

Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



Meeting minutes

Details

Meeting: 42nd Meeting – Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP Commercial)

Location: Online

Date/time: Wednesday 27 March 2024

Chairperson: Tanya Stephens

People present

Tanya Stephens, Dr, Australian Veterinary Association
Thomas Newsome, Dr, Scientific community
Steven McLeod, Dr, Scientific community
Doug Jobson, Australian Wild Game Industry Council
Gerard Glover, NSW Farmers
Steve Johnstone, NSW PKH Licensee
James Meyers, NSW PKH Licensee
Erlina St Vincent, Dr, Department Regional NSW
Liz Arnott, Dr, NSW RSPCA
Graeme White, Director Compliance & Licensing, Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Sheridan Maher, Acting Snr Team Leader, NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Program DCCEEW

Guests/presenters/observers

Loretta Reilly, KMP DCCEEW
Jackie Sawyer (minutes) KMP DCCEEW

Apologies

Greg Rogers, NSW Farmers
Garry Trindall, Aboriginal Communities
Jamie Woods, Aboriginal communities
Terry Brill, NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Unit, DCCEEW

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	Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
1.	Acknowledgement of country – Graeme White		
2.	Welcome and Introduction – Tanya Introduction to meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional agenda items Agenda adopted Reminder to provide updated Conflict of Interest or Pecuniary Interest forms if circumstances have changed since last meeting 	Any updated forms to be emailed to Sheridan	All meeting attendees
3.	Chairperson’s report - Tanya Minutes of the 41 st meeting (Nov 2023) were ratified out-of-session and are published on the KMP website. Actions of previous meeting were addressed. Business arising from previous Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proxies/Alternates from NSW Farmers will be discussed at their upcoming meeting in April. DCCEEW to consider additional Aboriginal community representation. AgriFutures PhD Scholarship. A meeting was held between DPI/DCCEEW/Syd Uni on 22 March to progress development of the topic. Syd Uni to canvass for suitable student. Provide feedback to KMAP as progress is made. In-field compliance auditing – KMAP has connected with CSIRO to seek their advice on technologies that may support this. Looking to meet again in May. Aboriginal engagement and opportunities for KMAP involvement – no further progress since previous meeting. 2024 Quota Report was published on the KMP website and circulated to KMAP. 	KMP to follow up with members to ensure adequate ongoing representation. Provide update out-of-session on progress of PhD topic.	Sheridan/Jackie Sheridan
4.	Around the room – opportunity to update/share from members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AgriFutures-funded PhD – PhD project to compare and model kangaroo populations using different technologies is about to commence fieldwork at Fowler’s Gap. A drone will be used to capture thermal imagery. DPE is now DCCEEW – the former Department of Planning and Environment has been restructured, with the Kangaroo Management Program now in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. While the demand for kangaroo meat faces some challenges, the domestic market remains stable with continued strong supply. Although there is an ongoing effort in the retail sector to lower consumer prices, this provides an opportunity to review and potentially optimise supermarket pricing strategies. Notably, despite some major pet food brands diversifying their protein sources away 		

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<p>from kangaroo, the industry is adapting well. The Australian Wild Game Industry continues to innovate and respond effectively to market dynamics, ensuring resilience and sustained interest in kangaroo products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIAA has been renamed to better reflect their diverse offerings and is now known as the Australian Wild Game Industry Council (AWGIC). This update highlights their expanded range which includes wild goat, rabbit, deer, boar, and kangaroo, aiming for clearer identification in global markets awgic.org.au/en/ • Cost of living impact – the increasing costs of fuel and vehicles are negatively impacting profit margins for harvesters combined with fluctuating and decreasing prices paid by processors. • Limits and chiller closures – some processors are still imposing purchasing limits to harvesters due to poor demand and market instability. Chiller site closures are also occurring. • Lack of professional harvesters in some regions – farmers are finding it hard to connect with professional harvesters in certain regions of New South Wales. Possibly due to the reduction in the number of licensed harvesters and or the reduced number of registered chillers. No active harvesters or chiller premises in the Brewarrina area. Chillers are not evenly spaced in the landscape. • Australian Veterinary Association – the AVA is updating its policy on control of kangaroos and wallabies. • Zone closure – questions around the closure of the Griffith North Zone to the harvesting of red kangaroos when there appears to be a lot of red kangaroos in that area. DCCEEW advised that the quota won't be reviewed and the zone will remain closed to harvesting of red kangaroos for the whole of 2024. KMP will continue to monitor the zone. 		
<p>5. KMP Team Leader's report – Sheridan</p> <p>Presentation covering the following:</p> <p>2023 Annual Report (due to the Commonwealth Government 31 March and to be published on the KMP website)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 509,671 kangaroos harvested • 60% eastern grey, 34% red, 4% western grey, 2% wallaroo • 4.3% of the estimated population • 27.5% of the quota • 83% were male (up from the long term average of 75%) • Average male weight 29 kg, average female weight 19.2 kg • 170,665 licences to harm were issued, with a maximum 118,364 kangaroos culled under those licences 	<p>Link to the Annual Report to be provided to KMAP members as soon as available.</p>	<p>Sheridan</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top 5 zones, based on harvest as a percentage of the quota: Upper Hunter (46%), Armidale (45%), Griffith South (37%), Griffith North (36%) and Coonabarabran (36%) <p>2024 licence renewals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently licensed - 349 harvesters, 17 animal dealers, 92 chillers 2024 tag sales are currently 173,996 tags 2024 current number of animals harvested is 76,306 <p>NSW Harvester Knowledge Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with TAFE digital completed in early 2023 Only accessible via the WMS once nominated by KMP 78 harvesters have completed the course to date The roll out to all licensed harvesters will occur in May 2024 <p>Update on Inquiry commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 x Factsheets to explain why there is a need to manage kangaroos; how kangaroo populations are surveyed; how harvest quotas are calculated; and how humane harvesting is achieved have been published on the KMP website. Documenting the science underpinning the commercial program being progressed by Dr Steve McLeod for reporting and publishing later in the year. Aboriginal engagement in kangaroo management to be progressed in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife and Local Land Services. CREEM review of NSW aerial survey methods – the CREEM Report has been received and the Department's response to the recommendations is being finalised. Both documents will be uploaded to the KMP website when available. <p>2024 Aerial Surveys – planning is underway to progress aerial surveys of the Western Plains and South East Tablelands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial Survey training session at Fowler's Gap in April Western Plains in June South East Tablelands in September <p>Update from recent meeting of the various state macropod managers. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declining demand for product and low prices of around \$1.00per kg. 	<p>Follow up possibility of distributing course material to harvesters once they have completed the course.</p> <p>Distribute to KMAP the links to the factsheets and CREEM Review when available.</p>	<p>Jackie</p> <p>Jackie</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declining demand has implications for the commercial industry, as well as for animal welfare and the environment. National Code of Practice for Humane Shooting of kangaroos for commercial purposes (2020) – possible review in 2025. Some discussion around how this might impact, or influence, the non-commercial code. Lead-alternative ammunition – QLD macropod program undertaking a study to compare lead-alternative ammunition; Vic also looking at lead-alternative ammunition for kangaroo harvesting. Intention for this meeting to occur bi-annually with NSW, QLD, ACT, SA, WA, Tas. ACT has no commercial industry. Vic kangaroo management program seeks to independently match landholders with local commercial harvesters through an App. Update on the current review by the Commonwealth Government of their EPBC Act and development of the Nature Positive Plan. NSW Kangaroo Taskforce chaired by Geoff Wise is an independent group with Secretariat support provided by the Western LLS. The taskforce is working on a kangaroo management strategy for submission to the Western LLS. 	<p>Share some links to research on impacts of lead in the landscape;</p>	<p>Tom and Steve</p>
<p>6. 2023 Population estimates – update from Steve McLeod. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 aerial surveys were undertaken in June/July on the Western Plains and in Sept on the Central Tablelands. The estimated kangaroo population in 2023 was 9,634,900 compared to 11,882,215 in 2022. 2023 kangaroo population estimates in some zones were lower than expected given the good rainfall in some areas, noting that not all areas of New South Wales received good falls. The Griffith North zone has been the most impacted and is closed to harvesting of red kangaroos. Movement of kangaroos between zones does occur. The surveys provide a snapshot in time. Predicting the extent of kangaroo movement (between surveys) is not well understood. Evans Curtis’s PhD aims to develop a model that predicts distribution and abundance between surveys. More research into the impacts of flooding on survival and reproduction is needed to better understand those impacts better. Underestimation of detection probability can lead to overestimating abundance or density. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing at the zone scale allows for better management or more flexibility in management options. Actions that could be taken to improve survey estimates include regular refresher training of observers (to be done at Fowler's Gap in April 2024) and re-design of the survey effort. Evaluation of how new methods (drones and models) may be integrated will be done in the future. 		
7.	Break at 12:00pm (30 mins)		
8.	Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Tags proof of concept trial – Loretta Riley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TagTrac App was tested by licensees in the field in late 2023 102 harvesters signed up to be involved in the trial – 26 participated 13,720 digital tags (QR coded) were distributed to trial participants – 2,198 were scanned 36 chiller premises participated in the trial Trial conducted from September to December 2023 Trial outcomes will be reviewed and shared mid 2024 Rigorous traceability systems are important for industry 		
9.	Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMP zones – could KMP investigate the implications of consolidating the current 15 zones to a smaller number of larger zones. Discussion was had, noting that zones are based on LGA's. Having fewer, but larger zones would reduce precision of surveys and also impact management flexibility. KMP – compliance surveillance should be increased in areas where harvesting is closed, e.g. Griffith North. Clarification on how to report potential non-compliant activity. RSPCA Policy E04 Utilisation of wild animals 2010 – Recently underwent review. Clause 4.3 relating to the Killing of wild animals for commercial purposes remains un-changed at this point and states that RSPCA is opposed to the killing of wild animals for commercial utilisation unless this is carried out as part of a wild animal management program that meets the criteria specified in Policy E2. Trudy Sharpe – captive bolt project will be submitted to AgriFutures in April 2024. 	<p>KMP to follow up and clarify the issues underlying the suggestion to consolidate zones.</p> <p>KMP will advise current licensees on how to report potentially non-compliant activity</p> <p>Provide update to KMAP when AgriFutures report is available</p>	<p>Loretta</p> <p>Jackie/Sheridan</p> <p>Sheridan</p>
10.	Meeting admin None		

Items to be carried over to next meeting, and for action

Items/actions	Responsible	Status
1. No items to be carried forward		
2. Any updated forms to be emailed to Sheridan	Any member this applies to	
3. KMAP membership (Aboriginal community rep) and proxies	Sheridan/Jackie	
4. Provide update on progress of AgriFutures PhD scholarship	Sheridan	
5. Provide link to 2023 Annual Report	Sheridan	
6. Investigate options for distributing TAFE knowledge course material to harvesters after they complete the course	Jackie	
7. Distribute the links to the factsheets and CREEM report once published	Sheridan	
8. Share some links to research on lead ammunition in the landscape	Tom	
9. KMP to advise current licensees on how to report any potentially non-compliant activity	Jackie/Sheridan	
10. Provide AgriFutures report on captive bolt research when available	Sheridan	
11. Canvass date and location for next meeting – Oct/Nov 2024	Jackie	

Meeting closed at 2 pm

Next meeting

October/November 2024 – to be confirmed.

Location – to be confirmed.