

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Q&A – Harvesters

WHAT IS THE KANGAROO HARVESTING PROGRAM (KHP)?

The KHP is a strategy to help manage Victoria's kangaroo population and minimise waste by using the carcasses for pet food.

The Victorian Government will designate zones across Victoria and those zones will be assigned quotas which will specify the number of kangaroos that can be controlled in any one area.

Kangaroos carcasses can only be harvested by authorised and qualified shooters with the landowner's permission and carcasses will be transported to registered processors to be processed for pet food.

WHY IS THE KHP NECESSARY?

While kangaroos are native wildlife, the Victorian Government appreciates that they can have a detrimental effect on farmers, producers and Victoria's economy by eating crops, drinking water meant for livestock and ruining property such as fences.

This program will allow landowners to control the kangaroo population on their property and minimise the damage that kangaroos do. It also means that kangaroo carcasses will be used to create economic benefit for Victoria, rather than being left to waste away in paddocks.

WHO IS OVERSEEING THE KHP?

The program will be designed and implemented by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions in collaboration with the Game Management Authority.

WHEN DOES THE KHP COMMENCE?

The KHP will come into effect on 1 October 2019, with actual harvesting and processing to begin soon after.

HOW CAN I BECOME A REGISTERED HARVESTER?

To become a harvester, you must apply for an authorisation through the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions via agriculture.vic.gov.au/kangarooharvestingprogram.

Your application will be assessed, and you will then be notified as to whether your application has been successful or further information or competencies are required.

HOW MANY PET MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE KHP?

Three processing companies will take part in the program with processing facilities in Yering, Stanhope and Hamilton.

Any pet food processor licensed by PrimeSafe can receive kangaroo carcasses and others may join the program in the future.

WHAT DO I DO WITH UNUSED TAGS?

Any tags that have not been used by the end of the designated year will be voided.

Excess tags should be disposed of responsibly.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO USE MY ALLOCATED QUOTA?

Your quota is valid until the end of the year that it was allocated.

HOW MUCH QUOTA WILL I GET?

An Authorised Harvester can only be issued with a maximum quota allocation per application which is available via agriculture.vic.gov.au/kangarooharvestingprogram.

I'VE FULFILLED MY QUOTA BUT THERE ARE STILL EXCESS KANGAROOS IN MY AREA, CAN I HARVEST MORE?

You can apply for an additional quota when you have used and reported on 50% of the tags in your possession, for the specified region. Once a zone's quota has been exhausted no more kangaroos can be harvested in that zone.

The quotas are strict and are designed to ensure kangaroo populations remain at sustainable levels.

WHERE DO I GET THE TAGS?

The tags will be sent to your registered postal address.

WHEN CAN I ACCESS A LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY TO CONTROL KANGAROOS?

You must discuss property access and times with the relevant landowner and obtain consent from them before commencing harvesting on their property. It is up to the harvester and landowner to agree when shooting may take place.

Harvesters will need to carry evidence that they have received consent from the land owner or manager when undertaking harvesting. A pro-forma consent form can be downloaded from agriculture.vic.gov.au/kangarooharvestingprogram.

Alternatively, landowners who register via agriculture.vic.gov.au/kangarooharvestingprogram will automatically provide consent when paired with a harvester.

I'M ALREADY A PROFESSIONAL SHOOTER, DO I NEED TO DO A COMPLIANCE TEST?

To obtain an authorisation, harvesters will need to hold a Victorian firearms licence and hold accreditations in Game Harvester Skill Set and firearms competency.

For the initial period of the program, harvesters who were registered as an approved supplier under the Food Safety Plan of a participating pet meat processor will be assumed to meet these requirements. From 1 January 2020, all harvesters will need to be able to supply proof of the required accreditations.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BE AUTHORISED AS A HARVESTER?

Initially there will be no cost to register as a harvester. However, fees are expected to be introduced in future.

DO I NEED TO HAVE INSURANCE TO REGISTER AS A HARVESTER?

Yes. As this is a commercial program, all harvesters should have public liability/indemnity insurance. Harvesters that don't have this insurance won't be paired with landowners. Further, all harvesters will need to provide their ABN prior to being authorised.

WHERE DO I STORE KANGAROO CARCASSES?

Kangaroo carcasses should be treated according to the Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat (PISC Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009). A copy of the standard can be accessed via the PrimeSafe website – <https://www.primesafe.vic.gov.au/standards-and-guidelines/australian-standards/>.

CAN I KEEP KANGAROOS FOR MY OWN PERSONAL USE?

Yes. This is allowed under the KHP conditions.

However, kangaroo carcasses cannot be given away, sold or traded in any way except to an appropriately licensed pet meat processing facility.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES DO LANDOWNERS HAVE TO CONTROL KANGAROOS?

Landowners are still able to apply for an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) if there are no harvesters operating in their area or they would prefer not to be involved in the Kangaroo Harvesting Program.

An ATCW gives landowners the right to control kangaroos on their own property. However, these carcasses cannot be used by processors to make pet food.

The ATCW program will continue to be administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Further information is available at <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations>.

WHAT IF THERE AREN'T ANY HARVESTERS OPERATING IN MY AREA OR THEY WON'T COME ON TO MY PROPERTY?

If a professional harvester does not operate in your area or cannot attend your property, you can apply for an ATCW and control the kangaroos yourself.

CAN INTERSTATE HARVESTERS APPLY UNDER THIS PROGRAM?

Yes. Interstate harvesters can apply for authorisation to operate in Victoria and will need to meet the eligibility requirements just like anyone from Victoria.

Interstate qualifications can be accepted and there are no special exemptions for harvesters from outside Victoria.

HOW DOES THE NEW PROGRAM DIFFER FROM THE TRIAL?

Under the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial, shooters acted as an agent of a landowner to undertake kangaroo control under a special type of Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) for damage mitigation. The carcasses controlled under these authorisations were able to be sold to pet food processors in order to reduce the waste of the carcasses of those kangaroos.

Shooters under the trial were not directly authorised or licensed but needed to be registered as an approved supplier with a participating pet meat processor.

Under the new program, harvesters will be directly authorised to harvest kangaroos from private property for commercial purposes. There is no requirement for landowners to hold an ATCW for a harvester to harvest on their land. However, harvesters will need to obtain landowner consent before entering any private property to harvest kangaroos.

HARVESTER AUTHORISATION PROCESS

