The common species of kangaroos and wallabies (collectively referred to as ‘macropods’) in Victoria are - Western Grey Kangaroos and Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies.

The populations of some Victorian macropods, such as the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, have declined since European settlement. However, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and Swamp Wallaby populations have dramatically increased. This is mainly due to improved pastures and reliable water sources.

Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Western Grey Kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies can cause issues such as traffic accidents, aggressiveness towards people, damage to farmland, gardens and fences.

Research has shown that in temperate areas one kangaroo equals 0.6 dry sheep equivalent. This means one kangaroo eats around 60% as one sheep and 22 to 47 kangaroos eat as much as one lactating cow (dependent on its production). While their presence alone is not generally a problem, kangaroos can have a significant impact on farmland in high densities, especially in areas with poor pasture.

Management methods

Kangaroos and people interactions
Do not feed or come in close contact with kangaroos, as this can reduce their instinctive fear of people and encourage aggressive behaviour.

Limit food availability
Limiting food availability can reduce kangaroo density. Food can be reduced by planting crops away (2400 m) from bushland and by keeping grassed areas to a minimum.

Fencing
Fencing can be designed to reduce kangaroo damage by excluding them or allowing their passage. Fence damage often occurs during sunrise or sunset. Fences can be made more visible to kangaroos by using white electric fence tape or white strand wire to mark the fence-top.

Chain mesh fencing can exclude kangaroos from areas if the damage warrants the significant expense. Kangaroos generally try to push through or dig underneath a fence and chainmesh fences effectively prevents this.

To prevent kangaroos from attempting to jump a fence, the fence should be at least 1.8m high. Kangaroos may also be deterred from jumping plain wire fences if electric outriggers are added.

Sloped plain wire electric fences have also been trialled to exclude kangaroos. The McCutchan fence (Figure 1) is a 10 wire, one metre high, plain-wire fence which leans into the paddock and has live second, fourth, sixth and eighth wires, while the next three carry an induced current.

Another way to reduce fence damage is to create access points for kangaroos to pass through.

A simple method is to use an old tractor tyre, cut it by a third and bury the ends in the ground to form an arch. The tyre arch needs to be partially buried for support as the kangaroo passes through. This method doesn’t allow livestock to escape.
Swing gates (Figure 2) are another method that allows kangaroos to pass through fences without loosening the wire. Livestock will generally not use these gates.

**Figure 2. Swing gate design**

Fencing and use of gates do not require approval from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

**Scaring**

Scaring frequently using lights and loud noises (e.g. ‘Bird Frite’ cartridges or gas guns) may help deter kangaroos from a property. Scaring requires an Authority to Control Wildlife from DELWP.

**Lethal control**

Lethal control is most effective when used in combination with scaring. Lethal control requires an Authority to Control Wildlife from DELWP.

**Authorities to Control Wildlife**

If you require an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) you should complete an ATCW application form and submit it to DELWP.

Your ATCW application will be assessed by a DELWP officer who may inspect your property to confirm the damage being caused by wildlife.

An ATCW for lethal control will only be issued if the DELWP officer is satisfied that it is necessary to manage the problem and that all practical non-lethal control options have been exhausted.

**Further information**

Please contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186, your local DELWP regional office or the DELWP website [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au).