

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Q&A – Landowners

WHAT IS THE KANGAROO HARVESTING PROGRAM (KHP)?

The KHP is a program to help manage Victoria's kangaroo population and minimise waste by using the carcasses for pet food. It commenced on 1 October 2019.

The Victorian Government will designate zones across Victoria and those zones will be assigned quotas which will specify the number of kangaroos that can be controlled in any one area.

Kangaroos carcasses can only be harvested by registered shooters with the landowner's permission and carcasses will generally be transported to registered processors and processed into pet food.

WHY IS THE KHP NECESSARY?

While kangaroos are native wildlife, the Victorian Government appreciates that they can have a detrimental effect on farmers, producers and Victoria's economy by eating crops, drinking water meant for livestock and ruining property such as fences.

This program will allow landowners to control the kangaroo population on their property and minimise the damage that kangaroos do. It also means that kangaroo carcasses will be used to create economic benefit for Victoria, rather than being left to waste away in paddocks.

WHO IS OVERSEEING THE KHP?

The program will be designed and implemented by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions in collaboration with the Game Management Authority.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED IN THE KHP?

If you have a problem with kangaroos on your property, then please visit djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting to see which zone your property is located in.

Authorised harvesters will be able to control kangaroos on your property if they hold a quota allocation for your zone.

WILL THE AUTHORITY TO CONTROL WILDLIFE (ATCW) PROGRAM CONTINUE?

Yes, landowners will still be able to apply for an ATCW and that system will operate independently of the KHP.

An ATCW gives landowners the right to control kangaroos on their own property. However, these carcasses cannot be used by processors to make pet food.

The ATCW program will continue to be administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Further information is available at Wildlife.vic.gov.au: Wildlife management and control authorisations.

DO I NEED TO SURRENDER AN EXISTING ATCW BEFORE I CAN ENGAGE A COMMERCIAL HARVESTER?

No, there is nothing to prevent a landholder who has an ATCW to control kangaroos on their property from also engaging a commercial harvester to harvest on their property.

However, the number of kangaroos approved for control under ATCWs is taken into account when setting commercial quotas for the KHP. If high numbers are approved for ATCW control, the commercial quota may be lower in following years. You should only take out an ATCW to undertake your own control if you think you will have a genuine need to control more kangaroos than a commercial harvester can harvest.

WHAT IF THERE AREN'T ANY HARVESTERS OPERATING IN MY AREA OR THEY WON'T COME ON TO MY PROPERTY?

If there are no authorised harvesters operating in your area or cannot attend your property, you can apply for an ATCW and control the kangaroos yourself.

WHERE ARE THE ZONES LOCATED AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUOTAS?

Visit our website to find out the harvester zones and quotas djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KHP?

Landowners do not have to participate in the KHP.

If landowners are approached by harvesters hoping to shoot on their property, they are under no obligation to grant permission to that harvester.

WHAT IF I TOOK PART IN THE ORIGINAL KANGAROO PET FOOD TRIAL?

Those who took part in the trial that preceded this program will be contacted directly with information about how to get involved in the new program.

WILL I RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR KANGAROOS THAT ARE HARVESTED ON MY LAND?

No, harvesters are not required make a payment to landowners to harvest kangaroos from their properties.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO PROVIDE TO THE HARVESTER?

You must provide written consent for the harvester to destroy kangaroos on your property.

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD I REQUEST FROM A HARVESTER BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO HARVEST KANGAROOS ON MY PROPERTY?

You need to view a copy or evidence of their Authorisation to harvest kangaroos – either a photocopy of their authorization or their authorised harvester e-licence on the Service Victoria app.

You should request evidence from the harvester that they have appropriate public liability or public indemnity insurance.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT A HARVESTER HAS BEEN ENGAGING IN ILLEGAL SHOOTING ON MY PROPERTY?

If you suspect a harvester on your property is acting illegally or you have unauthorised harvesters accessing your property, please contact the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 to report the incident and an Authorised Officer will be in contact with you.

I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE HARVESTER WHO CONTROLLED THE KANGAROOS ON MY PROPERTY, WHAT DO I DO?

All concerns should be reported to the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Non-compliance with the conditions of the KHP may result in an investigation. Any harvester that acts outside the conditions prescribed by their authorisation can have their authorisation to operate revoked and may face significant penalties.

HOW DO I ARRANGE FOR A SHOOTER TO CONTROL THE KANGAROOS?

Visit our website djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting to register as a landowner and receive details of harvesters operating in your zone.

DO I NEED A PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODE (PIC)?

No. You will enter the address for the harvest when you register your interest.

WHEN WILL A HARVESTER HAVE ACCESS MY PROPERTY?

You must discuss property access and times with the relevant harvester. It is up to the harvester and landowner to agree when shooting may take place.

If a harvester is shooting on your property outside of the times you have agreed to, please contact Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or if you are in immediate danger call 000 and ask for police assistance.

DO I HAVE TO PAY A HARVESTER TO MANAGE KANGAROOS ON MY PROPERTY?

No. The harvester will be paid by the pet food processor upon delivery of kangaroo carcasses.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM DIFFERENT FROM THE KANGAROO PET FOOD TRIAL?

Under the previous trial, landowners contacted a pet food processor to help deal with excess kangaroos, but under the new program landowners will register their interest on a website and receive harvester details or deal directly with harvesters.

All harvesters will be registered and authorised through DJPR. This includes the requirement for them to meet minimum standards to ensure animal welfare and safe meat handling practices are carried out.

Further, landowners who engage commercial harvesters to control kangaroos on their property will no longer need to apply for an ATCW. Rather, harvesters will be allocated a quota of kangaroos that they can remove from a specific zone.