

Kangaroo Harvest Quota for Victoria, 2022

Factsheet

Background

Overabundant kangaroo populations in Victoria can impact the environment and farmland.

Kangaroos can damage habitat, crops and property through overgrazing, as well as putting themselves – and other wildlife – at risk of starvation. Overabundant kangaroos can also pose risks to people's safety, particularly when close to roads.

To address these issues, Victoria and other state jurisdictions allow programs that ensure kangaroo populations are managed humanely and at sustainable levels.

Victorian landholders can either apply to:

- self-manage kangaroos with an Authority to Control Wildlife permit
- access a professional harvester through the Kangaroo Harvesting Program.

Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW)

Unlike the KHP, carcasses in the ATCW system cannot be sold as sustainable meat products.

Landholders can apply to the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning's (DELWP) Conservation Regulator for an ATCW permit to control kangaroos.

If the Conservation Regulator is satisfied that control of the wildlife is necessary, an ATCW permit will be issued for a specified period and for a specified number of animals. ATCW permits include strict conditions to ensure wildlife are controlled humanely, as well as the method that must be used to control the wildlife.

Kangaroo Harvesting Program (KHP)

Victoria allows a capped number of Eastern and Western grey kangaroos to be harvested each year under the Kangaroo Harvesting Program.

Under the KHP, landowners can engage a highly trained licensed professional shooter to harvest kangaroos, following animal welfare requirements and at sustainable levels. No ATCW permit is required.

Carcasses are used for sustainable meat products rather than being left to waste. Licensed meat processors can only accept carcasses from approved suppliers.

A quota system places a cap on the total level of take each year, to maintain sustainable kangaroo populations. Annual quotas are set across Victoria's seven harvest zones, in accordance with the Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan.

Animal welfare is a top priority and shooters need to be compliant with the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes.

Quotas for 2022

ARI estimates that Victoria's Grey kangaroo population is in excess of 1.85 million. ARI has recommended a maximum total take of kangaroos across both the ATCW system and the KHP in 2022 of 185,850.

The KHP quota has been set at 127,850, spread across the seven harvest zones as shown in the below table. This is an increase of 32,170 from last year, due to less ATCW permits being predicted than in 2021, and the expected transfer of landholders' preferred control method from the ATCW system to the KHP.

Harvest Zone	KHP quota
Mallee	1,050
Upper Wimmera	11,400
Lower Wimmera	30,550
Central	46,150
Otway	20,650
North East	4,950
Gippsland	13,100
Total	127,850

Kangaroo Harvest Quota for Victoria, 2022

Fact Sheet

Sustainable quotas

We regularly survey Victoria's kangaroo population and use that information to set annual quotas for the KHP. 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 per cent of Victoria's kangaroo population should be taken annually. This includes kangaroos taken under both the KHP and ATCW system.

Considerations when setting the 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 2022 KHP quota has been adjusted on that basis.

Different quotas for different zones

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

Comparing quotas across Australia

Victoria is committed to ensuring that no more than 10 per cent of our kangaroo population is taken annually across both the KHP and ATCW system. Many other Australian states have harvesting quotas of up to 15-20 per cent. Our lower harvest quota reflects the cautious approach we are taking as we gain more insight about how Victoria's kangaroo populations respond to harvesting.

Commercial harvesting of kangaroos is relatively new in Victoria, beginning in October 2019. Regular kangaroo population surveys only began in 2017. To sustain our kangaroo population and carefully monitor the impact of

harvesting, the Victorian Government has deliberately taken a conservative approach.

The KHP quota is reassessed each year, based on the latest kangaroo population data.

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
- carcasses can be used for sustainable meat products.

If ATCW levels are higher than predicted

To ensure the sustainability of kangaroo populations, DELWP regularly monitors the number of kangaroos taken through both programs regularly and adjusts the quota if needed.

This could include reducing the commercial harvest quota or closing zones to commercial harvest altogether. This occurred in 2021 in the North East zone.

More information

You can find more information in:

- *The Quota Determination 2022*
- The ARI 's *Kangaroo Harvest Quotas for Victoria, 2022* report

These are available online at: wildlife.vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/kangaroos/commercial-harvest-of-kangaroos

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions administers the KHP. More information on the program, including how to access quota can be found on their website djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/kangaroo-harvesting or by calling 131 186.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2021



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

ISBN (Online)

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au, or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.