## Animal Welfare Outcomes

The outcomes for animals taken under the kangaroo and wallaby Code have been extensively studied and are summarised below.

Study 1. Post mortem Inspections by Commonwealth Government Vets in 2014.

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| Number of kangaroos inspected | 1,026,960 |
| Number of non-compliant with Code | 25 |
| Percentage compliance | 99.998% |

Study 2. RSPCA audit of commercial kangaroo harvest welfare outcome 1985. “*If achieved correctly, kangaroo culling is considered one of the most humane forms of animal slaughter. An animal killed instantly within its own environment is under less stress than domestic stock that have been herded, penned, transported etc.” (RSPCA 1985)*

Study 3. RSPCA audit of commercial kangaroo harvest welfare outcomes 2000. The report documents that in the modern kangaroo harvest **99.8%** of kangaroos taken by licensed kangaroo shooters are dispatched instantaneously by a high-powered bullet either in the head or at the junction of the skull and neck **exactly** where the shooter aims (RSPCA 2002). The kangaroo welfare Code was subsequently amended to change the required point of aim.

Study 4. Audit of commercial kangaroo welfare outcomes by NSW Dept Agriculture. The audit found that under actual operating conditions Kangaroo Harvesters head shoot 99.6% of all kangaroos targeted, delivering instantaneous death (McLeod and Sharp 2014).

Study 5. Long term audit of practices by commercial wallaby harvesters in Tasmania by Tas DPIPWE. In field audits under actual operating conditions of harvesters, 98.9% of wallaby were killed in compliance with the Code (DPIPWE 2020).

These studies consistently indicate kangaroo and wallaby harvesters deliver 99% or above humane kills in compliance with the Code. In comparison, the most commonly used method of dispatch for animals in abattoirs, captive bolts, consistently achieve much poorer results as demonstrated in the data below showing the levels of incidents in when a second shot with captive bolts were required to render animals unconscious.

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| Source | Rate of second shot required |
| Oliveira et al (2018) | 12-29% |
| S Atkinson et al (2023) | 10.4% |