2026 Quota Report

Commercial Kangaroo Harvest
South Australia

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

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Scope and Context

Legislation

All kangaroo species in South Australia are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW Act), have value in ecosystem processes, and contribute to biodiversity. The NPW Act (section 60G) allows for the sustainable harvest of the following species of kangaroo:

- Red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*)[1]
- Western grey kangaroo (*M. fuliginosus*)
- Eastern grey kangaroo (*M. giganteus*)
- Euro (*M. robustus*)[1]
- Tammar wallaby (*M. eugenii*)[1]

The wildlife trade provisions of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) regulate the export of kangaroo products from Australia. The harvest and export of these protected species requires a management plan endorsed under the NPW Act, and a Wildlife Trade Management Plan endorsed under the EPBC Act. Each Wildlife Trade Management Plan has a lifespan of up to 5 years.

On 9 December 2024 the new SA Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan 2025-2029 (Management Plan) was approved by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water under the NPW Act, and approved by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water under the EPBC Act on 17 December 2024. This plan replaces the SA Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan 2020-2024.

The new Management Plan includes an expansion of the commercial harvest area of the Hills and Fleurieu sub-region to ensure consistent management of kangaroos across the Adelaide Hills region.

Quotas detailed in the annual Quota Report are endorsed by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife and forwarded to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for information.

This Quota Report has been developed in accordance with the Management Plan and provides details on survey methods, population estimates and quotas for the five macropod species. A summary of harvest statistics for 2024 and the incomplete year of 2025 (January-October) are also included in the report.

Harvest regions used for quota setting

In accordance with the provisions of the Management Plan, annual harvest quotas are based on the results of surveys of kangaroo populations, or on modelled estimates.

Five harvest regions have been defined in the Management Plan: Western Pastoral, Eastern Pastoral, Western Agricultural, Eastern Agricultural and Southern Agricultural.

The harvest regions contain sub-regions (detailed in Table 1 and Figure 1) primarily based on the administrative boundaries of the former Soil Conservation Board districts (or an amalgamation thereof). Population estimates and commercial quotas are derived and set at the harvest sub-region level. Sub-region quotas can be re-distributed within each harvest region (but not between or among regions) in response to spatial or temporal changes in kangaroo abundance as per the Management Plan.

Table 1: Kangaroo harvest regions and sub-regions in South Australia.

Harvest Region	Harvest Sub-region
Eastern Pastoral	North Flinders
	North East Pastoral
	Eastern Districts
	Mallee
Western Pastoral	Marla-Oodnadatta,
	Marree (inside dog fence)
	Marree (outside dog fence)
	Kingoonya
	Gawler Ranges
Eastern Agricultural	South Flinders
	Yorke Mid North
Western Agricultural	Eyre East
	Eyre West
Southern Agricultural	Hills and Fleurieu
	Kangaroo Island
	Upper South East
	Lower South East

[1] This document recognises that the genus of red kangaroo and euro has been changed from Macropus to Osphranter and the genus of the Tammar wallaby has changed from Macropus to Notamacropus, however, for consistency with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, the genus Macropus has been retained.

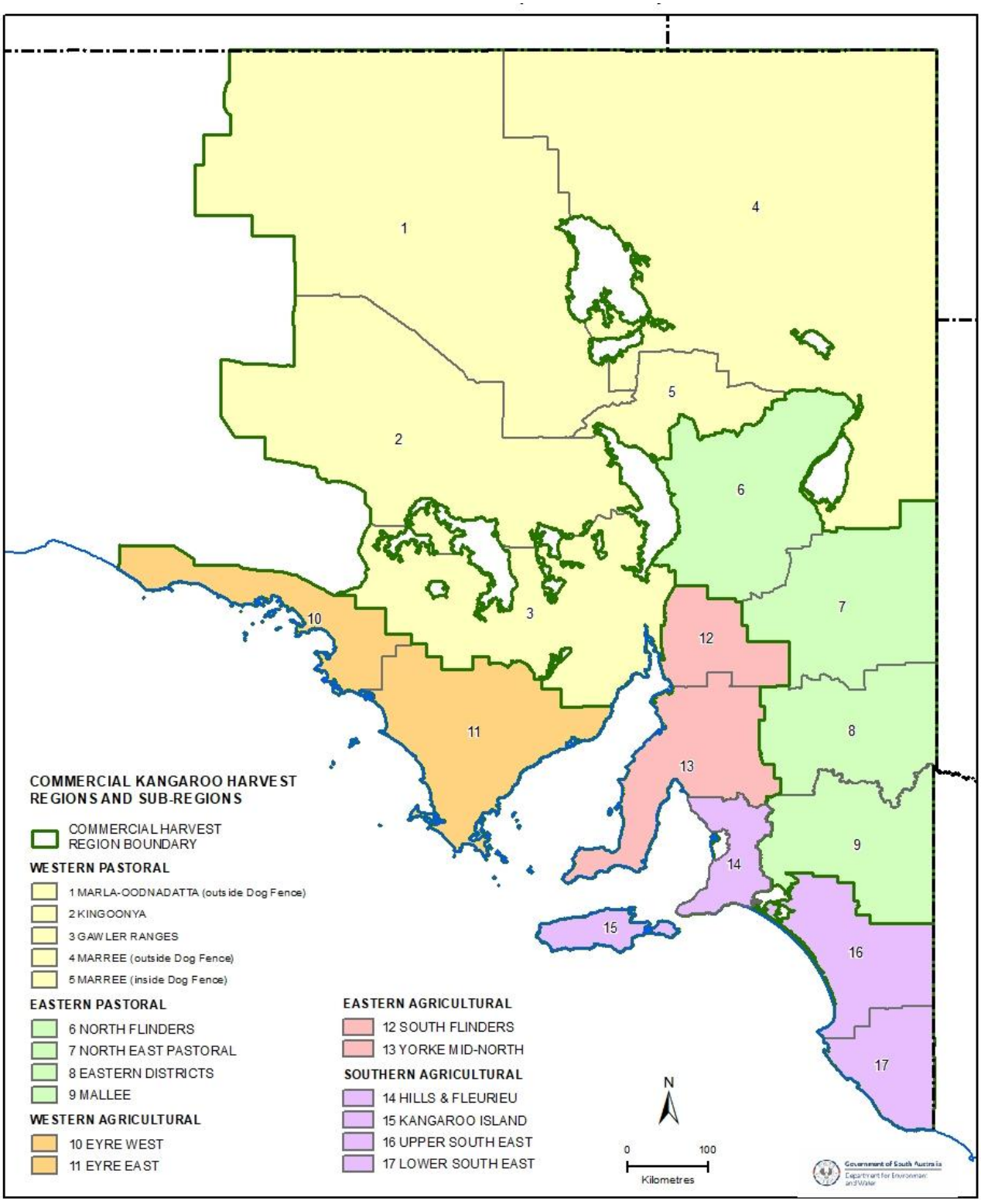

Figure 1: Map of harvest regions and sub-regions of South Australia

Kangaroo monitoring methods

Aerial (fixed-wing and helicopter) and ground surveys (walking and driving) were used to survey kangaroo populations across South Australia between May and September 2025.

Aerial surveys

Fixed-wing aircraft

Aerial surveys for western grey and red kangaroos have been conducted annually since 1978 using standard transect lines. Surveys were conducted using standard 200 m fixed-strip width transect methodology with a fixed-wing aircraft (see Grigg et al. 1999 for further detail). Two observers (one on each side of the aircraft) counted kangaroos as the aircraft maintained a speed of 185 km/hour (100 knots) and altitude of 76 m (250 feet) above the ground. Raw counts were converted to density estimates for each harvest sub-region by applying species-specific habitat correction factors.

Helicopter

During 7 and 9 September 2025 a low-level helicopter survey was conducted in the Hills and Fleurieu sub-region using a combination of thermal cameras and observers. The helicopter flew at ~93 km/hour (50 knots) and maintained an average altitude of ~61 m (200 feet) above ground level. The helicopter survey was a repeat of the survey conducted in 2023 and used the same 12 blocks. Surveys were conducted in the morning and afternoon within the first and last 3 hours of light when kangaroos are most active. The two thermal cameras were placed on each side of the helicopter and captured data at the same time as observers counted kangaroos. Three observers were used to capture data, two on one side of the helicopter and one on the other side. Both methods, observers and thermal cameras, used line transect distance sampling method. Observers used mark-recapture distance sampling and thermal cameras used multi-covariate distance sampling. For further information on survey and data analyses refer to Lethbridge (2025a) and Lethbridge (2025b).

Ground survey

Ground surveys are typically employed in sub-regions where aerial surveys are considered unsafe, or dense vegetation prohibits observers from effectively counting kangaroos. Ground surveys have also been used to develop a correction factor from aerial to ground surveys. Two types of ground surveys were used: driving and walking surveys. Both survey methods used the line transect 'Distance' sampling method (Buckland et al. 2001, Miller 2016). The ground surveys were designed to obtain sufficient data for line transect analyses to typically return results with a coefficient of variance less than 25%. The coefficient of variation represents the dispersion of data around the mean estimate and is explained in more detail under the proportional harvest strategy section in this report.

Walking surveys are generally used to count euros. The technique aims to assess euro densities in targeted areas of suitable habitat, such as areas of rocky hilly terrain, within the species' distribution. Typically, a small sample area is surveyed in each harvest sub-region. These localised densities are used to develop regional densities for euros, by multiplying obtained survey densities by the amount of suitable euro habitat in each region.

Driving surveys for grey kangaroos (eastern and western) were conducted on public roads in the Hills and Fleurieu sub-region to allow for comparison to the helicopter surveys. All survey blocks were surveyed 3 times in either the early morning or the late afternoon. Driving surveys also provide the opportunity to identify grey kangaroos to species (western and eastern), which cannot be done from the air. In the Hills and Fleurieu a majority of kangaroos are western grey, but surveys occasionally detect eastern greys. The 2025 driving surveys only found western greys and so it is assumed that all grey kangaroos observed by the aerial survey are western greys. Data from the driving surveys are still being analysed and, for this report, only thermal camera and aerial observer data are discussed.

Landscape metric models

In areas where kangaroos are relatively consistent across the sub-region, such as in the arid zone, the average survey density has traditionally been multiplied across the sub-region. However, in fragmented landscapes where kangaroo distribution is strongly influenced by landscape structure a different approach is needed.

The thermal camera data collected during the helicopter surveys of the Lower South East in 2022 and the Hills and Fleurieu in 2023 and 2025, provided an opportunity to explore the influence of landscape structure on kangaroo distribution. Thermal cameras capture the exact location of the kangaroo, thereby allowing the relationship between kangaroo distribution and landscape structure to be investigated. Analysis of the thermal camera data showed kangaroos were more likely to be seen on the edge of vegetation patches

(native vegetation, pine plantations or blue gum plantations) that were adjacent to open pasture. The size and shape of the vegetation patch also influenced the likelihood of seeing a kangaroo. Based on these results, a landscape metric model for each sub-region (Lower South East and Hills and Fleurieu) has been developed and used to extrapolate the thermal data by determining the probability of finding a kangaroo across the landscape.

Hills and Fleurieu sub-region

The landscape metric model originally developed during 2023 was re-analysed using thermal camera data from both 2023 and 2025. The landscape metric model was applied over the same area of the sub-region as during 2023, despite the Hills and Fleurieu sub-region being expanded last year to incorporate the entire Adelaide Hills region. This takes a conservative approach and allows for further model development in the future to incorporate the newly expanded areas, noting however, that the model is attached to the presence of vegetation.

Relationships between the probability of seeing a kangaroo (from the landscape metric model) and the density of kangaroos seen by both observers and thermal cameras were developed. Using a well-accepted statistical model selection process, called an AIC score, the model that best described each relationship was chosen based on the best fit of the data. The relationship between the landscape metric model predictions and the observed data (either collected by observers or thermal cameras) allows the observed data to be extrapolated using the landscape metric model. In both instances, the density estimates from the observed data increased after extrapolation with the landscape metric model, these results are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Average density estimates for grey kangaroos from the 2025 helicopter survey calculated from thermal camera data and observer data. Results include average (avg.) density calculated from distance sampling and average density extrapolated using the landscape metric model (LMM)

Data type	Avg. density (km^2)	Density (km^2) LMM correction
Thermal cameras	31.339	35.111
Observers	15.953	19.866

The density estimates produced from data collected during 2025 show a slight increase in grey kangaroo abundance in the Hills and Fleurieu sub-region compared to the first helicopter survey conducted during 2023. The 2023 survey produced a thermal camera density of 9.96/km^2 and observer density of 14.96/km^2 (before extrapolation using landscape metric models). Further investigation into the 2023 data revealed that there were issues associated with the thermal camera data. In some of the afternoon flights, the ground temperature was too warm which caused white outs of the thermal camera and reduced kangaroo detection. This issue explains the higher density recorded by the observers compared to the thermal cameras. This issue was corrected during the 2025 survey, as surveys were conducted earlier in the year when the ground temperature was cooler. Based on observer data only (and before extrapolation using landscape metric models), there has been an increase in kangaroo numbers in the Hills and Fleurieu sub-region of 7% over two years.

Kangaroo population models

Annual population estimates have been generated from targeted kangaroo survey data for South Australia since the late 1970s using a traditional arithmetic approach. These provide long-term consistent population estimates but cannot be generated for areas that are not surveyed in a particular year, nor can they provide insights into future population trajectories under different management or climate scenarios. To address these limitations and complement the traditional estimates, modern population modelling approaches have also been applied to quota setting.

A sophisticated state-space population model for red kangaroos and western grey kangaroos was developed in collaboration with Dr Tom Prowse of the University of Adelaide (Prowse, 2021). However, where there is limited or sparse data through time, the estimates from this model have been found to have much lower reliability. Given these known limitations, the modelled estimates have only been used in sub-regions that have sufficient long-term data. Given this, in subregions that were:

- Surveyed this year, the traditional arithmetic approach has been used for both red and western grey kangaroos.
- Not surveyed this year but which have sufficient data, the model estimates have been applied.
- Not surveyed this year and that have limited or sparse data (resulting in model reliability issues), estimates have been taken from the 2025 Quota Report (Appendix 1).

Quota setting procedures

Proportional harvest strategy

Sustainable Use and Special Land Management Quotas outlined in this report represent a constant proportional harvest strategy for kangaroos in South Australia. Quotas are set at a maximum of 20% of the estimated population size of red kangaroos, 15% of western grey kangaroos, eastern grey kangaroos and euros, and 10% of Tammar wallabies.

Conservative quota percentages have been applied to sub-regions that are not surveyed on an annual basis and where a population model does not exist. Conservative quotas are also applied where the coefficient of variation (CV) associated with the density estimate is greater than 25%. For data with CVs greater than 25%, quotas are reduced by 3% of the standard proportion of the population estimate (e.g. for euros, quotas are reduced from 15% to 12% of the population estimate) in accordance with the Management Plan.

Some of the variation in the data can be explained by the patchy nature of kangaroos in the landscape, however high levels of variation suggest that there is more uncertainty in the mean estimate. For aerial survey data, the CV is calculated as the standard error (~ standard deviation (SD) on a set of independent estimates) of the density estimates across all transects for each harvest sub-region using the ratio estimate (Sinclair et al. 2006). The standard error is then divided by the mean density of kangaroos for the harvest sub-region to give the CV, which is expressed as a percentage. For ground survey data the CV is calculated as the SD divided by the mean.

Quotas for 2026 are set at both the harvest region and sub-regional levels to enable more accurate management of quota throughout the year. Quotas are rounded down to the nearest hundred animals.

Low population thresholds

In accordance with the Management Plan, low population thresholds are set to reduce or stop commercial harvest in a sub-region when the population estimate falls below a particular level. The thresholds are based on the long-term average population estimate calculated for each harvest sub-region where sufficient data is available. If survey estimates or model estimates indicate a population has fallen below 1.5 SD of the long-term mean (threshold 1), the harvest quota will be reduced to 10% of the population estimate. If survey estimates or model estimates indicate that the population has fallen below 2 SD of the long-term mean (threshold 2), the harvest quota will be suspended. These restrictions will remain in place until the population estimate increases above the threshold.

High Abundance Quota

High Abundance Quota (HAQ) is intended to help reduce the number of kangaroos in the landscape during times of high abundance. The HAQ is an additional quota to the Sustainable Use Quota and can be issued at the discretion of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (refer to Aim 4 of the Management Plan for more information).

No HAQ has been issued for 2026.

Special Land Management Quota

Special Land Management Quota (SLMQ) for 2026 has been set at 1.5% of the total estimated population for each species. SLMQ may be released in sub-regions where the Sustainable Use Quota has been fully allocated, and land managers are experiencing ongoing kangaroo related land management impacts.

SLMQ allows the Department to respond to the needs of land managers in a timely manner, while encouraging the commercial take of kangaroos if possible. This quota component is only for the harvest of kangaroos that would otherwise be culled under non-commercial Permits to Destroy Wildlife and is designed to minimise the number of kangaroos destroyed under these permits. Permits to Destroy Wildlife are not considered as part of the quota, but numbers of kangaroos permitted for destruction on permits are reported in the annual Harvest Report.

Survey frequency

In accordance with the Management Plan, survey frequency is undertaken using a risk-based approach to prioritise harvest sub-regions for survey each year. Sub-regions where harvest is high will be prioritised for surveys. The risk assessment is conducted for each species in each sub-region each year and takes into consideration events of the previous 12 months.

2025 Surveys

Sub-regions surveyed 2025

Based on a risk assessment analysis that included harvest rate, previous population density, timing of last survey, natural disasters that had occurred since last survey (e.g. bushfires) and availability of model estimates, 11 sub-regions were surveyed during 2025.

Sub-regions surveyed included Hills and Fleurieu, North East Pastoral, South Flinders, Eastern Districts, Yorke Mid-North, Mallee, North Flinders, Gawler Ranges, Kingoonya, Marla-Oodnadatta and Marree (inside dog fence) (IDF).

In sub-regions that were not surveyed this year and where long-term data exists, the kangaroo population model (either red kangaroo or western grey kangaroo model) was used to predict the population density.

Euros have a consistently low harvest across all sub-regions where they are present. During 2025, euros were surveyed in the South Flinders and Marree (IDF) sub-regions. In sub-regions that were not surveyed during 2025, population estimates derived from surveys undertaken in 2022, 2023 and 2024 have been used to set quota for 2025. For surveys conducted between 2022 and 2024 the quota percentage has been reduced to 10% of the population estimate.

Low harvest threshold

Sub-regions where harvest rates have fallen below the low harvest threshold are provided in Table 3. These thresholds only apply to three species of kangaroo with long-term data sets and are based on the harvest rates of the previous three years (2022-2024). Harvest for Marree (outside dog fence) (ODF) for red kangaroos and North Flinders for euros are artificially low as commercial harvest was suspended at least once in the previous three years for these sub-regions.

No further surveys will be conducted in sub-regions listed in Table 3 until harvest rates exceed the threshold for at least one species, or as determined by the risk assessment.

Table 3: Sub-regions where harvest rates have fallen below the low harvest threshold for each species, calculated as 1.5% of the average population estimate for each species in each sub-region.
** Harvest was suspended for sub-region during 2022-2024.*
*** Harvest was suspended during 2021 and 2022.*

Species	Sub-region
Red kangaroo	Marla – Oodnadatta
	Marree (outside dog fence)*
	Marree (inside dog fence)
Western grey kangaroo	Kingoonya
	North East Pastoral
	Eyre East
	Eyre West
Euro	Marree (inside dog fence)
	North Flinders**
	Eastern Districts
	North East Pastoral

Population estimates

Red kangaroo

The estimated size of the red kangaroo population across the harvest area is 2,054,169. This is a decrease of 31% from the previous year total of 2,975,551 and 24% higher than the 20-year rolling average of 1,658,475 (2005-2024 data).

Population estimates reported in the 2025 Quota Report have been used again this year to set 2026 quotas for Marree IDF and Marree ODF.

Population estimates calculated directly from this year's surveys have been used for Marla-Oodnadatta, Kingoonya, Gawler Ranges, North East Pastoral, Eastern Districts, Mallee, South Flinders and Yorke Mid North. Population model estimates generated this year have been used for the North Flinders sub-region.

Population estimates for Kingoonya, North Flinders, North East Pastoral, Eastern Districts and Mallee were above their respective 20 year rolling averages (2005-2024). Whereas Marla-Oodnadatta, Marree IDF, Marree ODF, South Flinders and Yorke Mid North were below their respective 20-year rolling averages (2005-2024). The population estimate for Gawler Ranges of 2.61/km^2 was equal to the 20-year average for the subregion of 2.60/km^2.

The population estimate was carried over again for Marree ODF and therefore harvest will remain suspended in this sub-region for 2026 (Figure 2).

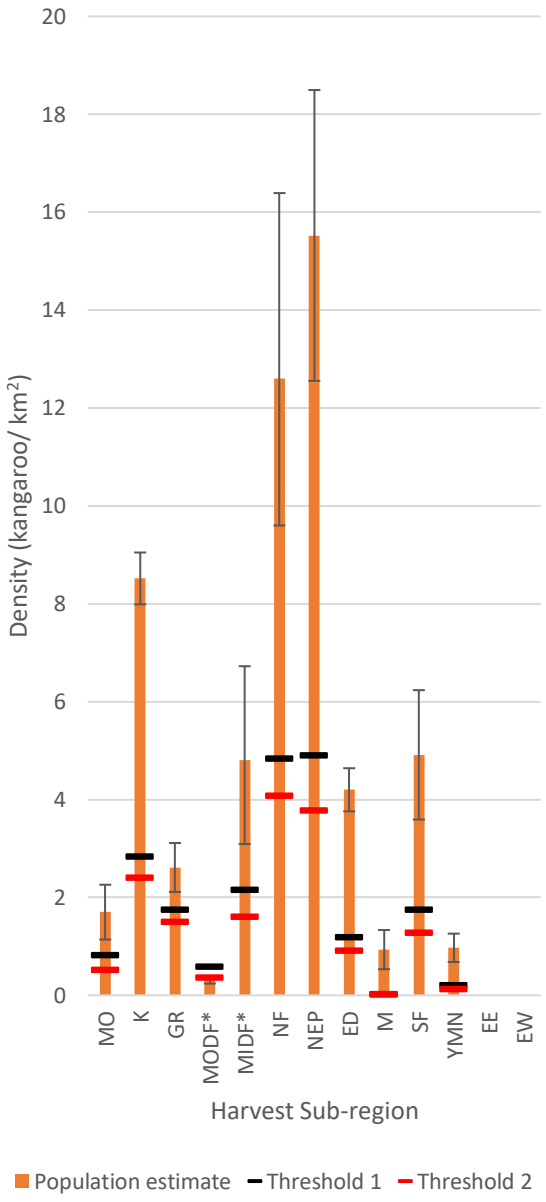

*Figure 2: Red kangaroo population density estimates in each sub-region (excluding the Southern Agricultural harvest region) compared to low population threshold 1 (black) and 2 (red). Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Estimates for MO, K, GR, NEP, ED, M, SF and YMN are derived from aerial survey data collected 2025. Estimate for NF are model fitted estimates for 2025. *MIDF and MODF are 2022 model fitted estimates. MO = Marla-Oodnadatta, K = Kingoonya, GR = Gawler Ranges, MODF = Marree (outside dog fence), MIDF = Marree (inside dog fence), NF = North Flinders, NEP = North East Pastoral, ED = Eastern Districts, M = Mallee, SF = South Flinders, YMN = Yorke Mid-North, EE = Eyre East, EW = Eyre West.*

Mainland western grey kangaroo

The estimated size of the western grey kangaroo population across the harvest area (excluding Southern Agricultural harvest region) is 806,396. This is a 14% decrease from the 2024 population estimate of 938,598 and 13% below the 20-year rolling average of 931,287 (2005-2024 data).

All density estimates for 2025 were below their respective 20-year rolling average (2005-2024) except for the Mallee sub-region, which was above the 20-year average.

The western grey kangaroo density estimate for Eastern Districts fell below the first low population threshold, based on the direct survey estimate, and therefore a reduced quota has been issued for 2026 (Figure 3).

The population in the Southern Agricultural harvest region is estimated at 360,848 and is a 16% increase from last year's estimate of 311,144. However, only one sub-region was surveyed during 2025, Hills and Fleurieu.

Density estimates for western grey kangaroos in Upper South East and Lower South East sub-regions have been carried over from 2023 surveys.

The Hills and Fleurieu sub-region was surveyed this year for western grey kangaroos using a low level helicopter, thermal cameras and observers. A comparison of observer data collected from 2023 (14.96/km^2) and 2025 (15.95/km^2) indicate that there has been an increase in kangaroo numbers in the Hills and Fleurieu sub-region of 7% over two years. Refer to Kangaroo Monitoring Methods above for further information.

A conservative approach has been taken in setting quotas for 2026 in the Hills and Fleurieu sub-region and the lower observer density estimate corrected for the landscape metric model (19.9/km^2) has been used for quota setting.

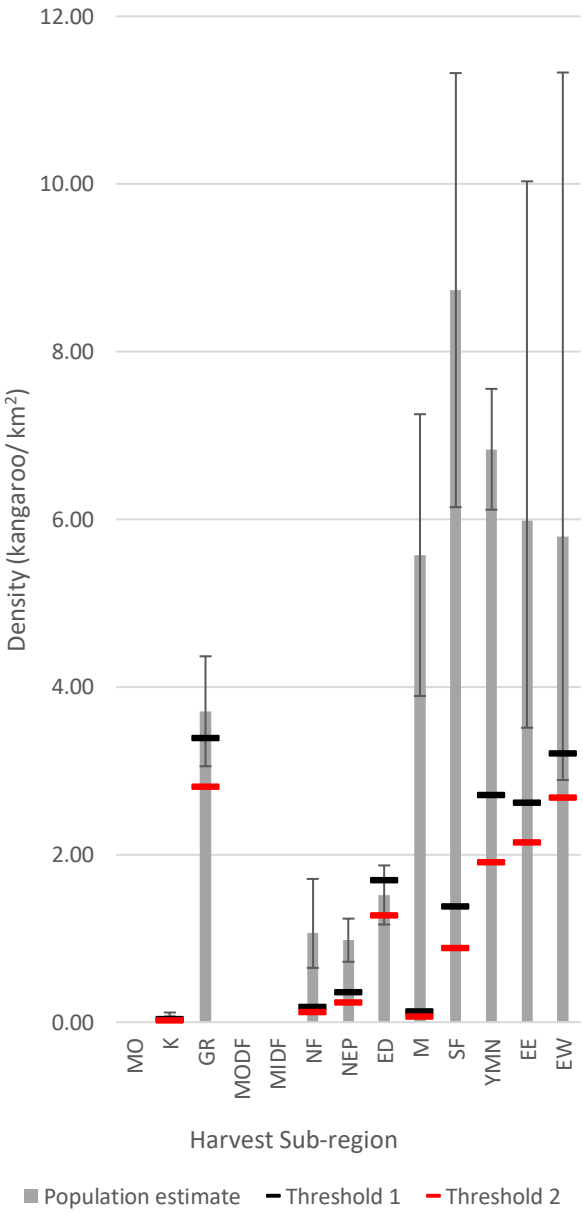

Figure 3: Western grey kangaroo population density estimates in each sub-region (excluding the Southern Agricultural harvest region) compared to low population threshold 1 (black) and 2 (red). Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Estimates for K, GR, NEP, ED, M, SF and YMN *are derived from 2025 survey data. All other estimates are predicted model results generated during 2025. MO = Marla-Oodnadatta, K = Kingoonya, GR = Gawler Ranges, MODF = Marree (outside dog fence), MIDF = Marree (inside dog fence), NF = North Flinders, NEP = North East Pastoral, ED = Eastern Districts, M = Mallee, SF = South Flinders, YMN = Yorke Mid-North, EE = Eyre East, EW= Eyre West.*

Euro

During 2025, two sub-regions were surveyed for euros – Marree IDF and South Flinders. Other population estimates used to set 2026 quotas have come from data collected between 2022 and 2025. Density estimates obtained from the walking surveys conducted were 8.8/km^2 and 16.9/km^2 for Marree IDF and South Flinders, respectively.

Marree IDF was last surveyed during 2018 due to the low harvest rate in this sub-region. The 2025 estimate is a 67% decrease from the 2018 estimate of 26.5/km^2. South Flinders was last surveyed during 2023. The population estimate in 2025 for South Flinders is a 33% decrease compared to the 2023 estimate of 25.3/km^2. The 2025 estimates for both Marree IDF and South Flinders are below their respective 20-year rolling averages (2005-2024) of 15.1/km^2 and 19.9/km^2.

Although the population estimates are lower than previous surveys, both estimates are above the Low Population Thresholds for euros.

The estimated size of the euro population across the commercial harvest area is 401,596, a decrease of 13% from the 2024 estimate of 460,774 and 17% below the 20-year rolling average of 484,379 (2005-2024 data).

Kangaroo Island western grey kangaroo

Kangaroo Island was not surveyed during 2025 due to the low harvest rate over the last 3 years and the population estimate from 2021 has been used again to set the 2026 quota for western grey kangaroos on the island. The population density estimated in 2021 was 9.5/km^2 or 41,781 western grey kangaroos. The quota has been held at 10% of the 2021 population estimate.

Tammar wallaby

Tammar wallabies were not surveyed during 2025 due to the low harvest rate over the last 3 years. The population density estimate from surveys conducted during 2022 was 89.8/km^2 or 384,671 wallabies. This population estimate and corresponding quota, set at a conservative 5%, has been used again to set quota for 2026.

Eastern grey kangaroo

The population estimate from 2023 in the 2024 Quota Report has been used to set quota for eastern grey kangaroos in the Lower South East for 2026, as no survey was conducted during 2025.

During 2023 the driving survey data corrected for both landscape metric model and thermal camera data produced a density of 10.6/km^2 eastern grey kangaroos. This estimate has been used again, and quota has been reduced to 10% of the population estimate.

Harvest statistics

Harvest 2024

During 2024, the commercial kangaroo harvest in South Australia was 106,503 (Meat Processor data from 2024 Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Report for South Australia). This figure represents 17% of the approved quota of 635,400 (Table 4). The total commercial harvest based on kangaroo field processor returns was 105,845. A discrepancy between meat processor and field processor carcasses of 0.11% of the total quota was noted. There was no Special Land Management Quota issued for 2024.

Table 4: Harvest summary calculated for 2024 from meat processor returns.

Species	Quota	Harvest	% Quota Harvested
Red kangaroo	373,400	64,087	17 %
Western grey kangaroo	152,500	29,879	20 %
Euro	64,600	5,046	8 %
Eastern grey kangaroo	20,000	7,491	37 %
Tammar wallaby	24,900	0	0 %
Total	**635,400**	**106,503**	**17 %**

Data from field processor returns shows the largest harvest of red kangaroos occurred in the Eastern Pastoral harvest region, with 29,194 kangaroos harvested, however, the harvest region with the highest percentage of available quota harvested was Eastern Agricultural (47%,Table 5). Western grey kangaroos had the highest harvest in the Eastern Agricultural harvest region of 10,069, but the harvest region with the largest percentage of harvest was Eastern Pastoral with 36% of the available quota harvested (Table 5). Euros had the highest harvest in both total take and percentage of quota taken in the Eastern Agricultural harvest region (2,529 kangaroos, 22% of quota, Table 5). Eastern grey kangaroos were available for harvest in one harvest sub-region (Lower South East) within the Southern Agricultural harvest region and had the highest proportion of quota harvested of any species, 41% of quota harvested equating to 7,516 kangaroos (Table 5).

Table 5: Harvest statistics for 2024 from field processor returns.

Harvest Region	Red kangaroo			Western grey kangaroo			Euro			Eastern grey Kangaroo			Tammar wallaby		
	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %
Western Pastoral	190,200	23,979	13 %	18,600	4,455	24%	24,100	1,108	5 %						
Eastern Pastoral	130,900	29,194	22 %	15,300	5,518	36%	22,500	1,510	7 %						
Western Agricultural				19,800	338	2%									
Eastern Agricultural	22,100	10,491	47 %	40,100	10,069	25 %	11,600	2,529	22 %						
Southern Agricultural				44,400	9,138	21 %				18,200	7,516	41 %	19,200	0	0 %
Total	**343,200**	**63,664**	**19 %**	**138,200**	**29,518**	**21 %**	**58,200**	**5,147**	**9 %**	**18,200**	**7,516**	**41 %**	**19,200**	**0**	**0 %**

Harvest January to October 2025

A total of 100,102 kangaroos (not including Special Land Management Quota (SLMQ) were harvested by field processors during the first 10 months of 2025 (1 January – 31 October 2025; Table 6). This represents 12 % of the combined sustainable use harvest quota for the year. Based on current harvest rates, the projected harvest for 2025 for all species is 119,892, which equates to 15% of the sustainable use quota.

The harvest projection for 2025 of 119,892 kangaroos (Table 6) is higher than last year's harvest of 105,845 (calculated from field processor returns, excluding Special Land Management Quota).

A harvest summary for each species in each harvest region for the 2025 year-to-date (1 January – 31 October) is shown in Table 7.

Table 6: Harvest statistics for 2025 from field processor returns. Excludes Special Land Management Quota (SLMQ) and harvest under SLMQ.

Species	Quota	Actual (1 Jan - 31 October)		Projected (1 Jan – 31 Dec)	
		Harvest	Harvest as % of Quota	Harvest	Harvest as % of Quota
Red kangaroo	563,900	57,463	10 %	68,956	12 %
Western grey kangaroo	164,200	28,079	17 %	33,695	21 %
Euro	46,400	4,284	9 %	5,141	11 %
Eastern grey kangaroo	12,100	10,276	85 %	12,100	100 %
Tammar wallaby	19,200	0	0 %	0	0 %
Total	**805,800**	**100,102**	**12 %**	**119,892**	**15 %**

Table 7: Harvest region harvest summary calculated from field processor returns for 1 January to 31 October 2025 Excludes Special Land Management Quota (SLMQ) and harvest under SLMQ.

Harvest Region	Red kangaroo			Western grey kangaroo			Euro			Eastern grey kangaroo			Tammar wallaby		
	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %	Quota	Harvest	Harvest %
Western Pastoral	234,800	25,143	11 %	33,500	2,681	9 %	18,000	670	4 %						
Eastern Pastoral	**296,900**	23,999	8%	33,400	5,572	17 %	20,300	1,599	8%						
Western Agricultural				30,400	655	2 %									
Eastern Agricultural	32,200	8,321	26 %	35,900	8,224	23 %	8,100	2,015	25 %						
Southern Agricultural				31,000	10,947	35 %				12,100	10,276	85 %	19,200	0	0 %
Total	**563,900**	**57,463**	**10 %**	**164,200**	**28,079**	**17 %**	**46,400**	**4,284**	**9 %**	**12,100**	**10,276**	**85 %**	**19,200**	**0**	**0%**

2026 Quotas

Commercial kangaroo harvesting quotas for the 2026 quota year for South Australia are shown in Table 8. The 2026 harvest region quotas for each species are shown in Tables 9-13. Historically, the highest annual quotas have been 563,900 for red kangaroos (2025), 280,000 for western grey kangaroos (1997), and 103,000 for euros (1997).

Table 8: Commercial kangaroo harvesting quotas for 2026 and comparison with the 2025 quotas. Quotas do not include Special Land Management Quota.

Species	2025	2026	% Change 2025-2026
Red kangaroo	563,900	373,700	-34%
Western grey kangaroo	164,200	152,500	-7%
Euro	46,400	42,900	-8%
Eastern grey kangaroo	12,100	12,100	0%
Tammar wallaby	19,200	19,200	0%
Total Quota	**805,800**	**600,400**	**-26%**

Regional harvest quotas for 2026

Table 9: Red kangaroo population estimates in 2025 and harvest quotas for 2026. Population densities and estimates are produced from the red kangaroo population model except where stated otherwise. Not Applicable (NA) denotes sub-regions where the species is not present, based on its distribution, therefore no surveys are conducted, and no quota has been set in these sub-regions.

Harvest region	Area (km^2)	Pop density/ km^2	Pop estimate	Harvest %	Quota
Western Pastoral					**167,100**
Marla – Oodnadatta[1,2,6]	129,832	1.7	99,321	17	16,800
Kingoonya[2]	72,470	8.5	615,995	20	123,100
Gawler Ranges[2,6]	45,808	2.6	119,101	17	20,200
Marree (inside dog fence)[5]	14,680	4.8	70,254	10	7,000
Marree (outside dog fence)[1,4]	177,517	0.3**	26,628	0	0
Eastern Pastoral					**194,000**
North Flinders[3]	34,622	12.6	435,661	20	87,100
North East Pastoral[2,6]	31,448	15.5	487,444	17	82,800
Eastern Districts[2]	24,018	4.2	100,876	20	20,100
Mallee[2,6]	23,994	1.0	23,994	17	4,000
Eastern Agricultural					**12,600**
South Flinders[, 2,6]	11,884	4.9	58,232	17	9,800
Yorke Mid North[1,2,6]	22,217	1.0	16,663	17	2,800
Western Agricultural					**0**
Eyre West	16,533	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eyre East	31,294	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	**636,317**		**2,054,169**		**373,700**
Special Land Management Quota[7]					**30,800**
Total quota available for 2026					**404,500**

[1] Population estimates scaled to 45% area suitability for Marla-Oodnadatta, 50% area suitability for Marree (outside dog fence) and 75% area suitability for Yorke Mid North.

[2] Direct survey estimate is used from 2025 aerial surveys to develop population estimate.

[3] Modelled population estimate is used from 2025

[4] Population estimate carried over from 2022 Quota Report

[5] Population estimate carried over from 2023 Quota Report

[6] Coefficient of variation is greater than 25%, therefore quota has been reduced by 3% as per the Management Plan.

[7] Special Land Management Quota has been set at 1.5% of the total population estimate for the commercial harvest area.

****** Red kangaroo populations in Marree (outside dog fence) sub-regions have reached the second low population threshold and quota has been suspended.

Table 10: Western grey kangaroo population estimates in 2025 and harvest quotas for 2026. Population densities and estimates are produced from the western grey kangaroo population model, except where stated otherwise. Not Applicable (NA) denotes sub-regions where the species is not present, based on its distribution, therefore no surveys are conducted, and no quota has been set in these sub-regions.

Harvest region	Area (km^2)	Pop. density/km	Pop. estimate	Harvest %	Quota
Western Pastoral					**26,200**
Marla – Oodnadatta	129,832	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kingoonya[2,8]	72,470	0.1	7,247	12	800
Gawler Ranges[2]	45,808	3.7	169,490	15	25,400
Marree (inside dog fence)	14,680	NA	NA	NA	NA
Marree (outside dog fence)	177,517	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eastern Pastoral					**28,900**
North Flinders[3]	34,622	1.1	36,747	15	5,500
North East Pastoral[2,8]	31,448	1.0	31,448	12	3,700
Eastern Districts[2]	24,018	1.5*	36,027	10	3,600
Mallee[2,8]	23,994	5.6	134,366	12	16,100
Eastern Agricultural					**27,100**
South Flinders[2,8]	11,884	8.7	103,391	12	12,400
Yorke Mid North[2]	22,217	6.8	98,199	15	14,700
Western Agricultural					**28,300**
Eyre West[3]	16,533	5.8	95,839	15	14,300
Eyre East[1,3]	31,294	6.0	93,642	15	14,000
Southern Agricultural					**42,000**
Hills and Fleurieu[4]	7,825	19.9	123,329	15	18,400
Lower South East[5]	11,508	7.5	86,310	10	8,600
Upper South East[6]	18,238	6.0	109,428	10	10,900
Kangaroo Island[7]	4,398	9.5	41,781	10	4,100
Total	**678,286**		**1,167,244**		**152,500**
Special Land Management Quota[9]					**17,500**
Total quota available for 2026					**170,000**

[1] Population estimate scaled to 50% area suitability for Eyre East, and 65% area suitability for Yorke Mid North.

[2] Direct survey estimate is used from 2025 aerial surveys to develop population estimate.

[3] Modelled population estimate from 2025.

[4] Population estimate derived from observer data from 2025 helicopter survey corrected for landscape metric model. Density of 19.866/ km^2 is calculated over area of landscape metric model (6,208 km^2) originally developed during 2023.

[5] Driving survey conducted during 2023 and corrected for both thermal data and landscape metric model by applying the scaling factor, quota reduced to 10% of population estimate.

[6] Population estimate carried over from 2024 Quota Report and reduced to 10% of the population estimate.

[7] Quota has been reduced to 10% of the population estimate as population estimate from 2021 has been used.

[8] Coefficient of variation is greater than 25%, therefore quota has been reduced by 3% as per the Management Plan.

[9] Special Land Management Quota has been set at 1.5% of the total population estimate for the commercial harvest area*Western grey kangaroo population density estimate has fallen below the first low population threshold and therefore quota has been reduced to 10% as per the Management Plan..

Table 11: Euro population estimates in 2025 and harvest quotas for 2026. Not Applicable (NA) denotes sub-regions where the species is not present, based on its distribution, therefore no surveys are conducted, and no quota has been set in these sub-regions.

Harvest region	Area (km^2)	% Area suitable	Pop density /km^2	Pop estimate	Harvest %	Quota
Western Pastoral						**14,500**
Marla – Oodnadatta	129,832	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kingoonya	72,470	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Gawler Ranges[2]	45,808	25	10.7	122,536	10	12,200
Marree (inside dog fence)[4,5]	14,680	15	8.8	19,378	12	2,300
Marree (outside dog fence)	177,517	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eastern Pastoral						**20,300**
North Flinders[2]	34,622	25	13.5	116,849	10	11,600
North East Pastoral[1]	31,448	15	8.9	41,983	10	4,100
Eastern Districts[3,5]	24,018	15	10.8	38,909	12	4,600
Mallee	23,994	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eastern Agricultural						**8,100**
South Flinders[4]	11,884	20	16.9	40,168	15	6,000
Yorke Mid North[2]	22,217	20	4.9	21,773	10	2,100
Western Agricultural						**0**
Eyre West	16,533	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eyre East	31,294	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	**636,317**			**401,596**		**42,900**
Special Land Management Quota[6]						**6,000**
Total quota available for 2026						**48,900**

[1]Sub-region surveyed during 2022, quota reduced to 10% of population estimate.

[2]Sub-region surveyed during 2023, quota reduced to 10% of population estimate.

[3]Sub-region surveyed during 2024.

[4]Sub-region surveyed during 2025

[5] Coefficient of variation is greater than 25%, therefore quota has been reduced by 3% as per the Management Plan.

[6]Special Land Management Quota has been set at 1.5% of the total population estimate for the commercial harvest area.

Table 12: Eastern grey kangaroo population estimates in 2023 and harvest quotas for 2026. Not Applicable (NA) denotes sub-regions where the species is not present, based on its distribution, therefore no surveys are conducted, and no quota is set in these areas.

Harvest region	Area (km^2)	Pop density/ km^2	Pop estimate	Harvest %	Quota
Southern Agricultural					
Hills and Fleurieu	7,825	NA	NA	NA	NA
Upper South East	18,238	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lower South East[1]	11,508	10.6	121,539	10	12,100
Kangaroo Island	4,398	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	**41,969**		**121,539**		**12,100**
Special Land Management Quota[2]					**1,800**
Total quota available for 2026					**13,900**

[1] Driving survey conducted during 2023 and corrected for both thermal data and landscape metric model by applying the scaling factor, quota reduced to 10% of population estimate.

[2] Special Land Management Quota has been set at 1.5% of the total population estimate for the commercial harvest area.

Table 13: Tammar wallaby population estimates in 2022 and harvest quotas for 2026. Not Applicable (NA) denotes sub-regions where the species is not present based on its distribution and therefore no surveys are conducted, and no quota is set in these areas.

Harvest region	Area (km^2)	Pop density/ km^2	Pop estimate	Harvest %	Quota
Southern Agricultural					
Hills and Fleurieu	7,825	NA	NA	NA	NA
Upper South East	18,238	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lower South East	11,508	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kangaroo Island[1]	4,398	89.5	384,671	5	19,200
Total	**41,969**		**384,671**		**19,200**
Special Land Management Quota[2]					**5,700**
Total quota available for 2026					**24,900**

[1] Nighttime drone survey with thermal cameras was conducted during Dec 2020, Feb 2021 and Feb 2022 across 10 survey sites on the island. Quota has been reduced to 5% of the population estimate as a conservative approach given this is a new method. Density has been extrapolated across the 4298 km^2 of the island, 100km^2 removed to account for towns and lakes.

[2] Special Land Management Quota has been set at 1.5% of the total population estimate for the commercial harvest area.

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Appendix 1

Table A1: Results of model and survey density estimates for Red Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos as they relate to management actions, full quota issued, reduced quota issued (population below first low population threshold) or harvest suspended (population below second low population threshold). In sub-regions where the model and survey estimate produced different management actions, the more conservative management action was used. Results used in this quota report are highlighted in bold.

		Red kangaroo		Western Grey Kangaroo	
Harvest region	**Last Survey**	**2025 Survey Result**	**Model Result**	**2025 Survey Result**	**Model Result**
Western Pastoral					
Marla – Oodnadatta	2025	**Full quota**	Full quota	-	-
Kingoonya	2025	**Full quota**	Full quota	**Full quota**	Full quota
Gawler Ranges	2025	**Full quota**	Full quota	**Full quota**	Full quota
Marree (inside dog fence)*	2021	NA	Full quota	-	-
Marree (outside dog fence)*	2021	NA	Full quota	-	-
Eastern Pastoral					
North Flinders*	2024	NA	**Full quota**	NA	**Full quota**
North East Pastoral	2025	**Full quota**	Full quota	**Full quota**	Full quota
Eastern Districts	2025	**Full quota**	Full quota	**Reduce quota**	Full quota
Mallee	2025	**Full quota**	Full quota	**Full quota**	Full quota
Eastern Agricultural					
South Flinders	2025	**Full quota**	Full quota	**Full quota**	Full quota
Yorke Mid North	2025	**Full quota**	Full quota	**Full quota**	Full quota
Western Agricultural					
Eyre West	2021	-	-	NA	**Full quota**
Eyre East	2021	-	-	NA	**Full quota**

* Population estimates reported in the 2024 Quota Report have been used to set quota for 2026 for red kangaroos in these sub-regions.

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