

# Protocol for sharing the **YUIN DECLARATION FOR KANGAROOS**

The **YUIN DECLARATION FOR KANGAROOS** was created by Yuin Elder Uncle Max Harrison 1936-2021. He recognised the need to publicly acknowledge the importance of kangaroos as a living totem. He campaigned for their protection on a local and international stage. Uncle Max committed to providing a way for others to understand Aboriginal culture's connection to Country and all living beings.

In 2021 Uncle Max called Mick McIntyre and Kate Clere from NGO Kangaroos Alive and NSW Senator Mark Pearson from the Animal Justice Party to initiate the creation of a permanent **YUIN DECLARATION FOR KANGAROOS**. On World Kangaroo Day October 24th 2021, Uncle Max with the Yuin Elders, Seniors and members from 'Back to Country' held a special ceremony where they presented the **YUIN DECLARATION FOR KANGAROOS** to Senator Mark Pearson calling for an Australia-wide protection of kangaroos.

On Oct 20th 2022, 'Back to Country' conducted a smoking ceremony delivering a Yuin Declaration Message Stick at the NSW Parliament to Senators; Greens Sue Higgins, Independent Alex Greenwich and and Mark Pearson. This gifting of the message stick was an opportunity to look more closely at the NSW bylaws together. The ceremony brought together the two knowledge systems. "Buru (kangaroo) is protected under our Lore; we want Buru protected under NSW written law, and our living Lore recognised." said Uncle Dean Kelly.

Uncle Max founded 'Back to Country' a Yuin Aboriginal organisation delivering projects and activities that pass on knowledge to connect people back to Country.

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Please share the **YUIN DECLARATION FOR KANGAROOS** with the following understanding:

- Please use this Declaration in your community and pledge your commitment to protecting kangaroos in your area. 'Back to Country' ask that you acknowledge and respect Uncle Max when using these words.
- Please use in full the Declaration and add articles to represent your local area and wisdom
- When the declaration is reproduced/shared there needs to be an acknowledgement of Uncle Max and share the story about his connection to the project.
- When dealing with Local Councils, we trust that the council will have partnerships with the local Aboriginal communities. The councils can discuss the Yuin Declaration with the local Aboriginal community (ies) and can use the full Yuin Declaration (please do not change the wording shared by Uncle Max) and, just as important, is the adding of articles that are relevant and represent the local communities Buru stories and Lore.



[BackToCountry.org.au](http://BackToCountry.org.au)



[KangaroosAlive.org](http://KangaroosAlive.org)