

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Q&A – Processors

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 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 to be processed for 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.

Visit our website for further information: djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting.

HOW MANY PET MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE KHP?

A number of pet food processing companies are participating in the program, with active processing facilities in Yering, Stanhope and Hamilton.

Any pet food processor licensed by PrimeSafe can receive kangaroo carcasses.

HOW SHOULD A PROCESSOR RECORD PROOF OF AUTHORISATION?

As proof of authorization, harvesters can provide a photocopy of their authorisation, or a screenshot of their authorised harvester e-licence on the Service Victoria app.

I HAVE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT THE HARVESTER WHO BROUGHT KANGAROOS TO ME, 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.

I HAVE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT ACTIONS OF A HARVESTER WHO HAS BROUGHT KANGAROOS TO ME, 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.

CAN KANGAROO SKINS BE EXPORTED FOR USE?

Not at the moment. However, the Victorian Government is currently working to seek approval from the Commonwealth Government.

Once the Commonwealth makes a decision on this, harvesters and processors will be notified.

HOW DO I KNOW THE KANGAROO CARCASSES HAVE BEEN HANDLED AND STORED CORRECTLY?

Kangaroo carcasses must be treated according to the Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat (PISC Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009). A copy of the standard can be accessed via the PrimeSafe website – <https://www.primesafe.vic.gov.au/standards-and-guidelines/australian-standards/>.

If you suspect a harvester is not adhering to those guidelines, please contact Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

CAN THE KANGAROOS BROUGHT TO ME BE USED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION?

No. At this stage the program does not allow for this.

HOW DOES THE NEW PROGRAM DIFFER FROM THE TRIAL?

Under the trial, landowners contacted processors to get contact details for harvesters.

Under the new program, landowners still might contact processors. However, landowners can also register their interest in the program and be linked to authorised harvesters in this way.

Under the trial, processors played an important role in ensuring harvesters achieved the required competencies prior to participating. Under the new program, Harvesters will be required to meet the same national competencies that are required for other states, prior to being authorised to operate.

As under the trial, processors must only receive tagged kangaroos from a harvester who is authorised to operate in the program. Any untagged or incorrectly shot kangaroos should be reported via email to kangarooharvesting@ecodev.vic.gov.au.