

KMP Newsletter



The newsletter of the South Australian Kangaroo Management Program, Department for Environment and Heritage

ISSUE NO. 4

MARCH 2007

Welcome to the fourth Kangaroo Management Program Newsletter.

2006 HARVEST

2006 Commercial Harvest

A summary of the full twelve months harvest is provided in the following table:

	Quota	Harvest	% of quota
Red Kangaroo	210,100	138,973	66.1 %
Western Grey Kangaroo	78,100	36,609	46.9 %
Euro	69,400	11,713	16.9 %
Total	357,600	187,295	52.4 %

A summary of the kangaroos harvested in each harvest region (based on the old Soil Conservation Board (SCB) boundaries) is provided on a following page.

Landholders have again received a separate harvest report with this newsletter, detailing the quota issued, tags nominated and kangaroos harvested for their individual properties. They have also received information on the average weight and sex bias of kangaroos harvested on their properties, and the average weight and sex bias of kangaroos harvested within each of the harvest regions.

It is our hope that this information will be useful to landholders when making decisions regarding kangaroo management on their properties.

Special Land Management Quota

In November 2006, it was anticipated the quota for Western Grey Kangaroos in the Eastern Agricultural Management Zone would be fully harvested by December. This zone comprises harvest regions Central Flinders, Mt. Remarkable (Goyder), Hummocks, Nackara and West Broughton. With drought conditions continuing, landholders were experiencing land management issues with Western Grey Kangaroos but were unable to access further tags as they had been fully issued to the zone. The *Macropod Conservation and Management Plan for South Australia* has provision for a Special Land Management Quota (SLMQ), which can only be released when the entire quota for a management zone has been fully issued on tags and is expected to be harvested. The SLMQ enables the commercial utilisation of animals, which would

otherwise be shot and left in the field under non-commercial destruction permits. SLMQ was released for this zone when landholders began seeking non-commercial destruction permits and DEH staff inspected the area concerned. This is the first time any of the management zones have been fully harvested during the period of the current management plan. It also demonstrates the flexibility of the management program in responding to these circumstances.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The *Macropod Conservation and Management Plan for South Australia* is currently being reviewed and a new plan will be developed for the 5-year period from 2008 to 2012 inclusive. Input will be received from the Kangaroo Management Reference Group (KMRG) as part of this process. KMRG has representation from South Australian Farmers Federation, Kangaroo Field Processors, Kangaroo Industries Association of SA, Aboriginal Statewide Advisory Committee, Conservation Council of SA, Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, Natural Resource Management Council, Primary Industries and Resources' Meat Hygiene Unit, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and Department for Environment and Heritage. In addition to the input from KMRG, a three-month public comment period allows for any member of the public to comment. People with an interest in the management of kangaroos are encouraged to contribute as part of the planning process by contacting their stakeholder representative on KMRG to pass on their concerns, or by making direct comment on the draft management plan when it is available for public comment in July 2007. The current management plan can be found at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/pdfs/macropod.pdf>

Proposed changes to the tag system will be incorporated into the management plan and any legislative changes required to implement these changes will be made after the adoption of the new management plan.

The next newsletter is planned for August 2007.

Please contact Tom Gerschwitz if there is any information you would like to see covered in future newsletters or to give feedback on the content of this edition.

STATION AIRCRAFT

During the 2006 aerial kangaroo survey, DEH staff became aware that some landholders were not aware of the chartered aircraft conducting the survey near their properties. To improve communication with landholders who use aircraft on their properties, DEH is seeking to establish a list of landholders who would like to be notified of the approximate date and location of transects being flown. This will assist both landholders and DEH in planning their respective operations. Landholders who have aircraft operating at low level (less than 500 feet) are requested to contact Tom Gerschwitz, Operations Manager, Kangaroo Management on 8648 5319 or fax 8648 8301 if they wish to receive details of the approximate dates and transect lines of the 2007 aerial kangaroo survey, currently planned for the last two weeks in July 2007.

2007 QUOTA RELEASE

The quota for this year will be managed in a similar fashion to last year. An initial offer has been made to landowners based on property size, density of kangaroos in the harvest region, predetermined property weighting and a percentage of the available quota. This is to start the process and additional harvest authorities can then be applied for when the first authority has been fully harvested (or nearly so). After the initial offer, the remaining quota for all of the harvest regions in a management zone will be pooled and is available for use across the management zone. This approach will allow DEH the flexibility to respond to changes in kangaroo numbers, which may result from movements across harvest regions in response to changes in seasonal conditions.

As the year progresses, the harvest rate will be monitored and if required, the harvest authorities adjusted to facilitate utilisation of the available quota.

NEW TAGS

DEH is in the process of selecting a new supplier of kangaroo sealed tags, as the previous supplier has ceased operation. A new type of tag will be supplied in the near future when the existing tag stocks have been used. Please include any feedback on the new tags with the monthly return page when it is sent to DEH.

LOCKED OUT!

Field processors and meat processors are reminded that kangaroo management program staff are required to inspect field chillers. If chillers are locked for security purposes or housed within secure fencing or a locked yard, please provide DEH with a key or let DEH staff know where a key can be located if one is stored nearby. This will save the inconvenience of having to

replace the lock if the chiller cannot be opened. Please contact Tom Gerschwitz, Operations Manager Kangaroo Management on 8648 5319 if you wish to discuss this further.

COMPLIANCE

Field processors are again reminded to ensure they lodge their monthly field processor returns with DEH by the due date, as expiation notices are being issued for late returns.

Recent chiller inspections have found some carcasses, with neck and shoulder damage due to low placement of the shot. Field Processors are reminded of the *Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos*. This code is listed as a condition of all permits relating to the shooting of kangaroos. Regulation 22 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Kangaroo Harvesting) Regulations 2003* also states the requirements on this matter. Any carcasses that appear to have been taken contrary to the Code of Practice will be inspected and follow-up investigations undertaken by DEH. Adhering to the Code of Practice is one way that the industry can demonstrate it is meeting the identified best practice standards in animal welfare.

CONSORTIUMS

DEH is currently in the process of reviewing landholder consortiums to ensure the list of landholders and their property information is still current. A map of each consortium is also being prepared which will show the location of each individual property boundary over an aerial photograph image. To minimise the disruption to field processors, the cooperation of landholders is being sought to provide updated information to ensure the consortium information is accurate. A copy of the map will be provided to the head of each consortium.

ENQUIRIES

All enquiries relating to kangaroo management can be directed to kangaroo management staff at:

**Department for Environment and Heritage
Pt Augusta Office
9 Mackay Street
Pt Augusta SA 5700**

Phone (08) 8648 5300

Fax (08) 8648 5301

The best time to contact staff is between 9.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. as some staff work part-time on the program and others may be in the field.