

Kangaroo Harvesting Program

FAQs Harvesters

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 I become an authorised harvester?

To become a harvester, you must apply for an authorisation through the GMA via [Kangaroo harvesting | Game Hunting | Department of Jobs, Skills, and Regions \(djsir.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Your application will be assessed, and you will be notified whether your application has been successful or whether further information or competencies are required.

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.

Can kangaroos be harvested for human consumption?

Yes.

Are there additional requirements for harvesters to harvest for human consumption instead of pet food?

PrimeSafe licensed game harvest vehicles may process and transport kangaroo carcasses for human consumption or pet food, but not at the same time. Different Australian Standards for food safety of kangaroo meat apply to human consumption and pet food. Kangaroo carcasses destined for pet food must not be processed or transported with those for human consumption.

Harvesters who harvest for human consumption must meet the requirements of AS 4464:2007 Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Wild Game Meat for Human Consumption. A copy of the standard can be accessed via the PrimeSafe website – [PrimeSafe - Australian Standards and Guidelines](#)

What is required by processors as proof of authorisation?

Harvesters can provide processors with a photocopy of their authorisation or a screenshot of their authorised harvester e-licence on the Service Victoria app.

How much quota will I get?

An Authorised Harvester can only be issued with a maximum quota allocation per application, which is available via [Kangaroo harvesting | Game Hunting | Department of Jobs, Skills, and Regions \(djsir.vic.gov.au\)](#)

How long do I have to use my allocated quota?

Your quota is valid until the end of the year that it was allocated.

What do I do with unused tags?

Any tags not used by the end of the designated year will be voided. Excess tags should be returned to the GMA.

What is the annual quota for the KHP?

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) 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 \(djsir.vic.gov.au\)](#)

A full quota report explaining how the quota is calculated is available on the DEECA's website at: [Kangaroo Harvesting Program \(wildlife.vic.gov.au\)](https://wildlife.vic.gov.au/Kangaroo-Harvesting-Program)

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 level of take of kangaroos in Victoria, through the KHP and ATCW system, remains sustainable.

Can the quota change or be withdrawn 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 Harvest Zone.

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

I've fulfilled my quota, but there are still excess kangaroos in my area. Can I harvest more?

You can apply for an additional quota for the specified Harvest Zone when you have used and reported on 50% of the tags in your possession. Once a zone's quota has been exhausted, no more quota will be allocated in that Harvest Zone.

Harvesters can apply for quota allocations and operate with approved allocations in multiple zones.

The quotas are strict and designed to ensure kangaroo populations remain at sustainable levels.

Where do I get the tags?

The tags will be sent to your registered postal address.

How do I access a landowner's property to control kangaroos?

You must show the landowner your authorisation – either on the Service Victoria app or a photocopy.

You must discuss property access and times with the relevant landowner and obtain consent before harvesting on their property. It is up to the harvester and landowner to agree when harvesting may take place.

Harvesters must carry evidence that they have received consent from the landowner or manager when harvesting. A pro forma consent form can be downloaded from [Kangaroo harvesting | Game Hunting | Department of Jobs, Skills, and Regions \(djsir.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.djsir.vic.gov.au/Kangaroo-harvesting-Game-Hunting)

I'm already a professional shooter, do I need to do a compliance test?

To obtain an authorisation, harvesters must hold a Victorian firearms licence and accreditations in Game Harvester Skill Set and firearms competency.

How much does it cost to be authorised as a harvester?

There is no cost to register as a harvester or obtain tags under the KHP. However, fees are expected to be introduced in future.

There are fees associated with obtaining a Game Meat Processing Facility (Harvest Vehicle) licence from PrimeSafe.

Do I need to have insurance to register as a harvester?

Yes. All harvesters should have public liability/indemnity insurance. Harvesters that don't have this insurance won't be paired with landowners. Further, all harvesters must provide their ABN before being authorised.

Where do I store kangaroo carcasses for pet food?

Kangaroo carcasses for pet food may be stored temporarily in a PrimeSafe licensed Field Depot or transported directly to a Pet Meat Processing Facility. Kangaroo carcasses for pet food must be processed 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](#)

Where do I store kangaroo carcasses for human consumption?

Kangaroo carcasses for human consumption may be stored temporarily in a PrimeSafe licensed Field Depot or transported directly to a Game Meat Processing Facility (Premises). Kangaroo carcasses 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](#).

Can I take a kangaroo carcass to a processor outside of Victoria?

Yes. Conditions of Authorisations for harvesters allow carcasses to be taken to processors outside of Victoria if it is authorised under the State or Territories legislation to import Eastern and Western Grey kangaroos from Victoria for processing. The harvester must act in accordance with an export permit issued under section 50 of the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

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

Can I keep kangaroos for my personal use?

Yes. This is allowed under the KHP conditions.

However, kangaroo carcasses must be tagged and cannot be given away, sold or traded in any way except to an appropriately licensed meat processing facility.

What alternatives do landowners have to control kangaroos?

Landowners can still apply for an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) if no harvesters are operating in their area or prefer not to be involved in the KHP.

An ATCW gives landowners the right to control kangaroos on their property. However, these carcasses cannot be used for human consumption or to make pet food.

DEECA administers the ATCW program. Further information is available at [Wildlife management and control authorisations | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations)

Can interstate harvesters apply under this program?

Yes. Interstate harvesters can apply for authorisation to operate in Victoria and must meet the eligibility requirements like anyone from Victoria.

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.

Does my authorisation last the life of the KHMP 2024-2028?

No, Conditions of Authorisation will remain valid for 3 years, expiring on 31 December 2026 unless revoked beforehand.