

Cull snub for c

Peter Jean

ENVIRONMENT Minister Peter Garrett has dismissed a plea by Sir Paul McCartney and other international celebrities for an end to kangaroo culling in Australia.

British-based Vegetarians International Voice for Animals (Viva!) has launched an online petition against the "barbaric" killing of kangaroos.

Viva's celebrity supporters include Sir Paul, Joanna Lumley and singer Chrissie Hynde.

"There is an urgent need for action to protect kangaroos from a barbaric industry which slaughters them for meat and leather," McCartney said in a statement on the group's website.



Sir Paul McCartney

"Please do all you can to help Viva! end this shameful massacre."

The Viva! website also includes comments from the late Steve Irwin.

"Every person can make a massive difference to global



No future: kangaroos on defence land in Canberra.

conservation. Simply never purchase wildlife — including kangaroo — products!" the Australian conservationist is quoted as saying.

Viva! is up in arms about plans to cull about 500 kangaroos on defence land in Can-

berra. They will be sedated then given lethal injections.

Mr Garrett said culling was sometimes necessary.

"Australians care a great deal about their environment and about their wildlife.

"But when there are signifi-



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Help for traffic trauma

Geraldine Mitchell

MOTORISTS will be able to avoid congestion hot spots by using new technology to get access to real-time traffic information from behind the wheel.

Melbourne company Intelematics has developed the Suna Traffic Channel, which gives drivers access to traffic information 24 hours a day, via GPS navigation systems.

The channel has been successfully tested in Melbourne, and will go national.

It warns drivers of traffic jams as they approach them and their cause, the area affected, and the length of delays, and can also help plot alternative routes.

It uses data collected from sources including traffic light control systems, and costs about \$130.

The company has doubled its workforce within a year and expects to employ another 10 staff this year.

Information and Communication Technology Minister Theo Theophanous said: "It's great to see Victoria at the cutting edge of traffic information services that will make life easier for everyone on the road, and creating more jobs in the process."

Mr Theophanous said being able to avoid road blockages and congestion meant drivers would spend less time in traffic, reducing commuter stress and carbon emissions.

