

# Kangaroo Management

## Information for Landholders

All species of kangaroo are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is responsible for regulations and policy setting under this Act. Landholders have three options (or a combination thereof) to manage kangaroos:

**Non-lethal methods** – can include using fencing, deterrents, removing water temporarily, etc.

**Commercial Harvest** – where a kangaroo field processor (shooter) harvests kangaroos and then sells carcasses to a kangaroo meat processor (for human consumption or pet food).

**Permit to Destroy Wildlife** – where DEW grants permission for the landholder or a nominee to shoot a specified number of kangaroos on a property. The carcasses are to remain on the property, unless 'personal use' (yellow) tags have been purchased against the permit and are attached to the carcasses.

## How does commercial kangaroo harvesting work?

Commercial harvest occurs where field processors harvest kangaroos with the permission of the landowner (or authorised nominee). Annual sustainable harvest quotas are set by DEW for each harvest sub-region. All harvested kangaroos have a sealed tag attached to them that allows for carcasses to be tracked 'from paddock to plate'. Harvested kangaroos are sold to accredited SA kangaroo meat processors for meat production, and skins are then on-sold to kangaroo skin tanners for leather production.

DEW encourages landholders and field processors to develop a partnership where both parties can benefit. This way, field processors can assist landholders in managing kangaroos on their property at little cost, and also potentially assist with wild dog and feral animal control. Regional communities benefit from employment as most field processors and meat processors are regionally based.

## As a landholder, how do I get involved?

Landholders can contact SA kangaroo meat processors (listed below under FAQs) to assist them in connecting to field processors operating their area.

A landholder must provide written permission for a field processor to harvest kangaroos on their property. This is valid for six months at a time (as per section 64 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*).

- Landholders are encouraged to use DEW's [Landowner Consent Form](#). This document allows landholders to control who enters their land and what field processors are allowed to do when on the property. Landholders may also list additional conditions on the consent forms, e.g. requirements for the field processor to call or text each night before they enter the property.
- It is recommended that landholders keep a copy of any completed consent forms so they have a record of the time period and any conditions that were set for the field processor. An authorised person (e.g. lessee or manager) may provide written consent to allow a field processor to enter the property, and in doing so, they are declaring they have been given authority from the landholder to do this.
- Landholders may give multiple field processors written permission to enter their land for kangaroo harvesting. It is recommended landholders discuss this option with the field processor(s). Landholders have the right to revoke their written permission at any time.
- Landholders can obtain kangaroo harvesting data for their property by contacting their field processor.

## How are commercial kangaroo sealed tags used?

- A species specific tag must be attached and sealed to every kangaroo harvested by a field processor.
- Tags are allocated by DEW for each harvest sub-region, and may be used on any property within that sub-region.
- Field processors can purchase tags for the appropriate sub-region from DEW.
- A landholder can also purchase tags and provide them to a field processor for use on their land only.
- Tags are sold by the Kangaroo Management Program from the DEW office in Port Augusta.

- Tags are valid for six months from the date of purchase. Tag-life extensions are available for up to a further six-month period, providing the application for extension is received prior to the tags expiring.
- Unused tags must be returned to DEW within 30 days of their expiry date.
- There are no refunds for unused tags unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## What are kangaroo field processors required to do?

Field processors are permitted and regulated by DEW and the Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA) Biosecurity SA Food Safety Program. Field processors are required to shoot all animals humanely and in accordance with the [National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes 2020](#).

Once kangaroos are harvested, carcasses are field dressed and placed into a chiller box (refrigerated container) until sold to a kangaroo meat processor in SA. Chillers may be 'fixed' or 'mobile'. Fixed chillers are generally pantechs (trailers) that remain at one location for a long period of time. Mobile chillers are refrigerated trucks that can be easily moved at little cost. Mobile chillers can travel to areas with high kangaroo numbers for a short period of time before moving on to another area. Field processors with mobile chillers may be willing to take up harvest opportunities in areas without fixed chiller boxes, especially where high kangaroo numbers are impacting on total grazing pressure.

### For more information

**For further information about commercial and non-commercial kangaroo management options contact:**

**Department for Environment and Water**

Local DEW offices

[environment.sa.gov.au](http://environment.sa.gov.au)

Type 'kangaroo conservation and management' in search bar

## What else can landholders do?

Landholders can offer field processors incentives, such as buying tags or supplying accommodation, power, etc., to better facilitate harvest being undertaken on their property. This may make it more attractive for the field processor to operate and saves the landholder time and money. Alternatively, a landholder can become a concessional field processor (for a reduced fee) to manage kangaroo numbers on their property and diversify their income stream.

## What if I don't want kangaroos commercially harvested on my property?

DEW staff encourage landholders to use the commercial harvest industry to manage kangaroos especially where there are high numbers, or kangaroos are causing ongoing issues. This way, the task is undertaken by trained professionals with carcasses being removed from the property.

Where the commercial harvesting of kangaroos is not possible, or where a landholder does not want to utilise a field processor on their property, the landholder may apply to DEW for a [Permit to Destroy Wildlife](#) (non-commercial permit). Application forms are available via the [DEW website](#) or from local DEW offices.

It is possible for landholders to name their field processor on a Permit to Destroy Wildlife. This way, field processors may be willing to control kangaroos that the industry is unwilling to take, at the same time as conducting a commercial harvest. A financial contribution by the landholder towards costs may offer some incentive to field processors.

Landholders are reminded that they must follow the [National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes](#) for all kangaroos being culled.

A landholder may contact their local DEW office to discuss their application for a Permit to Destroy Wildlife, especially if the permit is for a high number of kangaroos, so they can provide further context regarding their situation.

Where the kangaroo industry is unable to assist landholders in the management of kangaroos, DEW encourages landholders to consider using the services of professional or accredited volunteer shooters.

## Farmer Assist Program

**To register or obtain further information on the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia's Farmer Assist Program, please visit the Farmer Assist webpage.**

[farmerassist.com.au](http://farmerassist.com.au)

## Frequently asked questions

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

Landholders can contact the meat processors listed below and may be given information on field processors operating in their 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. Failing these methods, contact staff from the DEW Kangaroo Management Program, who can pass a landholder's details to field processors who already operate in the area, or vice versa (with the field processor's permission).

### SA Kangaroo meat processor contacts

#### Crossroads Game Meats

Colin Wild  
P (08) 8642 6066

#### The Natural Canine

Damien Hawkes  
M 0456 812 341

#### Macro Meats - Gourmet Game

Oren Hearnden  
P (08) 8341 2533

#### Rosedale Meats

Tony or Judy Gyss  
P (08) 8583 8320

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

Yes, landholders can give permission to more than one field processor. It is recommended that landholders discuss this option with the field processor(s).

### Can I revoke permission for a field processor to be on my land?

Yes, this can be done at any time in person or via a phone, letter, fax, or email. DEW recommends a personal call to the field processor followed up by notice in writing, in case the matter is contested.

### Is there a minimum property size for harvesting kangaroos commercially?

DEW manages kangaroos across the broader landscape. There is no minimum property size, but every landholder will need to give written permission to a field processor to harvest kangaroos from their land.

### I am a landholder who is located a long way from meat processing works – how do I attract a field processor?

Kangaroos will be harvested where it is economical to do so. This means that some properties experience a higher harvest pressure than others. Where harvesting results are not meeting landholder expectations, DEW suggests the landholder discuss their concerns with their field processor. The landholder has the ability to add an additional field processor, or to change field processors if desired. As an incentive to have field processors operate on a property, landholders could purchase tags for use on their land or reimburse the cost of the tags used on their land to the field processor. In the event a landholder cannot secure the services of a field processor, it may be possible to obtain a Permit to Destroy Wildlife (see above).

### I am a landholder who has land within the agricultural area, how can I find out how many kangaroos were harvested on my land?

For agricultural land that is within the Commercial Harvest Area and is within a Hundred boundary, any harvest will be reported at local government (e.g. district council) level. To find out what has been harvested at the property level, the landholder will need to ask their field processor.

### Instead of listing Hundreds and section numbers (including Plan and allotment/piece numbers) on the Landholder Consent Form, can properties use their Property Identification Code?

Yes, Property Identification Code (PIC) numbers can be used on the Landholder Consent Form. Those landholders without PICs would still state their Hundreds and sections.

### Do I have to list all the Hundreds and section numbers (including Plan and allotment/piece numbers) for every consent I give to a field processor, twice a year?

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

## Do I have to include all shooters on an application for a non-commercial Permit to Destroy Wildlife?

Yes, a landholder needs to include all shooters who will be culling kangaroos and name them, with their home addresses, on the application for a Permit to Destroy Wildlife.

## Why should I avoid having female kangaroos harvested? Shooting males only will not manage the kangaroo population – this does not give landholders the desired control.

The commercial kangaroo industry can take both male and female kangaroos, provided they are taken according to the [National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes 2020](#). If landholders wish to destroy females (or males) under Permits to Destroy Wildlife, then 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, and humanely destroy any dependent young if young are found after the female is shot.

## Key documents and websites

### Permits and Landholder Consent Forms

Department for Environment and Water

[environment.sa.gov.au](http://environment.sa.gov.au)

Type '[kangaroo harvesting permits](#)' in the search bar

### Quota and Harvest Reports

Department for Environment and Water

[environment.sa.gov.au](http://environment.sa.gov.au)

Type '[quota and harvest data](#)' in the search bar

### National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes 2020 or Non-commercial Purposes

Department of the Environment and Energy

[environment.gov.au](http://environment.gov.au)

Type 'code of practice for kangaroos' in the search bar

### Food safety accreditation of field processors

PIRSA Biosecurity SA – Food Safety Program

[pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/food\\_safety/meat](http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/food_safety/meat)