

2022 Kangaroo Harvest Quota Determination

Quota for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

The Kangaroo Harvest Program (KHP) allows harvesting of Eastern and Western grey kangaroos on private land for commercial purposes.

The commercial harvest of kangaroos is authorised by the Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2021-2023 under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. This plan requires the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to set a quota each year. The quota is the maximum number of kangaroos that can be harvested commercially in a year.

The quota takes into account the predicted numbers of Authorities to Control Wildlife (ATCW) that may be issued to landholders to reduce damage caused by kangaroos.

The quota is set annually to respond to changes in kangaroo populations and ensure populations are sustainable.

Kangaroo Harvesting Program quotas in 2022

The KHP quota for 2022 is 127,850. The recommended total take for 2022 is 185,850, which includes both harvest under the KHP and predicted take through the ATCW system.

Victoria is divided into seven harvest zones to allow quotas to be responsive to local kangaroo population changes. Table 1 shows the quota and recommended total take in each harvest zone.

Table 1. Kangaroo Harvest Program quota and recommended total take of grey kangaroos* (under ATCW and KHP) in each Victorian harvest zone for the period 1 January – 31 December 2022.

Harvest Zone	Recommended total take in 2022 (including both ATCW and KHP quota)	Kangaroo Harvest Program 2022 Quota
Mallee	3,650	1,050
Upper Wimmera	13,350	11,400
Lower Wimmera	41,050	30,550
Central	65,050	46,150
Otway	23,600	20,650
North East	22,100	4,950
Gippsland	17,050	13,100
Statewide total	185,850	127,850

*For quota purposes, Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos are treated as “grey kangaroos” primarily because of the expected difficulty in distinguishing between the two species under harvest conditions. The species both occur in the Mallee, Upper Wimmera and Lower Wimmera harvest zones; the remaining harvest zones only have Eastern Grey kangaroos.

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Determining the quota

The Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) was engaged to provide a recommendation on the kangaroo harvest quota for Victoria - see *Kangaroo harvest quotas for Victoria, 2022*.

In forming its recommendations for quotas, ARI took into account:

- predictions on kangaroo densities and abundance through the latest population aerial survey data, environmental variables, kangaroo age and sex structures and dispersal.
- different harvest regimes.

ARI recommended the total state-wide take should not exceed 10 per cent of the population across both the ATCW system and the KHP to maintain sustainable grey kangaroo populations. The KHP quotas are calculated after accounting for the estimated number of kangaroos that are predicted to be controlled under the ATCW system in each harvest zone in the coming year.

DELWP expects some transfer from the ATCW system to the KHP as the program enters its third year and landholders increasingly become aware of the benefits of the program. The quota has been set based on an assumption that 20 per cent of landholders who would previously have sought ATCWs will instead choose to have kangaroos controlled through the KHP. This is consistent with the analysis and options identified for sustainable management in the ARI report.

Throughout the year, DELWP will regularly monitor the number of kangaroos being taken through both the KHP and the ATCW system. If numbers taken are approaching the recommended total take in any zone, or if there are other events which threaten kangaroos, such as bushfires, the impacts will be evaluated, and harvesting may be suspended or closed with the quota reduced in affected areas. These actions will ensure kangaroo populations remain sustainable.

Further information

For more detailed information on the calculation of the quota, refer to the ARI report, *Kangaroo harvest quotas for Victoria, 2022*.