



MYTHBUSTERS

~ Sustainability ~

COULD THE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRY MAKE KANGAROOS EXTINCT OR THREATENED?

No. The commercial kangaroo industry is only permitted to harvest species that are not threatened and which are abundant. State governments measure the populations of these species and set annual harvest quotas at about 15% of the total number in harvest zones. These are adjusted in changed conditions such as severe drought. The actual number of kangaroos harvested each year has been closer to 3-7% in the last decade.



ARE THERE FEWER KANGAROOS THAN WHAT WE ARE TOLD?



Not likely. Government population estimates only take into account the four harvested species in harvest zones. They do not count all other kangaroo species and kangaroos in non-harvest zones.

Conservative estimates are set by conducting aerial and ground surveys, and extrapolating the data out to other areas. This is the most effective method currently available.

IS KANGAROO MANAGEMENT MOTIVATED BY PROFIT?

No. State governments are required under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 to protect kangaroo populations and biodiversity, which can involve conservation culling of overabundant species. The commercial industry is seen as the responsible alternative, because it makes use of the meat and skins that would otherwise be discarded. Harvest quotas shrink when populations decline.

