**Kangaroo Harvest Program update – December 2019**

Hi all,

Welcome to the first update of the new Kangaroo Harvest Program. As you all know, the previous Kangaroo Pet Food Trial (KPFT) ended on 30 September 2019 and has been replaced with the new Kangaroo Harvest Program (KHP) - **if you have any unused tags from the KPFT please dispose of them now**.

The KHP kicked off on 1 October 2019, with the roll out of a new Harvester Portal, Authorisation Process, Tag Application and mobile reporting tool. We are aware of the technical difficulties that were originally encountered, and we thank everyone for their patience and perseverance in using the new tools.

**2019 Summary**

As of 10 December 2019, the KHP has:

* authorised **58** harvesters
* **31** active authorised harvesters
* issued **12,270** tags across the state (Central and North East supply was allocated by end October)
* **5,800** used / consumed tags
* harvested **1,189** kangaroos in October, **3,393** in November, and **1,218** kangaroos harvestedto 9 December.
* **77** harvest jobs completed in October, **210** in November and **85** to 9 December.
* An average of **24** kangaroos taken per harvest job.

**Compliance**

Authorised officers have been out and about undertaking audits with harvesters to ensure compliance with the National Code and conditions of their authorisation. Thank you to the harvesters we have engaged with to-date.

If harvesters are seeing or hearing of illegal activities, we encourage you to report through the Customer Service Centre on 136 186. The future or your industry depends on you.

We also encourage harvesters to be thoughtful of where they field-dress kangaroos. Please ensure all offal and body parts are out-of-sight.

**Competencies**

All harvesters must provide evidence of both game handling and firearm proficiency competencies. Most have already done this, but some were exempted because they previously harvested under the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial. These people should provide relevant documents (Game handling and/or firearm proficiency certificates) to kangarooharvesting@ecodev.vic.gov.au by **1 January 2020** to remain authorised.

Sporting Shooters Association Australia are offering firearm proficiency training. For course dates visit:

[www.ssaa.com.au](http://www.ssaa.com.au) or call ([03) 8892 2777](tel:0388922777).

**Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Bill**

Last month, Victoria passed the Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Bill. As a result, from 1 July 2020 PrimeSafe is expected to require vehicles used for the harvest, processing, transport and/or storage of pet food to be licensed with PrimeSafe unless they hold an equivalent interstate licence. If harvesters have any queries, you are encouraged to contact PrimeSafe to discuss licensing requirements for harvest vehicles and mobile field depots on (03) 9685 7333.

Harvesters are reminded that they must be able to provide their Authorisation to the Pet Meat Processing Plant (knackery) that you supply your kangaroo carcasses too. Knackeries must refuse to accept kangaroo carcasses if a harvester does not have a valid Authorisation.

**Review of the National Code**

The *National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commerical Purposes* is currently under review. The public consultation is open from **Monday, 25 November 2019** to **midnight Sunday, 22 December 2019**.

For more information and to provide input into the review, visit: [www.agrifutures.com.au/kangaroo-commercial-code-review/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.agrifutures.com.au_kangaroo-2Dcommercial-2Dcode-2Dreview_&d=DwMGaQ&c=JnBkUqWXzx2bz-3a05d47Q&r=GcuUZtEyE_NvoB0PBOx3vb9x-3Azj-UyGqH6u0dfzLCazIhMV9Apid6X_lZkSPuG&m=u-zub6Nb5WtzIT5y_a0tmNvUqZ8GPJmR6l1Pd0VA8DM&s=4NUOg34ctgY_6P1SA2ElYr_22CZ_c-RP_uznSVOGZoY&e=)

**2020 Quota**

Applications for quota will open on **Monday 6 January 2020**. The annual quota and quarterly release for 2020 is outlined in the table below (any quarterly unallocated quota will be rolled over into the next quarter release):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Harvest Zone** | **Total Annual Quota per Zone** | **Maximum Quota Released for Quarter 1** | **Maximum Quota Released for Quarter 2** | **Maximum Quota Released for Quarter 3** | **Maximum Quota Released for Quarter 4** |
| **Mallee** | 2,000 | 800 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| **Upper Wimmera** | 4,000 | 1,600 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| **Lower Wimmera** | 17,500 | 7,000 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| **Central** | 12,000 | 4,800 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 |
| **Otway** | 8,000 | 3,200 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| **North East** | 12,550 | 5,050 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| **Gippsland** | 4,000 | 1,600 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| **Statewide Total (annual)** | **60,050** | **24,050** | **12,000** | **12,000** | **12,000** |

**2020 Tag allocation**

New tag allocation rules will be introduced in 2020, to prevent non-active harvesters from stockpiling unused tags. For 2020, the allocation rules will be as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Demonstrated harvest status** | **Non-active Harvesters** | **Active Harvesters\*** |
| **Initial tag allowance** | 50 tags, per zone | 200 tags or 30% of the total quarterly release, whichever number is lower, per zone |
| **Subsequent tag allowance** | 200 tags or 30% of the total quarterly release, whichever number is lower, per zone | 200 tags or 30% of the total quarterly release, whichever number is lower, per zone |
| *\*An active harvester – a harvester who has been active for three months prior to applying for tags and who has consumed (used) at least 45% of their total tags issued to them within this three-month period* | | |
| *Before being able to apply for subsequent tag allocations, the harvester must have consumed (used) 50% of the tags issued to them.* | | |
| *The annual quota will be capped quarterly. This will be posted on the web:* [djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting](https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting) | | |

**Regulatory Review**

In the first quarter of 2020, the Victorian Government will review the current KHP with a view to develop a better regulatory framework to support it. Harvesters will be notified in on how they can take part.

**See you in 2020**

From all of us here – thank you for your participation as we continue to implement the Kangaroo Harvest Program.

We wish you a safe festive season.