

the federal authorities conference resolution that additional statistics are required.

2. We regard wildlife as a community resource and consider that it should be managed as such. We therefore support the proposal put forward by Mr Frith and others that the possibilities of farming kangaroos should be investigated wherever it is likely that their protein-productive capacity would make it more economic to harvest them than the usual domestic herbivores, such as sheep.
3. We would resist any attempt to prohibit the export of kangaroo meat or skins.

While these are our considered views we must admit there is a growing concern on the part of some farmers and observers in the south-west for the well-being of the grey kangaroo, especially in some of the open season areas. This concern emphasises our lack of adequate statistics on the population dynamics of the species and highlights the merit of the conference resolution that a careful watch be kept on all commercial exploitation. As Professor Marshall has pointed out, there are compelling examples in history of wild animals which were once amazingly abundant but which became extinct or were brought to the threshold of extinction due to uncontrolled harvesting and interference with their habitat. The North American bison, the Australian koala and the American passenger pigeon have been well cited as examples of this sort of thing.

Arrangements have recently been made for Fauna Warden N.E. McLaughlan and Cadet Research Officer J. Jacoby to co-operate with the research team of the Agriculture Protection Board in checks on the effects of kangaroo control measures to be carried out in the lower Great Southern.

PINGRUP MALLEE FOWL RESERVE UNDER FIRE

On Saturday, March 9, the Minister for Fisheries, Mr Hutchinson, and the Director, will attend a meeting in Albany to hear representations that a large reserve east of Pingrup be amended. This reserve, which comprises over 230,000 acres, was set aside in 1957 to reserve in perpetuity an area of mallee country typical of the more arid southern parts of the State. The reserve is vested in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. It is understood that the local authorities,

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principally the Shire of Gnowangerup, are anxious to have the reserve amended so that land can be alienated on either side of a proposed main road to connect Newdegate with Jerramongup which, it is said, would pass through the reserve. As the reserve has been declared to be of class "A", Parliamentary sanction will be necessary before alienation may be effected.