

KMP Newsletter



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

ISSUE NO. 5

AUGUST 2007

Welcome to the fifth Kangaroo Management Program Newsletter!

2007 HARVEST

2007 Commercial Harvest

A summary of the first six months harvest is provided in the following table:

	Quota	Harvest	% of quota
Red Kangaroo	226,900	50,452	22.2 %
Western Grey Kangaroo	82,600	19,305	23.4 %
Euro	72,300	3,609	5.0 %
Total	381,800	73,366	19.2 %

The above table combines each of the separate quotas for the four Kangaroo Management Zones (KMZ), namely Western Agricultural KMZ, Western Pastoral KMZ, Eastern Pastoral KMZ and Eastern Agricultural KMZ

The available quota for Western Grey Kangaroos in the Eastern Agricultural KMZ, comprising the Harvest Regions, (previously Soil Conservation Board areas), of Central Flinders, Goyder, Nackara, West Broughton and Hummocks, may be fully harvested this year. The quota available for the commercial harvest of Red Kangaroos, Western Grey Kangaroos and Euros is now almost fully issued with tags for this management zone. A similar situation was encountered last year for this management zone. Landholders and field processors are encouraged to talk with their nominated kangaroo meat processor to ensure the maximum possible utilisation of the available tags in this zone.

Commercial quota is currently available for the remaining Management Zones of Western Pastoral, Eastern Pastoral and Western Agricultural if required. To obtain an additional harvesting authority, please contact Mel Armenio at the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) office, 9 Mackay Street in Port Augusta, phone 8648 5318 or e-mail kmp@saugov.sa.gov.au

A report showing the numbers of kangaroos harvested in each harvest region is provided on a separate page. When looking at this report please remember that quota can be moved between harvest regions within a management zone, but quota cannot be moved between management zones.

Landholders will not receive a separate harvest report for their individual properties with this newsletter. DEH is unable to provide the printed report due to staff changes. Landowners who require this information for inclusion with their stock returns to the Pastoral Board can obtain this information from their field processor or by contacting KMP staff on Ph 8648 5318.

AERIAL KANGAROO SURVEY

The 2007 aerial kangaroo survey data is currently being analysed and information regarding the 2008 quota will be posted to industry stakeholders in November this year.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Draft Macropod Conservation and Management Plan for South Australian 2008 - 2012 is currently open for public submissions. This plan provides an overarching goal, and details strategies for the management of the commercially harvested kangaroo species in South Australia. Any person who has an interest in the conservation and management of these kangaroos is encouraged to read the draft plan and make a written submission if they have comments about the plan. The closing date for submissions is 28 September 2007. Copies of the draft plan are available through the DEH office, first floor, 9 Mackay Street, Port Augusta and on-line at <http://www.biodiversity.sa.gov.au/kangaroo.html>.

NO PUBLIC MEETING THIS YEAR

No public meeting has been scheduled for 2007 as there are no significant changes for the industry in 2008. The SA Quota Proposal will be developed for 2008 and submitted to the Commonwealth for endorsement as in previous years. The 2008 quota information will be posted to stakeholders later this year. Any changes in the future, which may be implemented as part of the new management plan, will be fully communicated to Field Processors, Meat Processors, and landholders, prior to implementation.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance inspections have recently uncovered instances where kangaroo carcasses imported into South Australia from other states have been in breach of legislation. Suspected offences include untagged carcasses, non head shot carcasses and carcasses which are below weight. Notice of these breaches has been forwarded to interstate agencies for follow-up investigations.

KMP staff are currently producing discrepancy reports from kangaroo field processor returns. These reports identify errors on the returns where field processors may be in breach of legislation and follow-up investigations are required. Areas which require further investigation include suspected over harvesting of permits, incorrect tags being recorded against permits, missing information, duplication of tag ranges and incorrect information being supplied.

Kangaroo field processors are encouraged to check the tags they are using, together with their tag nomination forms on a regular basis, to ensure they provide accurate information in their monthly returns. This information is used to track the harvest and is important, especially where a management zone may be fully harvested. We all have a part to play in ensuring the available quota can be fully utilised, but is not over-harvested.

KMP staff wish to thank the majority of field processors who regularly submit accurate returns on time.

FIELD CHILLER INSPECTIONS

DEH staff regularly conduct inspections of field chillers that are located throughout the pastoral zone and some agricultural areas of the state. Licensed field processors (shooters) harvest kangaroos under permit and store the carcasses in field chillers (cold storage units) before they are transported to one of the six operating kangaroo meat processing works within the state. The carcasses are then processed for human consumption or pet food.

During the field chiller inspections, DEH staff ensure that carcasses are appropriately tagged, are presented in the required form (as prescribed by legislation), and have been taken according to the *Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos*. Staff also check that the tags on carcasses are for the correct property and chiller. DEH uses the tagging procedure to manage the quota and ensure it is not over-harvested. The tagging procedure also provides a trace-back mechanism, giving the industry and consumers confidence that any problems can be traced. Similar trace-back mechanisms exist in other meat producing industries.

Field chiller inspections are an important link in ensuring compliance within the industry. They also provide DEH staff with the opportunity to discuss issues with both field processors and landowners on site.



Tom Gerschwitz - Operations Manager, Kangaroo Management Program checks carcasses in a chiller

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Constructive relationships are essential in any business or industry and are important in building partnerships. DEH seeks to build constructive relationships with its partners within the kangaroo industry. Partners include landholders, field processors, meat processors, native title holders, conservation organisations, members of the public and other government agencies. Constructive relationships mean having open communication, an understanding of each others interests, and having processes in place to work through differences of opinion.

The next newsletter is planned for March 2008.

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.

ENQUIRIES

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

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

Phone (08) 8648 5318

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 and others may be in the field.