

ADDRESSING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL HARVESTING OF KANGAROO



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Summary

The future of the kangaroo industry relies on the sustainable management and humane treatment of kangaroos.

There are four species of kangaroo which have been identified by the Australian government as requiring harvesting for ecological and land management reasons. None are threatened species.

At present there are significant differences between the commercial and non-commercial harvesting of kangaroos and expected levels of humane animal treatment.

In terms of addressing the differences between harvesting under commercial vs non-commercial situations, the KIAA and its members seek to ensure:

- Animal welfare is the top and guiding priority for the industry;
- There should be no difference between the standards required for commercial and non-commercial harvesting. This includes;
 - Kangaroos culled for non-commercial reasons to be fully traceable back to the property, harvester or shooter and must be tagged to ensure that the animals are dead and that any dependent young are euthanised
 - All shooters be required to have the same proficiency level as commercial kangaroo harvesters to ensure humane treatment;
- That a nationally agreed set of standards be prepared for when permits can be issued for kangaroos causing damage to farm production or property.
- That a more proactive approach to sustainable kangaroo management that encourages greater collaboration with landowners and reflects population trends will reduce the instances of non-commercial culling.

Purpose of this document

The KIAA and its members believe that it is vital that customers and consumers of kangaroo products in export and domestic markets have confidence in the sustainable and humane management of kangaroos.

This document details the policy position of KIAA members as it relates to the humane treatment of kangaroos under commercial vs non-commercial culling. It is widely considered that there is a higher level of non-humane culling in the non-commercial licencing regime.

It outlines the minimum expectations KIAA members adhere to when supplying products to export and domestic markets and the advocacy positions the KIAA will take in relation to ensuring sustainable kangaroo populations for the long term.

Overall the KIAA and its members believe kangaroos are important both from a biodiversity viewpoint and as a sustainable resource. They need to be respected and humanely treated, and that management requires collaboration across all parties including landowners, governments, animal welfare groups, harvesters, exporters and suppliers.

Overview of issue

There are two codes of practice governing the culling of kangaroos. Under the codes and various state licencing regulations, the key differences between commercial and non-commercial kangaroo shooters relate to the level of training and testing required, and the monitoring of compliance with adherence the codes of practice.

Commercial shooters must pass a competency test before they are permitted to shoot kangaroos and undergo training which covers their requirements under the code. No such training or testing requirements exist for non-commercial shooters (see summary of the two codes in Table 1 below).

In terms of non-commercial harvesting, this typically involves a 'shoot and let lie' licensing system or recreational system (see Table 2 below). A Restricted Open Season requiring no licensing also operates in Western Australia.

From reports and other evidence, it is highly likely that there is a far higher degree of inhumane culling of kangaroos in non-commercial culling than with commercial culling.

There is also likely to be a level of illegal culling of kangaroos throughout Australia and this is the reason non-commercial kangaroos must have a tag affixed.

In terms of tracking kangaroos culled, this too is likely to be more accurately known under the tagging system for commercial operators. In some states tagging for non-commercial culling is in place, but it is not currently required in NSW.

The KIAA believes that there should be no difference in terms of the humane treatment of kangaroos whether it be for commercial or non-commercial reasons.

Standards and improvements sought by KIAA members

Key operational area	KIAA member policy position	Areas KIAA members are seeking improvements
Applicable standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One high standard for commercial and non-commercial culling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure animal welfare is the top priority, that non-commercial culling occur to the standard required for commercial culling
Tagging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tagging for commercial and non-commercial culling of kangaroo populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All kangaroos killed under damage mitigation permits issued for non-commercial culling must be tagged
Issuing of damage mitigation permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantifiable and nationally consistent guidelines for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of national guidelines with quantifiable

Key operational area	KIAA member policy position	Areas KIAA members are seeking improvements
	issuing of damage mitigation type permits for where kangaroo populations need to be managed for non-commercial use (at present there is state-based differences)	measures that include site inspections and increased compliance audits
Training for non-commercial shooters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No difference in skill level between a non-commercial and commercial culling of kangaroo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All shooters be required to undergo adequate training and testing and their activities monitored for compliance with the code with the aim of one standard applying to commercial and non-commercial culling
Illegal culling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no place for illegal shooting of kangaroos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased compliance and enforcement

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Table 1: Overview of Commercial and Non-Commercial code or practices for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies

	Commercial code	Non-commercial code
Current version	2008 (currently under review)	2008
Scope	Persons intending to shoot free living kangaroos for commercial purposes such that the animal is killed in a way which minimises pain and suffering	Persons intending to shoot free living kangaroos for non-commercial purposes such that the animal is killed in a way which minimises pain and suffering
Kangaroos / Wallabies covered	Six named non-threatened species	Four named non-threatened species
Firearms	Only centrefire and rimfire rifles	Use of shotguns permitted in certain circumstances
Competency testing for harvesters	Required	Not required
Additions	None	Shooting for scientific purposes
Same requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ammunition • Shooting procedures • Euthanising injured kangaroos 	

Table 2: Overview of non-commercial kangaroo culling regulations

	New South Wales	Queensland	Western Australia	South Australia
Current management period	2017-2018 with special provisions effective 8 August 2018 (for current drought)	2018-2022	2014-2018	2018-2022
Tagging	Not currently required	Partially required	Partially required	Partially required
Use of carcasses	Can be removed for personal use but not sold swapped or traded Previously a 'shoot and let lie' policy applied	Under a Damage Mitigation Permit no skin or meat can be used in any way. Permitted under Recreational Wildlife Harvesting Licence	No commercial use permitted, personal use permitted in some circumstances	No commercial use permitted
Maximum limits	Set under management plan. Set on a hectare basis and increased for the drought	Set under management plan. The maximum number of kangaroos allowed to be culled under a single permit is 1000.	Set under management plan.	Set under management plan. The numbers of kangaroos issued on Permits to Destroy Wildlife are dependent on the delegation of the issuing officer
Shooters	Don't need to be listed on landholders licence. More than two shooters may operate under a license at any time	Can be a landholder or not	Can be a landholder or not	Can be a landholder or not
Licensing	Landholder applies for a Licence to Harm Kangaroos over the phone or in-person. Landholder receives an allocation of kangaroos that may be taken on each property covered by the licence. Once licensed, landholders may connect with commercial harvesters, professional shooters or experienced volunteer shooters for assistance with kangaroo management. Shooters obtain permission from landholders and learn about property rules and the number and type of kangaroos that can be culled under the landholder's licence.	Through a Damage Mitigation Permit (DMP) or Recreational Wildlife Harvesting Licence DMP is usually issued to the landholder. It may also be issued to other persons with the landholder's permission. Landholders expected to quantify the economic loss experienced as a result macropod population on a property. Also asked of two non-lethal methods tried to discourage macropods from causing damage. Recreational wildlife harvesting licence harvesters may only take	Damage Licence, and Restricted Open Season (no licence if product not leaving property) In general, damage control permits ("tags") are required to cull kangaroos in WA however in some agricultural zones (primarily in the SW land division) an open permit system has been declared by the Department of Agriculture where a specific damage control permit is not needed for a landowner or their nominated agent. Since early 2014 it has been permissible to harvest meat for non-commercial consumption and to transport this meat off the property where the kangaroo was culled under	Destruction Permit (non-commercial) May be granted to allow property owners to destroy animals that are causing or likely to cause, damage to the environment or to crops, stock or other property, or that are causing or likely to cause damage to environmental amenity (including built structures), or pose a safety risk or hazard to people or industry

	New South Wales	Queensland	Western Australia	South Australia
	On expiry of the landholder's Licence submits names and other details of all volunteer shooters who operated under the permit number and species of kangaroos harvested on each property.	50 animals in a season and may use the skin and meat for personal use, for example meat for their own dogs.	certain circumstances and in a number of defined locations.	
Compliance	<p>National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes</p> <p>Licensees must record the number and species of kangaroos harmed and the names and firearms licence details of all shooters within seven days of the expiry of a licence</p> <p>Also, guidelines in the Volunteer Non-Commercial Kangaroo Shooters BEST PRACTICE GUIDE 2018</p>	<p>National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes</p> <p>Holders of a DMP are required to provide a return of operation every three months that the permit is in force</p>	National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes	National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes
Monitoring	Monthly reviews of licences issued to landholders and commercial harvesters to ensure the total number of kangaroos culled is within ecologically sustainable limits.	Yes	Yes	Yes