

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

FAQs Processors

What is the Kangaroo Harvesting Program (KHP)?

The KHP commenced on 1 October 2019 and helps landholders reduce issues caused by kangaroos, it makes use of the carcasses and provides an income for the trained harvesters.

The program offers landholders experiencing issues with kangaroos an alternative to the Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) system. Unlike the ATCW system, landholders wanting to manage kangaroos on their property through the KHP do not need to apply for a permit.

The Victorian Government designates Harvest Zones across Victoria and assigns annual quota to each zone that specifies the number of Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos that can be controlled through the KHP in that area.

Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos can only be harvested by authorised harvesters with the landowner's permission. The carcasses are transported to licensed processors to be processed.

Why is there a kangaroo harvesting program?

While kangaroos are native wildlife, the Victorian Government appreciates they can have a detrimental effect on farmers, producers, and Victoria's economy by eating crops, drinking water meant for livestock and damaging property such as fences.

This program allows landowners to engage a harvester to control Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos. It also allows for the utilisation of kangaroo carcasses and creates economic benefit for Victoria.

The program ensures Victoria's Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo populations are managed in a sustainable way through set harvest quotas, in line with a Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan (KHMP) and national animal welfare standards, while helping landowners manage over-abundant kangaroos.

Who is overseeing the KHP?

The program is designed and implemented by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) in collaboration with the Game Management Authority (GMA) and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Visit our website for further information: [Kangaroo harvesting](#) | [Game Hunting](#) | [Department of Jobs, Skills, and Regions \(djsir.vic.gov.au\)](#)

How can my processing facility receive carcasses under the KHP?

There are two types of licenses a processing facility needs to be able to receive and process kangaroo carcasses under the KHP.

1. A PrimeSafe-licensed game meat processing facility can be approved to receive Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses to process for human consumption. A PrimeSafe licensed pet meat processing facility can be approved to receive Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses to process for pet food.
2. Processing facilities must also hold a Wildlife Processor Licence from DEECA to process Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos. Processing facilities are only able to receive Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses from authorised harvesters who hold an authorisation that is issued by the GMA. Harvesters must affix a tag to each carcass and adhere to certain requirements relating to the shooting of the kangaroo. Any untagged or incorrectly shot kangaroos should be reported via email to kangarooharvesting@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Contact PrimeSafe or DEECA for further information about requirements relating to the processor licences.

How many meat processing facilities are participating in the KHP?

There are facilities in Bairnsdale, Hoppers Crossing, Koallah, Orbost, Camperdown, Hamilton, Homerton, Seymour, Stanhope, Valencia Creek and Yering.

How should a processor record proof of receiving kangaroos from an authorised harvester?

As a processing facility, you must obtain proof from a harvester that they are authorised to harvest Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos before you accept kangaroo carcasses from them.

As proof of authorisation, harvesters can provide a photocopy of their authorisation or a screenshot of their authorised harvester e-licence on the Service Victoria app.

I have some concerns about the harvester who brought kangaroos to me and/or their actions. What do I do?

All concerns should be reported to the Customer Service Centre on 136 186. Non-compliance with the conditions of the KHP may result in an investigation.

Can kangaroo products be exported internationally?

From 10 December 2023 processors will be unable to apply for a permit to internationally export Victorian harvested kangaroo products until early 2024 unless evidence is produced that the kangaroos were harvested before 10 December 2023.

The KHMP 2021-2023 is recognised under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) as a Developmental Wildlife Trade Operation (DWTO) to allow for international export. This approval expired on 10 December 2023.

To allow for continued international export of kangaroo products, DEECA has submitted the new KHMP 2024-2028 to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) seeking for it to be declared as an approved Wildlife Trade Management Plan (WTMP) under the EPBC Act. As part of this process, DCCEEW is assessing the draft KHMP against the EPBC Act. A decision from DCCEEW is anticipated in early 2024.

For enquires on the WTMP and international export please contact wildlife.policy@delwp.vic.gov.au

Can existing stocks be exported internationally?

Yes, the DWTO covers all existing stock obtained through the KHP from 1st October 2019 to 10 December 2023, as long as evidence can be provided that kangaroos were harvested before 10 December. For more information regarding the evidence required please contact wps@dcceew.gov.au.

Can processors outside of Victoria receive carcasses from KHP Harvesters?

Yes. The Conditions of Authorisation for harvesters allow carcasses to be taken to processors outside of Victoria if it is legal under that State or Territories legislation to import Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos from Victoria for processing.

The harvester must obtain and act in accordance with an export permit issued under section 50 of the [Wildlife Act 1975](#). Contact DEECA on 136 186 or visit the DEECA website to obtain an export permit.

For any enquiries about import or export permits, please email the wildlife licensing team at: wildlifelicensing@delwp.vic.gov.au

How do I know the kangaroo carcasses have been handled and stored correctly?

Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses intended for pet food must be treated in compliance with the Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat (PISC Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009). A copy of the standard can be accessed via the PrimeSafe website – [PrimeSafe - Australian Standards and Guidelines](#)

Eastern and Western Grey kangaroo carcasses intended for human consumption must be processed in compliance with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Wild Game Meat for Human Consumption (AS 4464:2007). A copy of the standard can be accessed via the PrimeSafe website – [PrimeSafe - Australian Standards and Guidelines](#)

If you suspect a harvester is not adhering to those guidelines, please contact the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Can the kangaroos brought to me be used for human consumption?

Yes.

What is the annual quota for the KHP?

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action sets an annual quota each year. The quota is published on the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website -

[Kangaroo harvesting | Game Hunting | Department of Jobs, Skills, and Regions
\(djsir.vic.gov.au\)](https://djsir.vic.gov.au)

Why has the quota changed from last year?

When setting the quota, several factors are considered, including the latest population estimates, environmental conditions and the number of kangaroos expected to be controlled through the ATCW System.

The quota is set to ensure that the total level of control undertaken of kangaroos in Victoria, through the KHP and ATCW system, remains sustainable.

Can the quota change throughout the year?

Yes, the number of kangaroos taken across the KHP and ATCW systems is monitored closely throughout the year. If the level of take is thought to be exceeding sustainable levels at any stage, then the KHP quota may be readjusted or placed on hold in a particular zone.

Harvesting may also be closed off if any events threaten kangaroo populations, such as bushfires.

What are the changes to the program as a result of the new KHMP 2024-2028?

- The length of KHMP is extended from 3 to 5 years to align with WTMP approval (2024-2028)
- The 7 Kangaroo Harvest Zones will remain unchanged in 2024, but from 2025 Victoria will be divided into 5 Harvest Zones and 1 Exclusion Zone.
- From 2025 the Exclusion Zone will be expanded to include an addition 10 Local Government Areas's. The expanded Exclusion Zone has been determined based on
 - the establishment of new suburbs in LGAs, which have extended the Melbourne urban growth boundary further into existing Harvest Zones
 - comparative levels of harvesting activity and approved control under the ATCW system.
 - ecological considerations
 - existing LGA borders.