



EMU: NATIONAL SYMBOLS AND ECOLOGICAL LIMITS

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Taking up arms

One of the most prominent symbols of a nation is its coat of arms. Australia followed a common British tradition when it chose two animals to embrace a shield, a kangaroo and an emu. But the two animals are not as equal as one might expect. The emu is always second to the kangaroo, just as the British unicorn is second to the dominant British lion.¹ The lion is *the* major symbol of Britain and in Australia, the kangaroo takes this role. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs lists a