

From: [Judith D. Schwartz](#)
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:06 AM
To: kachana ; [Cindy Eiritz](#)
Subject: Sent to Victoria

Hi Chris and Cindy. I got worried about the donkeys, so wrote to Victoria. This is what I said:

Subject: U.S. Journalist Concerned About Proposed Kachana Donkey Cull

Hello Director Aitken. I am a journalist in the U.S. who has written extensively about Kachana Station and have followed the Henggelers' land restoration project for several years. I am the author of books on soil, water, and, most recently, the global ecosystem restoration movement. I regularly speak about ecological land management, with an emphasis on land-animal dynamics, to audiences around the world; I have testified on this topic at the U.S. Congress and presented at the Mexican Senate. In my book "Water In Plain Sight: Hope for a Thirsty World", I devote a chapter to Kachana Station, noting the importance of animals in managing fire fuels. In the title chapter of my latest book, "The Reindeer Chronicles and Other Inspiring Stories of Working with Nature to Heal the Earth", I highlight the Wild Donkey Project at Kachana. This book has been awarded a Nautilus Silver Prize and is long-listed for the Wainwright Prize for Writing On Global Conservation, which is run by the UK National Trust.

As a journalist who knows how important these animals are to the viability of this landscape, the possibility that the state of Western Australia would kill the donkeys at Kachana alarms me greatly. Not only are the wild donkeys crucial to fire resilience, but the project has scientific importance: calling attention to the ways the animals fill an important ecological niche in the absence of missing megafauna. This work promises to yield important insights with relevance not just in Australia, but around the world. I hope that your office will see the value of keeping the wild donkeys in the landscape and working with the Kachana project. Far from "pests", the donkeys are a resource for restoring the landscape and for advancing ecological knowledge.

I am widely published (having written for venues including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Time Magazine*, *Discover*, *Yale Environment 360*, and *Scientific American*) and part of a global network of environmental journalists. I also play an active role in several global environmental communities, including with the UN Decade On Ecosystem Restoration. This is an opportunity for Western Australia to be at the forefront of a movement focused on nature-inspired ecological regeneration that has captured people's attention worldwide.

Respectfully yours,

Judy

Judith D. Schwartz
Bennington, Vermont
(802) 447-2413

www.judithdschwartz.com

Author: *Cows Save the Planet* (Chelsea Green Publishing)

Water In Plain Sight: Hope for a Thirsty World (St. Martin's/Chelsea Green)

The Reindeer Chronicles and Other Inspiring Stories of Working With Nature to Heal the Earth (Chelsea Green, 2020)