark Pearson (until 9:30am) on **0417 252 107** or Angela Pollard on **0429 895 316**.

END

1. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-08/kangaroo-meat-china-barry-osullivan/6603484>
2. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/sep/18/china>
3. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-18/kangaroo-meat-ban/5677656>