

2021 Kangaroo Harvest Quota Determination

Quota for 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

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 quotas in 2021

The KHP quota for 2021 is 95,680. The recommended total take for 2021 is 191,200, which includes both commercial 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 2021.

Harvest Zone	Kangaroo Harvest Program 2021 Quota	Recommended total take (including both ATCW and KHP quota)
Mallee	1,110	3,700
Upper Wimmera	9,610	13,850
Lower Wimmera	25,850	42,800
Central	25,500	65,900
Otway	16,500	23,700
North East	8,060	24,000
Gippsland	9,050	17,250
Statewide total	95,680	191,200

*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.

Determining the quota

Victoria’s kangaroo population was surveyed in non-forested areas in October 2020. The estimated Victorian population is approximately 1.9 million kangaroos.



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The Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) was engaged to provide recommendation on the kangaroo harvest quota for Victoria - see *Kangaroo harvest quotas for Victoria, 2021* Report.

In forming their recommendations about 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% 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.

Consistent with the analysis and identified options for sustainable management outlined in the ARI report, DELWP has set the quota, DELWP expects some transfer from ATCWs to the kangaroo harvesting program as a result of greater promotion of the benefits of the program as the program enters its second year. The quote has been set with allowance for an assumption that 20% of landholders who have previously sought ATCWs will instead choose to have kangaroos controlled through the kangaroo harvesting program.

Throughout the year, DELWP will regularly monitor the number of kangaroos being taken through both the kangaroo harvesting program 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 the take remains sustainable.

Further information

For more detailed information on the calculation of the quota, refer to the ARI report, *Kangaroo harvest quotas for Victoria, 2021*.