



Proposed Wildlife Trade Management Plan: Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2024-2028

Submission of the
Australian Veterinary Association Ltd
December 2023

The Australian Veterinary Association

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the peak professional association representing veterinarians in Australia.

Our members come from all fields within the veterinary profession. Clinical practitioners work with companion animals, horses, livestock, and wildlife. Government veterinarians work with our animal health, public health, and quarantine systems while other members work in industry, research, and teaching. Veterinary students are also members of the Association.

We empower the veterinary profession to thrive by providing a voice, education, community, and support.

Comments

Thank you to the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for the opportunity to comment on the *Proposed Wildlife Trade Management Plan: Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2024-2028* for consideration as an approved WTMP under section 303FO of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

Veterinarian subject matter experts from our member body have provided input to assist the Minister.

Sustainability. The plan is well formulated to ensure ongoing sustainability of kangaroo populations.

Monitoring. The plan describes a new model-based approach to determining numbers of kangaroos which looks to be superior to the previous system.

Quota setting. The quota of 10% is satisfactory and more than adequate to ensure viability of the population. It is reasonable to have a single quota for both species of grey kangaroos. It is pleasing to see that the number of dependent joeys which are culled will also be included.

Licensing. Several government agencies are involved; however, all aspects of appropriate licensing are covered.

Welfare. The plan does not specify how often in-field audits will be conducted and this should be specified as well as a commitment to publish breaches of the Code and steps taken re any prosecution and outcomes.



Other.

Education: Harvesters should be made aware of their legal responsibilities.

Training: Opportunities for training, including online options, should be communicated and any obligations or requirements to undertake these be outlined. Consideration should also be given to undertaking compliance workshops for harvesters.

Advisory Body: Consideration could be given to having an advisory body such as the NSW Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel with traditional owners included as members of the committee,

Surveys: Consideration should be given to having a review of aerial survey methods. This can be carried out by the Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling (CREEM) at St Andrews University UK.

Research: Ongoing research is essential. This could include the funding of PhD research on kangaroo management such has been undertaken by the NSW Kangaroo Unit.

Contact details

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