

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

Annual Report 2025



Acknowledgements

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We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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Introduction

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos (Grey Kangaroos) have been commercially harvested in Victoria since 1 October 2019 through the Kangaroo Harvesting Program (KHP).

The KHP Annual Report 2025 (the report) has been developed in line with the public reporting requirements under the *Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan (KHMP) 2024-2028* (DEECA, 2023), to publish the annual harvesting figures and compliance activities of the KHP. It captures relevant information on the implementation of the KHP from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2025.

The report also includes data on Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) authorisations issued for Grey Kangaroos, as these are considered in determining the annual commercial quota and any adjustments to the commercial quota. The ATCW system allows for the lethal control of kangaroos where they are causing damage to property, posing a risk to human health and safety, or impacting environmental values.

In 2025, the KHP operated within five Harvest Zones across Victoria. A map of Harvest Zones and corresponding local government areas is provided in **Appendix A**. Both Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos can be harvested through the KHP.

ATCW system

Sometimes wildlife cause damage to property or farmland or can adversely impact the environment. In these cases, landholders and land managers may apply for an ATCW to manage the impacts of wildlife.

Wildlife control must ensure animal welfare and environmental values are protected.

The Conservation Regulator undertakes assessments of all ATCW applications. This ensures that claims of damage are substantiated, and all practical non-lethal measures have been exhausted prior to any lethal control being approved. This includes consideration of exclusion measures such as fencing or netting where they can be practically applied.

ATCWs for kangaroos can be issued to private landholders and public land managers. All ATCWs include strict conditions to ensure animals are controlled humanely.

More information about the KHP, KHMP and ATCWs can be found online:

- KHP: [Kangaroo Harvesting Program | djsir.vic.gov.au](https://djsir.vic.gov.au)
- KHMP: [Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan | wildlife.vic.gov.au](https://wildlife.vic.gov.au)
- ATCWs: [Wildlife management and control authorisations | www.vic.gov.au](https://www.vic.gov.au)

2025 commercial quota

The KHMP states that the total quota for take of grey kangaroos through commercial harvesting and the ATCW system combined, should be no more than 10 per cent of the estimated population. The 10 per cent maximum is conservative in comparison to other Australian jurisdictions which have permitted harvesting of up to 15 per cent. A conservative approach has been taken as a precaution for sustainability, while greater long term data is gathered on Victoria kangaroo population dynamics.

Commercial quota is set within total quota and determines the maximum number of grey kangaroos that may be harvested through the KHP.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) set the 2025 commercial quota under the KHMP based on recommendations provided by the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) in the report *Kangaroo harvest quotas for Victoria 2025* (Ramsey, 2024).

To inform 2025 quota setting, ARI estimated grey kangaroo population numbers using a spatial harvest model. This modelling incorporates results from the most recent statewide kangaroo population survey, historical kangaroo control from KHP harvest data and approved ATCW permit data.

In 2025, commercial quota was set for each species individually, whereas in previous years quota was set for grey kangaroos combined. Species overlap occurs in the Loddon Mallee, Grampians and Barwon South-West Harvest Zones. This change was made to further ensure species sustainability.

In 2025, DEECA set the commercial quota based on a scenario that assumed the number of ATCWs issued would be 10 per cent higher than projected based on long term historical trends. This assumption was made given that ATCWs had exceeded forecasts in recent years.

No commercial quota was issued in the Loddon Mallee zone for Western Grey Kangaroos for 2025, as historically the level of ATCW control of this species, within this zone (previously the Mallee Harvest Zone) has been higher than 10 per cent of the estimated population. This is consistent with the decision to issue no quota in the previous Mallee Harvest Zone in 2024.

Adjustments to commercial quota

DEECA reviews the commercial quota each month and can make adjustments to quarterly quota releases with the aim of total take remaining within total quota. Considerations are given to approvals under the ATCW system, remaining commercial quota and kangaroo populations at zone and statewide levels.

DEECA reduced the commercial quota in October 2025 by withholding the final quota releases for 2025 in some Harvest Zones. The final quota release was fully withheld in the Gippsland, Hume and Loddon Mallee Harvest Zones and partially withheld in the Barwon South West Harvest Zone. This reduced the annual commercial quota from 106,750 to 94,700.

The reduction was made due to higher than predicted demand for ATCWs. A key driver for the high level of ATCWs in 2025 is likely to be drought conditions across Victoria. Drought leads to a greater number of kangaroos moving onto available pasture, crops and water sources on farms increasing the risks of damage to farmland or property.

Unless specified otherwise, all references to available commercial quota in this report are based on revisions made in October 2025.

2025 quota adjustment

Harvest Zone	Original EGK commercial quota	Revised EGK commercial quota	Original WGK commercial quota	Revised WGK commercial quota
Barwon South West	8,750	8,000	600	500
Gippsland	11,900	10,500	-	-
Grampians	12,500	12,500	10,200	10,200
Hume	38,100	32,000	-	-
Loddon Mallee	24,700	21,000	0	0
Total	95,950	84,000	10,800	10,700

Summary of 2025 kangaroo take

Commercial take

Summary

In 2025, 73,613 Eastern Grey Kangaroos (3.9 per cent of the estimated population) and 2,750 Western Grey Kangaroos (1.3 per cent of the estimated population) were harvested through the KHP. Population estimates are for kangaroo within the designated Harvest Zones only. **Table 2** summarises the commercial control of kangaroos in each Harvest Zone.

In 2025, 88 per cent of the available commercial quota for Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 26 per cent of the available quota for Western Grey Kangaroos was used by harvesters.

Table 2: Commercial control of kangaroos (1 January – 31 December 2025)

Harvest Zone	Available commercial quota		Commercial quota harvested		Available commercial quota harvested (%)		Harvest Zone population harvested (%)	
	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK
Barwon South West	8,000	500	7,362	67	92	13	3.0	0.6
Gippsland	10,500	-	8,061	-	77	-	4.9	-
Grampians	12,500	10,200	10,606	2,683	85	26	3.9	2.4
Hume	32,000	-	28,651	-	90	-	3.7	-
Loddon Mallee	21,000	0	18,933	0	90	0	4.6	0
Total	84,000	10,700	73,613	2,750	88	26	3.9	1.3

Upon completion of each harvest job, harvesters are required to report on the number of kangaroos harvested, the species, sex and whether any dependant young were euthanised.

Sex ratio of harvested kangaroos

Harvesters reported 26,646 female kangaroos were taken, representing 35 per cent of the total kangaroos harvested through the KHP in 2025.

There is a known bias towards harvesting male kangaroos in commercial harvest programs. The ecological impact of male harvesting bias was considered by ARI in the report *A spatial harvest model for kangaroo populations in Victoria* (Scroggie and Ramsey, 2020). The report found there is minimal ecological risk to kangaroo populations when harvesting programs target males in preference to females, where regular monitoring occurs to ensure overall kangaroo harvesting is sustainable.

Dependant young

Harvesters reported 22,136 dependant young were euthanised due to harvesting activities in 2025. Dependant young of harvested female kangaroos must be euthanised humanely in line with requirements under the *National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes* (AgriFutures, 2020).

The number of dependant young euthanised does not contribute to the data used to determine the commercial quota. The quota is determined using modelling and population estimates from aerial and ground surveys and these surveys do not count dependant young.

ATCW control

Summary

ATCW figures from the Conservation Regulator are used to inform sustainable harvest levels through the KHP. The number of Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos approved for control under an ATCW in each KHP Harvest Zone from 1 January to 31 December 2025 is shown in **Table 4**.

It is important to note the ATCW figures reported are the maximum numbers of kangaroos that were approved for control during this period. The actual number controlled by a landholder may be lower than the maximum authorised. This may occur if, for example, kangaroos disperse during shooting activities.

The number of kangaroos approved for control through ATCWs was higher than forecast for 2025. This is likely due to favourable conditions in recent years, resulting in increases in kangaroo abundance, followed by the drought conditions experienced in 2025. Drought pushes more kangaroos on to pasture, crops and on-farm water sources leading to increased impacts from kangaroos.

To inform 2026 quota setting, improvements have been made to forecasting methodologies with the aim of improving accuracy under drought conditions (see [2026 commercial quota](#)).

As in previous years, the demand for ATCW permits to control Western Grey Kangaroos in the Loddon Mallee Harvest Zone was higher than in other Harvest Zones. Applications for large ATCW permits are not uncommon in the Mallee region, where public land managers undertake kangaroo control in line with approved Kangaroo Management Plans, often to protect vulnerable habitat from overgrazing by macropods.

Table 4: Number of Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos approved for control under an ATCW from 1 January to 31 December 2025

Harvest Zone	Forecast ATCWs (including 10 % buffer)		Kangaroos approved for control (ATCW)		Harvest Zone population approved for control via ATCW (%)	
	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK
Barwon South West	16,150	600	20,256	350	8.1	2.9
Gippsland	4,700	-	12,920	-	7.8	-
Grampians	14,800	1,000	31,160	1,156	11.4	1.0
Hume	39,000	-	68,351		8.9	-
Loddon Mallee	16,100	6,800	24,991	14,838	6.1	17.1
Total	90,750	8,400	157,678	16,344	8.5	7.7

ATCWs outside of Harvest Zones

Data on ATCWs issued for grey kangaroos outside of the five KHP Harvest Zones is not included in this report. The Conservation Regulator publishes annual ATCW data for all species across Victoria on its website: vic.gov.au/operational-licences-permits-issued-conservation-regulator.

Total take (commercial and ATCW control combined)

Summary

In 2025, the total take of kangaroos through the KHP and ATCW system within the five Harvest Zones was 12.4 per cent (231,291) of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo population and 9 per cent (19,094) of the Western Grey Kangaroo population. (**Table 5**). The total take of eastern greys was also above 10 per cent of the population in each of the Harvest Zones.

In 2025, the demand for ATCW permits was the highest on record. Prior to the quarter four quota release, DEECA identified that total take in most Harvest Zones was likely to exceed total quota due to this high demand for ATCW permits. In response, the final commercial quota release for 2025 was fully withheld in the Gippsland, Hume and Loddon Mallee Harvest Zones and partially withheld in the Barwon South West Harvest Zone. However, because of high levels of demand for kangaroo control, primarily through the ATCW system, the reduction in commercial quota could not maintain control numbers within the recommended total quota.

To ensure that quarterly quota releases enable DEECA to effectively manage total harvesting, improvements have been made in 2026 (see [2026 commercial quota](#)).

As described above, it is likely that the actual number of kangaroos controlled is lower than the figures presented here, as ATCW figures reported are the maximum numbers of kangaroos that were approved for control.

Grampians Harvest Zone

No changes were made to the final quota release in this zone as the number of Eastern Grey Kangaroos harvested was close to reaching the annual commercial quota before the quarter four release. This already meant that no further quota could be allocated to harvesters to use on Eastern Grey Kangaroos as part of the quarter four quota release.

After June 2025, all tags issued in this zone were for Western Grey Kangaroos only. Total take for Western Grey Kangaroos in the Grampians Harvest Zone was 3.4 per cent of the estimated population.

Loddon Mallee Harvest Zone

No commercial quota was issued (or used) for Western Grey Kangaroos in this zone in 2025 due to the expected level of ATCW control (see [2025 commercial quota](#)).

During 2025, the total take of western greys in this zone was 17 per cent of the estimated population. This represents the number of kangaroos approved for control under ATCW permits. Almost all of the ATCWs issued for Western Grey Kangaroos in this zone were for control on public land. As discussed above, a key aim of kangaroo control by public land managers is protection of vulnerable habitat from overgrazing by macropods. These control activities require Wildlife Management Plans to be prepared by a qualified ecologist or by the landholder in consultation with an appropriately qualified person and must consider both the impacts of kangaroo on the sustainability of other species and the sustainability of kangaroo. Population surveys are also required to determine species presence and abundance at the control site.

Table 5: Total kangaroo take (1 January – 31 December 2025)

Harvest Zone	Recommended total take (10% of the population)		KHP (commercial quota harvested)		ATCW (kangaroos approved for control)		Total take (KHP+ATCW)		Total take (% of population)	
	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK	EGK	WGK
Barwon South West	24,900	1,200	7,362	67	20,256	350	27,618	417	11.1	3.5
Gippsland	16,600	-	8,061	-	12,920	-	20,981	-	12.6	-
Grampians	27,300	11,200	10,606	2,683	31,160	1,156	41,766	3,839	15.3	3.4
Hume	77,100	0	28,651	-	68,351	-	97,002	-	12.6	-
Loddon Mallee	40,800	8,700	18,933	0	24,991	14,838	43,924	14,838	10.8	17.1
Total	186,700	21,100	73,613	2,750	157,678	16,344	231,291	19,094	12.4	9.0

Harvester authorisations and compliance

Summary

The Game Management Authority (GMA) delivers commercial harvester authorisations and compliance activities as an agent of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions. Compliance activities summarised below do not include compliance for kangaroo control through the ATCW system. This is administered by the Conservation Regulator and is outside the scope of this report.

In 2025, compliance activities were undertaken in accordance with the five compliance priorities (Harvester Competency, Animal Welfare, Sustainability, Authorisations, and Public Safety) of the 2025 KHP Compliance Plan.

An active harvester under the 2025 KHP Compliance Plan, is a harvester who was active throughout the previous four quarters. As quota was reduced in the fourth quarter in some Harvest Zones, some harvesters were unable to access tags. The figures shown in table 6,7, and 8 cover the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

Table 6: Harvester authorisations

Activity	Total
Number of applications for authorisations received	28*
Number of applications authorised after meeting requirements	28
Number of authorisations suspended or cancelled	1

**There were 28 complete applications and 31 incomplete applications*

Table 7: Harvesters who received commercial quota for each of the Harvest Zones**

Harvest Zone	Total
Barwon South West	37
Gippsland	41
Grampians	54
Hume	63
Loddon Mallee	39

***Harvesters may operate across more than one Harvest Zone*

Table 8: Compliance activities 2025 summary

Activity	Total
Number of audits conducted on harvester return data	2,874
Percentage of active harvesters subject to programmed in-field audits***	75%
Number of investigations	5
Number of offences substantiated	4

**** An active harvester under the approved 2025 KHP Compliance Plan is defined as a harvester who is active throughout the previous four quarters. The changes to quota allocations throughout the year and the removal of quota in three Harvest Zones for Quarter 4 reduced tag availability and harvesting activity and therefore the opportunity to conduct in-field audits.*

General Program updates

2026 commercial quota

The 2026 quota is based on the ARI's recommendation in the report *Kangaroo harvest quotas for Victoria, 2026* (Ramsey, 2025).

When setting the commercial quota, the number of kangaroos predicted to be controlled under the ATCW system is based on long term averages. However, there is no way to predict ahead of time exactly how many ATCW permits will be granted in a year.

In response to the higher than predicted levels of ATCW control in 2025, DEECA has improved its modelling by using a drought index to inform the 2026 ATCW predictions. This approach aims to improve predictions by including additional data to inform the model. However, there is a possibility that actual ATCW numbers can still exceed the forecast, so it is intended to be used as a guide only.

In 2026, separate tags are being issued for each species, simplifying tracking and enabling better management of commercial quotas.

Commercial quota will be released quarterly in 2026 – scheduled for January, April, July, and October. This enables DEECA to monitor and adjust the quota release throughout the year in response to any events, such as significant bushfires or flooding, that may threaten the sustainability of kangaroo populations.

Emergency events

In 2025, two significant bushfires occurred, in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Little Desert National Park, which required accredited Wildlife Field Assessment Teams to euthanise kangaroos. Noting the Yarram Gap Road (Grampians) bushfire started in 2024 and continued into early 2025, only the kangaroos euthanised from 1 January 2025 are reported below.

Following welfare assessments, the DEECA Wildlife Field Assessment Teams euthanised just over 1,700 kangaroos on welfare grounds on and adjacent to the fire grounds in the 2025 calendar year.

DEECA considers the types, scale and impact of emergency events on the environment and grey kangaroo populations, before making decisions on changes to the commercial quota. DEECA assessed the fire footprint, which included areas of the Grampians and Barwon South West Harvest Zones. Following assessment, no changes to the commercial quota were deemed necessary.