

# Landowner information - January 2017

## Update on the management of kangaroo sealed tags

### New tag management system

In January 2015, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) implemented a new system for selling and managing kangaroo sealed tags across the state. These changes were to streamline business processes, have the kangaroo field processor responsible for tags, remove administrative barriers and increase competition by allowing sales of kangaroo carcasses to any licensed kangaroo meat processor in South Australia. The changes implemented were the result of industry lobbying over many years.

Part of the changes involved DEWNR taking a landscape approach to kangaroo management, rather than the previous property based approach. As a consequence, property-based permits are no longer required and landowners simply need to contact a field processor and give them written permission (via a Landowner Consent Form) to harvest kangaroos on their land. This move has freed landowners from the administrative burden of applying for commercial harvest permits. Landowners still control who operates on their land and under what conditions, managed through Landowner Consent Forms.

Since 2015, field processors have adapted to the new way of managing tags. DEWNR would like to remind landowners that they need to renew the Landowner Consent Forms every six months if they wish to continue to have a field processor harvest kangaroos on their land. It is a requirement for field processors to have up-to-date Landowner Consent Forms at all times.

DEWNR has an ongoing audit process to check these forms are in place, and field processors can be expiated if they do not have current permission (Landowner Consent Forms). Landowners' assistance in completing and signing these forms in a timely manner will help their field processor.

DEWNR recommends landowners keep a copy of the completed forms so they have a record of the time period and any conditions that have been set for their field processor.

DEWNR encourages landowners and field processors to develop a partnership where each party can benefit. Landowners have help in managing the kangaroo component of their total grazing pressure at little cost and may also have help in managing wild dogs and feral animals. An extra person keeping a lookout for problems on the land can also be a great benefit. Field processors have the benefit of self-employment and regional communities benefit from more employment and value adding to local products.

The kangaroo industry continues to struggle in current economic conditions. While the price per kilogram for most red meat industries (sheep, beef and goat) have increased, the kangaroo meat price has not shown similar improvement. Landowners may consider assisting their field processor through this difficult time by purchasing tags or supplying accommodation, power, etc.

### How commercial harvest works

For commercial harvest to occur in South Australia, land must be within the Commercial Harvest Area of the state (refer to attached map). The following points summarise how landowners can manage kangaroos on their land. These changes seek to strengthen the relationship between the landowner and kangaroo field processor.

- Landowners need to give written permission to enter, for the purpose of harvesting kangaroos, to those kangaroo field processors they wish to operate on their land. This is done by completing a Landowner Consent Form.

- Landowners control who enters their land and what they can do on that land via the Landowner Consent Form.
- Landowners can include their own conditions for kangaroo field processors, if required, on the consent forms, e.g. field processor must call or text each night before entering the land.
- Landowner Consent Forms need to be completed on a six monthly basis to comply with Section 68B (1) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972.
- An authorised person (e.g. lessee or manager) may sign a consent form to allow a field processor to enter, for the purpose of harvesting kangaroos, and in doing so, they are also declaring they have authority from the landowner.
- Landowners may give multiple kangaroo field processors written permission to enter for the purpose of harvesting kangaroos on their land. DEWNR recommends landowners discuss this with their chosen field processor(s) before making changes.
- Each kangaroo field processor given permission, will need to have a separate consent form.
- Landowners (or authorised person for the landowner) have the right to revoke their Landowner Consent Form at any time.
- Kangaroo sealed tags are allocated to a harvest subregion and can be used on any property within that subregion, providing the field processor has written permission to be on the land for the purpose of harvesting kangaroos.
- A landowner can purchase kangaroo sealed tags for, and provide them to a kangaroo field processor, requiring them to be attached to kangaroos harvested from that land.
- Kangaroo sealed tags are valid for a six month time period from the date of purchase.
- There are no refunds for unused tags unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Unused tags have to be returned to DEWNR within one month of expiry.
- Kangaroo field processors are able to sell carcasses to any licensed kangaroo meat processor in South Australia.
- Pastoralists can obtain kangaroo harvesting data for their property by contacting their field processor. Pastoral Inspectors also have access to kangaroo harvest data for stock returns. Alternatively, DEWNR staff from the Kangaroo Management Program can provide this information.
- Some field processors have mobile chillers and would be willing to take up harvest opportunities, especially where there are high kangaroo numbers and landowners are experiencing difficulty in managing these numbers.
- Landowners can offer field processors incentives to operate on their land. The landowner would gain the benefit of having someone else looking over their land who can help manage wild dogs and feral animals. If a landowner chooses to manage kangaroos themselves, it will cost time plus money for fuel and ammunition, so offering incentives may be worthwhile.

### **Non commercial options**

DEWNR encourages landowners to always consider using commercial field processors to manage kangaroos on their land where it is within the Commercial Harvest Area (refer to attached map). This way, the task is completed by trained professionals with the carcass being removed from the property. Where the industry is unable to meet a landowner's requirements, the landowner can apply to DEWNR for a Permit to Destroy Wildlife. The numbers of kangaroos issued on Permits to Destroy Wildlife are dependent on the delegation of the issuing officer. Applications are available via the DEWNR website or Natural Resource Centres.

It is possible for landowners to name their field processor on an application for a Permit to Destroy Wildlife. This way, they may be able to cull kangaroos that the industry is unable to take at the same time as conducting a commercial harvest. A financial contribution towards costs may offer some incentive to field processors.

Landholders are reminded that all kangaroos culled have to be taken according to the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies, either commercially or non-commercially. These codes have specific shooting procedures that must be adhered to.

Where DEWNR receives an application for a Permit to Destroy Wildlife and information is missing, or a ranger needs more information, they will contact the landowner before issuing the permit.

A landowner may contact their local ranger to discuss their application for a Permit to Destroy Wildlife (kangaroos), especially if the permit is for high numbers and they can provide further context regarding their situation. This may help the ranger in their understanding of the issue, leading to an appropriate response.

## Landowner questions

These questions and answers may assist landowners in their understanding of the kangaroo industry.

### 1. How do I find a kangaroo field processor?

Contact the four kangaroo meat processors (listed below) and they may be able to say which field processors operate in your area. Also, there are often new field processors looking to establish their business who are seeking land to harvest from. Word of mouth is often the way information is relayed, so speak with neighbours.

### 2. I want the kangaroos harvested from my land to be sold to my local meat processor, thereby supporting local business and local community. How do I do this?

Kangaroo field processors can choose which meat processor they sell carcasses to. However, a landowner can include a condition on the consent form requiring the field processor to sell to a local meat processor. Where a strong relationship exists between the landowner and field processor, it may simply be a conversation between parties to agree on such a requirement.

### 3. Can I have more than one field processor on my property?

Landowners can have more than one field processor. DEWNR recommends that landowners discuss their requirements with field processors before making any changes. Managing several field processors on land may involve more work for everyone to ensure safety for all.

### 4. Is there a minimum property size to have kangaroos harvested commercially from a property?

DEWNR manages kangaroos across the broader landscape. There is no minimum property size, but every landowner will need to give written permission (via a Landowner Consent Form) for a field processor to enter their land for the purpose of harvesting kangaroos.

### 5. How can I revoke permission for a field processor to be on my land?

This can be done in person or via a phone call, letter, fax, or email. DEWNR recommends a personal call to the field processor followed up by notice in writing, in case the matter is contested.

### 6. I am a landowner who is located a long way from processing works – how do I attract a field processor?

Kangaroos will be harvested where it is economical to do so. It may mean that some properties experience a higher harvest pressure than others. Where harvesting results are not meeting landowner expectations, DEWNR suggests the landowner discuss their concerns with their field processor. The landowner has the ability to add an additional field processor or to change field processors. As an incentive to have field processors operate on a property, landowners could purchase sealed tags for use on their land. In the event a landowner cannot secure the services of a field processor, it may be possible to obtain a Permit to Destroy Wildlife (non-commercial permit). DEWNR will always encourage landowners within the Commercial Harvest Area to consider managing their kangaroos commercially.



**7. I am a landowner who has land within the agricultural area, how can I find out how many kangaroos were harvested on my land?**

For any harvest on agricultural land that is within the Commercial Harvest Area and is within a Hundred boundary, then the harvest will be reported at the District Council level. To find out what has been harvested at the property level, the landowner will need to ask the field processor.

**8. Instead of a long list of Hundreds and section numbers on the Landowner Consent Form, can smaller properties use their Property Identification Code, as it already has all property information and is updated every two years?**

Yes, Property Identification Code (PIC) numbers can be used on the Landowner Consent Form. Those landowners without PICs would still use Hundreds and sections.

**9. Is DEWNR allowing meat processors to purchase males only? There is concern that this will push the industry back to pet food, rather than continue to process for human consumption.**

DEWNR requires all field processors to comply with the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes. This code states "Shooters should avoid shooting female kangaroos and wallabies where it is obvious that they have dependent young...". The decision of a business to purchase male carcasses only is their choice to make. All kangaroo meat processors in South Australia currently process carcasses for human consumption and a portion of the carcasses processed may be diverted into the production of pet food. The Meat Hygiene Unit of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA) administer the requirements for human consumption and pet food production.

**10. Why should I avoid harvesting female kangaroos? Shooting males only will not manage the kangaroo population – this does not give landowners the desired control.**

Continued harvesting effort, even if focused on males only, may disperse kangaroos from the land.

If landowners wish to destroy females under Permits to Destroy Wildlife, then they are reminded that they must comply with the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes. This code requires shooters to avoid shooting female kangaroos and wallabies where it is obvious that they have dependent young.

**11. Do I have to list all the Hundreds and section numbers for every consent I give to a field processor, twice a year?**

Yes, but this only needs to be written once, then can be kept as a template and copied. Each consent given will require an original signature and date.

**Further information**

For further information about commercial harvesting options, please contact DEWNR's Kangaroo Management Program staff on 8648 5318 or email [kmp@sa.gov.au](mailto:kmp@sa.gov.au).

Enquiries about Permits to Destroy Wildlife can be made to your local Natural Resources Centre, National Parks Office or Natural Resources Office.

**Meet processor contact details**

Crossroads Game Meats (Colin Wild) - 8642 6066

Dew's Meats (Taryn Ackland) - 8658 1063

Macro Meats - Gourmet Game (Clayton Graham) - 8341 2533

Rosedale Meats (Tony or Judy Gyss) 8583 8320



# Map of the Commercial Harvest Area for kangaroos in South Australia

