

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

Q&A – Harvesters

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 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 will allow landowners to control the Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo populations 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.

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

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 and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

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

HOW CAN I BECOME A REGISTERED HARVESTER?

To become a harvester, you must apply for an authorisation through the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions via djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting.

Your application will be assessed, and you will then be notified as to whether your application has been successful or further information or competencies are required.

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, Stanhope, Camperdown, Seymour and Hamilton. Any Game Meat Processing Facility or Pet Meat Processing Facility licensed by PrimeSafe can receive kangaroo carcasses.

CAN KANGAROOS BE HARVESTED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION?

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

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON HARVESTERS TO HARVEST FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION INSTEAD OF FOR PET FOOD?

PrimeSafe licensed game harvest vehicles may process and transport kangaroo carcasses for either human consumption or pet food, but not at the same time. Different Australian Standards for food safety of kangaroo meat apply for human consumption and pet food. Kangaroo carcasses destined for pet food must not be processed or transported with those for human consumption. Contact [PrimeSafe](#) for more information.

Harvesters for human consumption must meet the requirements of AS 4464:2007 Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Wild Game Meat for Human Consumption. A copy of the standard can be accessed via the PrimeSafe website – <https://www.primesafe.vic.gov.au/standards-and-guidelines/australian-standards/>

WHAT IS REQUIRED BY PROCESSORS AS PROOF OF AUTHORISATION?

Harvesters can provide processors a photocopy of their authorisation or a screenshot of their authorised harvester e-licence on the Service Victoria app.

HOW MUCH QUOTA WILL I GET?

An Authorised Harvester can only be issued with a maximum quota allocation per application which is available via djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO USE MY ALLOCATED QUOTA?

Your quota is valid until the end of the year that it was allocated.

WHAT DO I DO WITH UNUSED TAGS?

Any tags that have not been used by the end of the designated year will be voided. Excess tags should be returned to the GMA.

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 - djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting.

A full quota report explaining how the quota is calculated is available in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at: <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations/commercial-harvest-of-kangaroos>.

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 kangaroos in Victoria, through the KHP and ATCW system remains at a sustainable level.

CAN THE QUOTA CHANGE OR BE WITHDRAWN 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.

Harvesting may also be closed off if there are any events which threaten kangaroo populations, such as bushfires.

I'VE FULFILLED MY QUOTA BUT THERE ARE STILL EXCESS KANGAROOS IN MY AREA, CAN I HARVEST MORE?

You can apply for an additional quota when you have used and reported on 50% of the tags in your possession, for the specified zone. Once a zone's quota has been exhausted no more kangaroos can be harvested in that zone.

Harvesters can however apply for quota allocations and operate with approved allocations in more than one zone.

The quotas are strict and are designed to ensure kangaroo populations remain at sustainable levels.

WHERE DO I GET THE TAGS?

The tags will be sent to your registered postal address.

HOW DO I ACCESS A LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY TO CONTROL KANGAROOS?

You must show a landowner your authorisation – either on the Service Victoria app, or a photocopy.

You must discuss property access and times with the relevant landowner and obtain a consent from them before commencing harvesting on their property. It is up to the harvester and landowner to agree when shooting may take place.

Harvesters will need to carry evidence that they have received consent from the landowner or manager when undertaking harvesting. A pro-forma consent form can be downloaded from djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting.

Alternatively, landowners who register via djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting will automatically provide consent when paired with a harvester.

I'M ALREADY A PROFESSIONAL SHOOTER, DO I NEED TO DO A COMPLIANCE TEST?

To obtain an authorisation, harvesters will need to hold a Victorian firearms licence and hold accreditations in Game Harvester Skill Set and firearms competency.

For the initial period of the program, harvesters who are an approved supplier under the Food Safety Plan of a participating pet meat processor will be assumed to meet these requirements. From 1 January 2021, all harvesters need to supply proof of the required accreditations.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BE AUTHORISED AS A HARVESTER?

Initially there will be no cost to register as a harvester or obtain tags under the KHP. However, fees are expected to be introduced in future.

There are fees associated with obtaining a Game Meat Processing Facility (Harvest Vehicle) licence from PrimeSafe.

DO I NEED TO HAVE INSURANCE TO REGISTER AS A HARVESTER?

Yes. All harvesters should have public liability/indemnity insurance. Harvesters that don't have this insurance won't be paired with landowners. Further, all harvesters will need to provide their ABN prior to being authorised.

WHERE DO I STORE KANGAROO CARCASSES FOR PET FOOD?

Kangaroo carcasses for pet food may be stored temporarily in a PrimeSafe licensed Field Depot or transported directly to a Pet Meat Processing Facility. Kangaroo carcasses for pet food must be processed 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/standards-and-guidelines/australian-standards/>.

WHERE DO I STORE KANGAROO CARCASSES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION?

Kangaroo carcasses for human consumption may be stored temporarily in a PrimeSafe licensed Field Depot or transported directly to a Game Meat Processing Facility (Premises). Kangaroo carcasses 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/standards-and-guidelines/australian-standards/>.

CAN I TAKE A KANGAROO CARCASS TO A PROCESSOR OUTSIDE OF VICTORIA?

Yes. Conditions of Authorisations for harvesters allows carcasses to be taken to processors outside of Victoria provided that it is authorised under the State or Territories legislation to import Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos from Victoria for processing. The harvester must act in accordance with an export permit issued under section 50 of the Wildlife Act 1975.

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

CAN I KEEP KANGAROOS FOR MY OWN PERSONAL USE?

Yes. This is allowed under the KHP conditions.

However, kangaroo carcasses cannot be given away, sold or traded in any way except to an appropriately licensed meat processing facility.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES DO LANDOWNERS HAVE TO CONTROL KANGAROOS?

Landowners are still able to apply for an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) if there are no harvesters operating in their area or they would prefer not to be involved in the Kangaroo Harvesting Program.

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

The ATCW program is administered by DELWP. Further information is available at wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations.

CAN INTERSTATE HARVESTERS APPLY UNDER THIS PROGRAM?

Yes. Interstate harvesters can apply for authorisation to operate in Victoria and will need to meet the eligibility requirements just like anyone from Victoria.

Interstate qualifications may be accepted and there are no special exemptions for harvesters from outside Victoria.

HOW DOES THE NEW PROGRAM DIFFER FROM THE TRIAL?

Under the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial, shooters acted as an agent of a landowner to undertake kangaroo control under a special type of Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) for damage mitigation. The carcasses controlled under these authorisations were able to be sold only to pet food processors in order to reduce the waste of the carcasses of those kangaroos.

Shooters under the trial were not directly authorised or licensed but needed to be registered as an approved supplier with a participating pet meat processor.

Under the Kangaroo Harvesting Program, harvesters will be directly authorised to harvest Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos from private property. There is no requirement for landowners to hold an ATCW for a harvester to harvest on their land. However, harvesters will need to obtain landowner consent before entering any private property to harvest Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos.

ARE THERE ANY NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR HARVESTERS 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/>

Harvesters may also harvest Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos for meat for human consumption for supply to a licensed Game Meat Processing Facility. It is important that the pluck (heart, lungs, liver and kidneys) remain attached to each carcass when supplying to a processor for human consumption as the pluck must be inspected and passed as fit for human consumption which is not a requirement when being supplied for pet food.

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

HARVESTER AUTHORISATION PROCESS

