

# Kangaroo Harvesting Program

## Q&A – Processors

### What is the Kangaroo Harvesting Program (KHP)?

The KHP commenced on 1 October 2019 and helps landholders reduce issues caused by kangaroos on-farm, it makes use of the carcasses and provides an income for the trained harvesters.

The program offers landholders who are experiencing issues with kangaroos an alternative to the Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) system at no cost. Unlike the ATCW system, landholders wanting to manage kangaroos on their property through the KHP do not need to apply for a permit.

The Victorian Government designates zones across Victoria which are assigned quotas that specify the number of Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos that can be controlled in any one area to ensure the sustainability of kangaroo populations.

Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos can only be harvested by registered shooters with the landowner's permission. The carcasses are transported to registered processors to be processed.

### Why is there a Kangaroo Harvesting Program?

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 allows landowners to engage a harvester to control Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos on their property. It also means that kangaroo carcasses will be used to create economic benefit for Victoria, rather than being left to waste away in paddocks.

The program ensures Victoria's Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo populations are managed in a sustainable way through set harvest quotas, in line with a Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan and national animal welfare standards, while helping landowners who are having problems with over-abundant kangaroos.

### Who is overseeing the KHP?

The program is designed and implemented by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions in collaboration with the Game Management Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Visit our website for further information: [djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting](http://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting).

### How can my processing facility receive carcasses under the KHP?

Any meat processor licensed by PrimeSafe can receive Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses and carcasses can now be processed interstate at an authorised facility.

There are two types of licenses that a processing facility needs in order to be able to receive and process kangaroo carcasses under the KHP. A PrimeSafe licensed abattoir or game meat processing facility can be approved to receive Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses to process for human consumption. A PrimeSafe licensed pet meat processing facility can be approved to receive Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses to process for pet food. Processing facilities must also hold a Wildlife Processor Licence from DELWP to process Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos.

Processing facilities are only able to receive Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses from authorised harvesters who hold an authorisation that is issued by the GMA. Harvesters must affix a tag to each carcass and must adhere to certain requirements relating to the shooting of the kangaroo. Any untagged or incorrectly shot kangaroos should be reported via email to [kangarooharvesting@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:kangarooharvesting@ecodev.vic.gov.au).

Contact PrimeSafe or DELWP for further information about requirements relating to the processor licence requirements.

## How many meat processing facilities are participating in the KHP?

A number of meat processing companies are participating in the program, with active processing facilities in Yering, Seymour, Camperdown, Stanhope and Hamilton.

## How should a processor record proof that they are receiving kangaroos from an authorised harvester?

As a processing facility, you must obtain proof from a harvester that they are authorised to harvest Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos before you accept kangaroo carcasses from them.

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

## I have some concerns about the harvester who brought kangaroos to me and/or their actions, 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 products be exported internationally?

Yes, the Victorian Kangaroo Harvesting Program is now recognised under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as a Developmental Wildlife Trade Operation (DWTO). This allows the international export of Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo products from this program for the next three years.

The DWTO can be viewed here <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020N00152>

## Can existing stocks be exported internationally?

Yes, the DWTO covers all existing stock obtained through the KHP from 1st October 2019 onwards.

## Can processors outside of Victoria receive carcasses from KHP Harvesters?

Yes. Conditions of Authorisations for harvesters allow carcasses to be taken to processors outside of Victoria provided that it is legal under that State or Territories legislation to import Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos from Victoria for processing.

The harvester must obtain and act in accordance with an export permit issued under section 50 of the Wildlife Act 1975. Contact DELWP on 136 186 or visit the [DELWP website](#) to obtain an export permit.

For any enquiries about import or export permits please email the wildlife licensing team via email at: [wildlifelicencing@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:wildlifelicencing@delwp.vic.gov.au)

## How do I know the kangaroo carcasses have been handled and stored correctly?

Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses intended for pet food must be treated in compliance with 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/uploads/Australian%20Standards/PISC%20Technical%20Report%2088.pdf>

Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses intended for human consumption must be processed in compliance with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Wild Game Meat for Human Consumption (AS 4464:2007). A copy of the standard can be accessed via the PrimeSafe website –

<https://www.primesafe.vic.gov.au/uploads/Australian%20Standards/AS%204464-2007.pdf>

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

## Can the kangaroos brought to me be used for human consumption?

Yes. Amendments to the 2021 – 2023 Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan allow harvesting for human consumption.

## What is the annual quota for the KHP?

An annual quota is set each year by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The quota is published on the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions website - <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting>

## Why has the quota changed from last year?

When setting the quota, a number of factors are considered, including latest population estimates, environmental conditions and the number of kangaroos expected to be controlled through the Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) System.

The quota is set to ensure that level of take of Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos in Victoria through both the KHP and ATCW system remains at a sustainable level.

## Can the quota change throughout the year?

Yes, the number of kangaroos taken across both the KHP and ATCW systems is monitored closely throughout the year. If at any stage the level of take is thought to be exceeding sustainable levels, then the KHP quota may be readjusted or placed on hold in a particular zone.

## Are there any new requirements to be aware of for 2021?

Yes. Operators of all harvest vehicles operating under the Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan must hold a Game Meat Processing Facility (Harvest Vehicle) licence as specified in PrimeSafe's Wild Game Meat Harvesting Guidelines - <https://www.primesafe.vic.gov.au/licensing/meat/game-meat-processing/>. This applies regardless of whether harvesters are harvesting for pet or human consumption.

The revised National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes. This Code replaces the 2008 edition of the Code.

## 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 Eastern and Western Grey 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](mailto:kangarooharvesting@ecodev.vic.gov.au).