

The Sydney Morning Herald

October 22 2016

Wildlife photographer Doug Gimesy calls for boycott of Kangaroo Island to reduce roadkill

Dominica Sanda

The time between dusk and dawn is when Australia's favourite marsupial comes out to play. But sadly, for some kangaroos, this venture into the open can lead to death.

This is especially the case on Kangaroo Island in South Australia.



Volunteers tend for orphaned joeys after road accidents. Photo: Douglas Gimesy

Every year on the island, kangaroos and other wildlife are killed, fatally injured or maimed because of vehicle impact.

Melbourne wildlife conservation photographer Doug Gimesy has documented the carnage on the island's roads in his series *Fast roads, slow deaths*, which was a finalist in the Photojournalism category of the 2016 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.



The slow-moving Kangaroo Island kangaroo is especially vulnerable to being hit by cars. Photo: Douglas Gimesy

As part of the campaign, Mr Gimesy called on the South Australian government to reduce the speed limit on some of Kangaroo Island's roads from 110kmh to 80kmh between dusk and dawn. If not successful, he would get people to boycott the island.

"I don't want to do this, but my end game would be to get anyone who cares about wildlife to boycott visiting Kangaroo Island," he said.

"I'd rather be hated and have wildlife ethically protected, than not."

Mr Gimesy remembers one evening finding a kangaroo sitting half upright on the side of the road, panting. He pulled over and discovered one of the kangaroo's rear legs had been snapped clean through.

"Many animals go on to suffer slow, painful deaths on the side of the road or in the bush," he said.

Australian Doug Gimesy is a finalist in the prestigious international Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

Kangaroo Island is one Australia's premier wildlife destinations, with more than 190,000 visitors annually. It falls within the Finnis electorate, represented by local member Michael Pengilly. In response to Mr Gimesy's concerns, Mr Pengilly said residents didn't need advice on how to deal with animals on the road.

"Calls for a dusk to dawn speed limit reduction on Kangaroo Island roads to protect wildlife are completely out of touch with reality," he said.

Tasmania has introduced dusk to dawn speed limit reductions to protect local wildlife, with motorists advised to slow down to between 50km/h and 80km/h.

As part of his campaign, Mr Gimesy has set up a petition:

<http://www.KIwildlifetrauma.com>.

Webpage:

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/wildlife-photographer-doug-gimesy-calls-for-boycott-of-kangaroo-island-to-reduce-roadkill-20161022-gs88o2.html>



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Photo: Doug Gimesy*