

Kangaroo Harvest Quota for Victoria, 2021

Fact Sheet

Background

Wildlife management, including kangaroos, is complex. Overabundant kangaroos can cause crop and property damage, threaten people's safety and lead to wildlife welfare issues, such as starvation if they over graze and damage habitat.

It is also vital that Victoria's kangaroo population is sustainable.

Under the Kangaroo Harvesting Program (KHP), a capped number of Eastern and Western grey kangaroos on private land can be harvested annually for commercial purposes.

How the Kangaroo Harvesting Program (KHP) works

Under the program, licensed professional shooters can harvest kangaroos on private land with the landowner's permission.

Licensed processors can then use the carcasses to produce meat for pet and human consumption, and other products, which reduces waste.

Annual quotas across Victoria's [seven harvest zones](#) are set in accordance with a Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan to ensure the sustainability of kangaroo populations.

Victoria's Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) system

Kangaroo control can also be carried out through Victoria's Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) system.

Under this system, landholders apply to the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning (DELWP) for authorisation to control kangaroos, which they usually carry out themselves. Under this system, carcasses can't be sold and are often left on the ground and wasted.

Since the KHP began in October 2019, landholders have been able to engage a professional harvester (at no cost to the landholder) to undertake kangaroo control instead. The harvester applies for quota through the KHP so the landholder doesn't need to apply for an ATCW.

How quotas are determined

We regularly survey Victoria's kangaroo population and use that information to set annual quotas. These estimates are considered conservative as the surveys

don't include heavily forested and urban areas of Victoria.

To ensure sustainable kangaroo populations, we follow the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research's (ARI) recommendation that no more than 10% of Victoria's kangaroo population should be taken annually. This includes kangaroos taken under both the KHP and ATCW system.

Considerations when setting the KHP commercial harvest quota include:

- the estimated number of kangaroos that will be controlled under the ATCW system
- the expectation that many landholders will engage a harvester to undertake control rather than obtaining authorisation under the ATCW system.

The 2021 commercial harvesting quota has been adjusted on that basis.

Quotas for 2021

The 2020 survey estimates a kangaroo population in excess of 1.9 million across Victoria, up almost 40 percent compared to 2018. As such, ARI has recommended a total quota of 191,200 kangaroos in 2021 across both the ATCW system and the KHP.

Of that, the KHP quota is 95,680, spread across the seven harvest zones as listed below. This is an increase of 37,780 from last year in response to the estimated population rise.

Harvest Zone	KHP quota
Mallee	1,110
Upper Wimmera	9,610
Lower Wimmera	25,850
Central	25,500
Otway	16,500
North east	8,060
Gippsland	9,050
Total	95,680

Different quotas for different zones

The quota is based on each zone's estimated kangaroo population. Zones with a higher proportion of Victoria's kangaroo population will generally have a higher quota.

Comparing quotas across Australia

Victoria's harvest quota is set at 10% of the kangaroo population. Some other Australian states have quotas of up to 15-20%. The lower harvest quota used for Victoria reflects our relative lack of knowledge about how Victoria's kangaroo populations respond to harvest.

In Victoria, commercial harvesting of kangaroos, which began in October 2019, is relatively new. Regular kangaroo population surveys only began four years ago. To sustain our kangaroo population and carefully monitor the impact of harvesting, the Victorian Government has deliberately taken a conservative approach.

As the KHP matures and kangaroo population data improves, there may be scope to increase the quota above 10%.

Benefits of the KHP

The KHP offers several benefits:

- Landholders can engage a professional harvester, at no cost to themselves, to control kangaroos on their property rather than do it themselves
- Landholders need not apply for an ATCW
- Using professional harvesters can mean improved animal welfare outcomes
- Lower costs for landholders
- Less waste, as carcasses can be processed for a range of uses.

Why the 2021 quota exceeds the 2020 quota

The 2020 kangaroo population survey found Victoria's kangaroo numbers have risen by approximately 39%

since 2018. So, the 2021 commercial harvest quota, which is based on the 2020 survey, is higher than the previous year.

However, kangaroo numbers in the Mallee and North East harvest zones have dropped 20% and 17% respectively in 2020. This is reflected in the reduced 2021 quota in these zones to ensure harvesting is sustainable.

We regularly monitor kangaroo numbers taken through both the KHP and the ATCW system. If there are concerns about the sustainability of kangaroo populations, we will adjust the quota.

This could include reducing the commercial harvest quota or closing zones to commercial harvest altogether.

As happened in 2020, if events such as bushfires, threaten kangaroo populations, we will assess the situation and if needed, harvesting may be suspended, or the quota reduced in affected areas.

More information

You can find more information in:

- the [ARI quota report](#)
- or the [DJPR website](#)

Or contact DJPR, GMA or DELWP on 131 186.

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