

KMP Newsletter



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

ISSUE NO. 6

March 2008

Welcome to the sixth Kangaroo Management Program Newsletter!

NEW ECOLOGIST

Dana Thomsen has recently been appointed as the Ecologist for the Kangaroo Management Program run by the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH). Dana replaces Lisa Farroway for the next 12 months while she is working on other another project.



Dana joins DEH with a wealth of knowledge gained while completing a PhD on the topic of commercial kangaroo harvest in South Australia. A number of people in the kangaroo industry will already know Dana through her work at the University of Adelaide.

Dana can be contacted on 08 8222 9409 or by email at thomsen.dana@saugov.sa.gov.au

HARVEST UPDATE

2007 Commercial Harvest

The final kangaroo harvest figures for 2007 were well below the quota available for each of the three species that are harvested. A summary is provided in the following table:

	Quota	Harvest	% of quota
Red Kangaroo	223,400*	115,475	51.7%
Western Grey Kangaroo	79,600*	41,256	51.8%
Euro	70,800*	9,327	13.2%
Total	373,800*	166,058	44.4%

* excludes Special Land Management Quota

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.

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

When looking at the separate table, please remember that quota can be moved between harvest regions within a management zone, but quota cannot be moved between management zones. The information provided in tables is based on kangaroo field processor returns.

Individual Property Harvest Reports

Landowners have received a separate harvest report with this newsletter detailing the quota accepted, tags nominated and kangaroos harvested for their individual properties. Additionally, they have received information on the average weight and sex bias of kangaroos harvested on their properties. Comparisons can be made between individual property data and their respective harvest region to see how the harvest data on an individual property compares with the average across a region.

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

If a landowner is unhappy with the harvest of kangaroos on their property, they are encouraged to discuss their concerns with their respective field processor. Landowners are able to have more than one field processor operating on an individual property, or change field processors, or meat processors if required. DEH must be advised in writing of any such changes. Meat processors will also need to be advised where there are changes of field processors.

COMPLIANCE

KMP staff wish to thank the majority of field processors who regularly submit accurate returns on time. However, recently there has been a drop off in the receipt of monthly returns within the required 14 days following the completion of each month. DEH require this information to track the harvest of kangaroos and also when determining the issue of second and subsequent permits. Expiations will be issued for those field processors who fail to lodge returns within the required time and make no contact with KMP staff to advise of their circumstances.

KANGAROO SEALED TAG ISSUES

Recently several kangaroo field processors have received incorrect tags from their meat processor. Field processors are asked to check the tags received to make sure they are nominated for their use, by having their name recorded on the accompanying Tag Nomination Form. If a problem is encountered please contact your meat processor and DEH so the matter can be resolved.

Also be careful to check the tag number sequence on the actual tag, as DEH staff have discovered two instances of the plastic bag containing sealed tags being incorrectly labelled. When receiving new tags, please check the tag number sequence and the Tag Nomination Form to save all parties a great deal of frustration, should a problem exist. DEH have raised the bag labelling issue with the manufacturer, and are keen to know if any field processors have encountered this problem.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Zero Tolerance refers to only head shot kangaroos being allowed to enter the commercial trade. This term is used throughout the Australian States that allow the sustainable commercial harvest of kangaroos as part of an approved kangaroo management plan. Each state that allows the commercial harvest of kangaroos is required by the Commonwealth to implement a "zero tolerance" approach to non head shot carcasses entering the commercial trade.

This means any kangaroo carcass with bullet damage other than to the head, must be tagged and left in the field. DEH has previously promoted this approach to field processors (refer KMP Notice 1 issued June 2007).

Field Processors are reminded of the requirement that all kangaroos must be taken according to the *Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos* (currently a condition of permit). Also, Regulation 36 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Kangaroo Harvesting) Regulations 2003* dictates the form of the carcass. This does not include the head, so if a head shot fails and a follow-up shot to the heart is required (as per the code of practice), then the carcass cannot be lodged. As the head is removed, the field processor is not able to demonstrate the heart shot was a follow-up shot. DEH is investigating possible changes to the conditions of permits to further clarify this matter.

AERIAL KANGAROO SURVEY

The 2008 aerial kangaroo survey of the pastoral and some agricultural areas of the state is currently being planned. This involves a chartered aircraft doing east - west transects across the state at 250 ft above ground level. If you use aircraft as part of your property management and wish to be advised of the timing and location of this survey, please fax a copy of your request together with your contact details to this office.

NEW INFORMATION ON WEBSITE

To promote the sustainable use of kangaroos in the South Australian landscape, the DEH Website has recently been upgraded. Check out the changes at: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/sustuse.html> Included on the website are the Macropod Conservation and Management Plan for South Australia 2008 - 2012, copies of the KMP Newsletters, harvest statistics and the Draft Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies - which closed for public comment on 6 March.

MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED

The Kangaroo Conservation and Management Plan for South Australia 2008 - 2012 was approved on 20 December 2007 by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts. This plan allows greater flexibility in managing the commercial harvest of kangaroos in the future. Copies of the plan are available from this office.

Dana Thomsen will be focussing on the recommendations of the Review of Proposed Changes to the South Australian Kangaroo Management Program Sealed Tag Allocation System to determine how DEH will proceed in the future. When making changes to the management of the commercial harvest of kangaroos, it is important to DEH that the viability of stakeholders be considered, along with the conservation of kangaroos, if this industry is to be sustainable.

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.

Landowners with ongoing problems managing the kangaroo component of total grazing pressure can apply for second and subsequent commercial harvesting authorities. They are currently available in all harvest regions for all species. 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

The next newsletter is planned for August 2008. Please let us know if there is any information you would like to see covered in future newsletters or to give feedback on the content of this edition.