

Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



Meeting minutes

Details

- Meeting:** 37th Meeting – Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP Commercial) SPECIAL combined meeting of outgoing KMAP#4 and incoming KMAP#5
- Location:** Teams Virtual Meeting
- Date/time:** Tuesday 2nd November 2021
- Chairperson:** **Robert Mulley**, Dr., Western Sydney University

People present

1. Chairperson: **Robert Mulley**, Dr., Western Sydney University
2. **Steven McLeod**, Dr., Scientific community
3. **Thomas Newsome**, Dr., Scientific community
4. **Tanya Stephens**, Dr., Australian Veterinary Association
5. **Nick De Vos**, NSW RSPCA
6. **Garry Trindall**, Aboriginal Communities
7. **Jamie Woods**, Aboriginal Communities
8. **Ray Scott**, NSW Farmers
9. **Gerard Glover**, NSW Farmers
10. **Andrew Sanger**, Dr., Department Primary Industries (DPI)
11. **Doug Jobson**, KIAA
12. **James Meyers**, NSW PKH Licensee
13. **Steve Johnstone**, NSW PKH Licensee
14. **Terry Brill**, NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Unit, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
15. **Sheridan Maher**, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
16. **Sharne Ridge**, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Guests

None

Apologies

Greg Rogers, Ray Borda, Jason Wilson

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No.	Item	Decision	Action/Responsibility
1	<p>Welcome and acknowledgement of country</p> <p>Rob/Terry</p>	N/A	
2	<p>Introduction of new panel members for KMAP#5.</p> <p>“Around the room” - introduction of members</p> <p>Acknowledgement and thanks given to:</p> <p><u>Retiring KAMP#4 members:</u></p> <p>Rob Mulley, Ray Borda, Jason Wilson, Ray Scott</p> <p><u>Continuing members:</u></p> <p>Tanya Stephens; Steve McLeod; Ian Sanger; Nick de Vos</p> <p><u>Newly appointed members:</u></p> <p>Doug Jobson; Jamie Woods; Garry Tindall; James Meyers; Stephen Johnstone; Greg Rogers; Gerard Glover; Tom Newsome</p>	N/A	
3	<p>Chairperson’s report</p> <p>Previous 36th meeting minutes adopted, ratified and approved for publishing to the KMP website.</p> <p>Some typos to correct, but otherwise a true and correct record of proceedings. No updates or amendments.</p> <p>Business arising from the minutes – nil</p>	The #36 th meeting minutes ratified by the Committee	<p>Minutes of #36th meeting be published on DPIE website.</p> <p>Sheridan</p>
4	<p>KMP Team Leader report</p> <p>Conflict of interest and Pecuniary interest forms.</p> <p>DPIE will maintain a register of signed forms and will remind all Panel members to keep these updated prior to the start of each</p> <p>DPIE website</p> <p>A lot of information is publicly available of the DPIE website</p> <p>https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Topics/Animals-and-plants/Wildlife-management/Kangaroo-management</p> <p>Allocation and harvest update</p> <p>Update on current allocation and harvest as at October 2021. Harvest getting close to quota in 3 zones for E greys and one zone for reds. Well under quota overall. Quota is reset for the start of the new calendar year – January.</p> <p>Upper House inquiry</p> <p>Announced March 2021. Whole of Gov’t submission was provided in April. Hearings were held 14/15 June and 19 August. Committee</p>	Panel noted updates on a variety of current issues/topics	<p>Agreement to abide by the TOR and COC to be signed by all members and returned to DPIE as soon possible. Sheridan to send reminder email to KMAP</p>

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	<p>Report was released 15 October. It contains 23 recommendations. Gov't response is due 19 April – more detail at Agenda Item #7</p> <p>Aerial surveys</p> <p>Kangaroo population surveys are conducted annually on the plains (fixed wing aircraft) and every 3 yrs on the tablelands (helicopter), one each year, northern, central or southern. Southern Tablelands were surveyed this year 2021, Northern will be done in 2022, then Central in 2023. Manually counted by observers using click counters.</p> <p>Qn concerning timing and frequency. Done in June and July – need to be done in the daylight, kangaroos are more active in the cooler weather, visibility is better and animals aren't seeking shade until midday. Training for observers/counters scheduled May 2022.</p> <p>Qn on use of drones. Work well in small areas – 100-200km². Western Plains is over 500,000km² – too large, drones must be in line of sight, also slow processing, might be something in the future but not currently an option. Likewise satellites – potential but not yet. Human observation more accurate.</p> <p>Qn thermal counts – quite good for kangaroos, requires a lot of post-processing, works best where areas of high cover – but doesn't distinguish between species, ie red/grey/wallaroos, so limited by that fact.</p> <p>Could be timely to do the on-ground species mix validation check – note to Steve McLeod.</p> <p>Tag allocations</p> <p>Problem this year with supply. Tags come from Malaysia. Shipping challenges this year due to COVID19. Strong demand for tags. Some areas ran out of tags. Looking into other options for future tags – made in Australia/recyclable product, also see further information below at Digital Tags.</p> <p>Reporting – of harvest information</p> <p>Database reporting capability – of the commercial program, licencees, harvesters, allocations of tags - by zones, by species.</p> <p>Quota Reports and Annual Harvest Reports are all online – historical reports also listed going back many years.</p> <p>Reporting is important. Currently the program is data rich and information poor – lots of data but not as useful as it could be for users/public. Opportunity for improvement in program reporting – what is shot and where, species, male/female, etc.</p> <p>Harvest returns and improving the reporting by harvesters, which is currently pretty good at 98% (2020) for harvester returns; 92% (2020) for chiller weekly returns. Aiming for 100% compliance with reporting returns. Order blocking is being actively used by DPIE to encourage</p>		

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	<p>reporting – new orders wont be filled if reports are overdue. Getting more active with notices to chillers and dealers to improve reporting performance. It is working.</p> <p>Digital Tags</p> <p>Future technology, bar codes or QR codes and real-time reporting of the movement of carcasses. Investigating through a digital tag trial in mid-2022. Qld moving to using new scannable tags in 2022 – product is similar to the wrist bands used at concert events. Vic has a barcode on a similar band and use a phone app. SA interested in looking at new technologies. Likely to be choices available by years end. Would be good if the states adopted a consistent technology.</p> <p>Mobile Chiller Trial in NSW next year</p> <p>Trial will start early-mid 2022; 12 EOI from chiller licencees; 10 participants likely at the moment; across a range of chiller types; will need a full-time tracking device so the chiller can be tracked 24/7 for compliance purposes. If successful will look to roll out in 2023.</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>Thankyous to be conveyed to Brad Purcell (DPIE) and to Tanya Dominguez (RSPCA).</p> <p>Expanded Panel membership – new harvester stakeholders present, also an increase in representation from 1 to 2 of Aboriginal community reps and from 1 to 2 landholder reps.</p> <p>New TOR and COC – KMAP#4 provided input/comment on these.</p> <p>Planning on face-to-face meetings where possible; in a regional base; more interactive with an overnight/field element.</p> <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will digital tags and new technology work in areas where mobile phones don't work? – the app will work without the need for live connection and upload occurs when reconnected. • How are non-commercial culling numbers counted and what about the welfare when non-professional shooters are used? Of concern to Aboriginal people seeing the non-professional shooters arrive and the mess they leave. <p>A “thankyou” was conveyed by several members to DPIE staff for the professionalism shown during the Inquiry Hearings –showed resilience and composure in giving their reports.</p>		
5	12pm Break for lunch, Panel resumed at 1pm		
6	<p>2022 Draft Quota Report - KMP Senior Team Leader</p> <p>Quota report still in preparation. Presentation provided on the population survey data and quotas for 2022.</p>	Panel noted the Quota Report is being developed	Quota Report to be circulated when finalised.

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	<p>Quota numbers to go up, particularly for reds. Quota will be the standard for each species, with three likely zone changes as below.</p> <p>Zone changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone 01 Tibooburra - to re-open at 15% of population estimate • Zone 07 Bourke - Eastern and Western greys reduced to 10% of population estimate • Zone 08 Narrabri - reduced to 10% of population estimate <p>Population survey estimates and actual quota numbers will be provided in the Quota Report and published on the DPIE website, as is current normal practice.</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>Why are wallaroos harvested in Northern Tablelands but not central or southern? Landholder pressure in the past. Any proposal to open up to wallaroos elsewhere would need to demonstrate a need – increase in population numbers and corresponding impact on agricultural product.</p>		<p>Terry Brill</p>
<p>6b</p>	<p>Around the floor – comment/update from stakeholders</p> <p>Industry – no shortage of kangaroos; harvesters are busy. Export market difficult b/c of costs with outward freight; shortage of skilled labour with lack of travellers and holiday workers; issue at Maffra with the poisoning of horse, beef and kangaroo meat – not just kangaroo; increases in costs from \$1800 to \$9000 for a 40ft container; retirement of Bidida Jones RSPCA who made a well-informed contribution to this space</p> <p>Landholders – northern end starting to strip wheat; kangaroo numbers building; elsewhere not had professional shooters in for 10 years, due to the drought; numbers now building.</p> <p>Aboriginal community – plenty of kangaroos in southern end; plenty of shooters operating around Hay; plenty of kangaroos on the homelands and looking at options for future management</p> <p>Harvesters – plenty of feed and kangaroo numbers building; some crop damage, floodwater pushing kangaroos out of the bush.</p> <p>DPI – conversations continuing amongst stakeholder agency staff in regard to kangaroo management, the Wildlife Management Plan currently with the Commonwealth and the process for responding to the Inquiry Report.</p> <p>Vet Assoc – position remains unchanged and supports the commercial professional harvesting of kangaroos as method of control.</p> <p>AWMS/scientific community – AWMS reiterated their support and that their position hadn't changed in light of the Inquiry Report; issue of lead bullets and shrapnel and impact on birds that feed on carcasses;</p>		

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	<p>impact of European wasps at carcass sites, where they are outcompeting native blowflies which in turn is slowing down the maggots and decay of carcasses.</p>		
7	<p>Inquiry Report - KMP Senior Team Leader</p> <p>Committee No7 chaired by Cate Faehrman, reported 15 Oct, Govt response due 19 April 2022.</p> <p>Report is available here:</p> <p>https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2707#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses</p> <p>Walked through the 6 key findings and 23 recommendations.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses will require input from a range of agencies • Dissenting remarks and minutes of proceedings are informative reading • Transcripts and submissions are on the NSW Parliament website – above. • Recommendations show a lack of understanding of the subject matter • NSW Government will now prepare and table a response which is where any policy change or direction will be made. 	<p>Panel noted tabling of Inquiry Report and date for Government response</p>	
8	<p>Voting of new chair</p> <p>Put an interim chair for next meeting and then hold a vote for Chair at the next meeting – when new committee has had a chance to consider and discuss and hopefully will meet face-to-face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel members to consider nominating for Chair 	<p>Panel agreed to delay vote until next mtg.</p> <p>Terry to act as Interim Chair to start the next meeting.</p>	<p>All members to consider nomination for Chair and be prepared to consider and vote at next meeting. KMAP member details to be circulated - Sheridan</p>
9	<p>Farewell to KMAP#4</p> <p>Thanks to Rob as Chair, especially during such a busy year with the new Management Plan.</p> <p>Terry conveyed a thankyou from Brad Purcell for the years of input and support to the program, Brad sends his best wishes to past and new KMAP members.</p> <p>A thanks was given by the Chair – an enjoyable and respectful committee. Well-informed and genuinely constructive. You do need strong evidence-based commentary to make sure the whole idea of kangaroo harvesting is understood and properly managed. Great to</p>	<p>Noted</p>	

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	see the new Committee continuing with a really strong and diverse group – good balance of scientific and practical skills. Has been a very enjoyable committee.		
10	<u>Other business arising</u> None		

Items to be carried over to next meeting

Action	Responsible	Status
1. No items carried forward		

Meeting closed at 2:30pm

Next meeting

Wednesday 2 March 2022. A face-to-face meeting is preferred.

Location – to be advised, regional location – Balranald or Walgett are possibilities.