

Management of Kangaroo Sealed Tags

Information for Kangaroo Field Processors (January 2020)

How are kangaroo harvesting quotas set?

- Kangaroo harvesting quotas are set following annual surveys across the South Australian commercial harvesting area, for each harvest region and sub-region.
- Only Red Kangaroos, Western Grey Kangaroos, Euros, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Tammar Wallabies can be harvested where quotas have been set.
- Not all harvest sub-regions have quotas for all species.

Why are kangaroo 'sealed tags' used?

- Commercial use sealed tags (tags) are
 - used as a means to manage the quota;
 - uniquely numbered and allow a carcass to be tracked 'from paddock-to-plate';
 - a royalty mechanism for the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to obtain funds to manage the kangaroo harvesting industry.

What do the tag colours mean?

- The colours of the tags are species specific, i.e. orange tags for Red Kangaroos, white tags for Western Grey Kangaroos, blue tags for Euros, green tags for Eastern Grey Kangaroos and red tags for Tammar Wallabies.

How are tags purchased?

- Tags are sold directly to kangaroo field processors, or landholders/ meat processors for use by their nominated field processor. Tags purchased by landholders may only be used on their property.
- The tag cost is set annually by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- All tag sales (allocations) are through the DEW office at 9 Mackay Street, Port Augusta.
- All applications for sealed tags must be in writing on an [Application for Kangaroo Sealed Tags](#) form available from the DEW website.
- Tags are allocated for use within a specific harvest sub-region, rather than being linked to an individual property. This means a field processor who has written permission to harvest kangaroos on several properties within the same harvest sub-region can use tags from the same allocation on all of these properties.
- Each tag allocation is given a tag allocation number. The field processor's name, the tag allocation number, the harvest sub-region the tags are allocated for use in and the tag expiry date, are printed on each bag of

tags. A 'Tag Nomination' form, with this information, is included with the tags.

- Tags can be posted or are available to be collected at the DEW office at 9 Mackay St, Port Augusta. Postage costs will be added to the cost of tags at the time of purchase. Postage costs are based on Australia Post prices and are subject to change. Please be aware that Port Augusta is outside the 'Express Post Network', therefore Express Post is not offered by DEW.
- Tags must be paid for before an order can be processed for postage or collection.
- Please allow three working days for DEW staff to process a tag order.

How many tags can be purchased?

- The maximum number of tags that can be purchased in one allocation differs between harvest regions. Please contact your local DEW or Natural Resource Management office for more information.
- The minimum tag allocation per harvest region is 25.
- DEW will continue to monitor the maximum and minimum limits set for tag sales and may adjust these limits in future, for equity or administrative purposes.

How long are tags valid for use?

- Tags are valid for six months from the date of purchase. The expiry date and allocation number is printed on each bag of tags and on the 'Tag Nomination' form at the time of purchase.
- A tag-life extension, of one to six months, is available if tags have not been used within the initial six months. To obtain an extension, field processors are required to lodge an [Application for a Tag-life Extension](#) form (available from the DEW website) with DEW prior to the tags expiring.
- Longer tag-life extensions are only available in exceptional circumstances. In these instances, supporting information is required to be attached to the Application for a Tag-life Extension when submitted.
- Tag royalty costs may only be refunded in exceptional circumstances. All requests for the tag royalty to be repaid must be lodged within 30 days after the tags expire.
- Unused tags must be returned to DEW within 30 days after expiry.

Key forms and further reading

Application for kangaroo sealed tags and tag-life extension forms

Department for Environment and Water

environment.sa.gov.au

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

Landowner Consent Form

Department for Environment and Water

environment.sa.gov.au

Type '[kangaroo landowner consent](#)' in the search bar

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

Department of the Environment and Energy

environment.gov.au

Type '[code of practice for kangaroos](#)' in the search bar

Food safety accreditation of kangaroo field processors

PIRSA Biosecurity SA – Food Safety Program

pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/food_safety/meat

What permissions are required?

- Landowners, or authorised persons, need to give written permission to field processors operating on their land. This permission can be via a [Landowner Consent form](#), available on the DEW website.
- Written permission to harvest kangaroos needs to be completed on a six-monthly basis to comply with Section 64 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.
- Field processors are required to maintain valid written permission for all properties they operate on. Copies do not have to be sent to DEW unless a Warden requests a field processor to produce them.
- Periodic auditing of field processor records will occur when DEW staff will check to confirm landholders have given field processors written permission to enter their land for the purpose of harvesting kangaroos.
- Landowners may include additional conditions in their written permission.

What are DEW's recording requirements?

- From July 2019 all new field processors are required, and existing field processors are strongly encouraged, to enter monthly returns electronically, via an online data entry page. DEW will provide field processors with an online account and instructions.
- The monthly returns include provision for field processors:
 - to declare any 'lost' tags (i.e. misplaced tags) and related tag allocation number.
 - to declare any tags 'left in the field'.
- Tags are 'left in the field' when they are attached to a carcass that is unsuitable for sale to the industry e.g. low shot, poor condition, size, etc. Tags declared left in the field may be eligible for a credit – field processors must provide the tag number and the reason the carcass was left in the field to be considered for a credit on their next tag purchase.
- A field record book, where field processors record nightly harvesting details, is required and must be kept for at least three years.
- Property names and tag number ranges used for each night, along with species, sexes and corresponding carcass weights are all required to be recorded on a nightly basis in the field record book.
- The date of harvest, field processor ID and property name (or code) are required to be recorded on the back of each tag affixed to a carcass.

Where can carcasses be sold?

- Kangaroo field processors (Class 13 and 14 Permit holders) are able to sell carcasses to any kangaroo meat processor (Class 7 Permit holders) in SA.

Who can I talk to about kangaroo tag system issues or improvements?

- Kangaroo Management Program staff are open to feedback on our tag management system. Please contact the Port Augusta office to discuss any concerns or issues you have.

For more information

Department for Environment and Water

Kangaroo Management Program

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environment.sa.gov.au

Type '[kangaroo conservation and management](#)' in the search bar