

Minutes of the 12th meeting of the NSW Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel

Ibis Room, Western Plains Zoo
7th October 2008

Meeting Opened: 9.50am

Present: Josh Gilroy (DECC), Nicole Payne (DECC), Marie Russell (RLPB), David O'Shannessy (RSPCA NSW), Sandy Bright (PAWD), Dr Tony English (Australian Veterinary Association), John Farr (NSW Kangaroo Harvester's Association Inc), Michael Cavanagh (KIAA), Dick MacFarlane (Dubbo Field Naturalists & Conservation Society), Michael Mulligan (AGMPA), Greg Markwick (DPI), Noni McCarthy (DECC)

Apologies: Patrick Medway (Wildlife Preservation Society), Ray Scott (NSW Farmers' Association), Ben Mannix (NSW Farmers' Association)

1. Introduction and welcome of John Farr as NSW Kangaroo Harvester's Association representative.
2. Adoption of Agenda: No further items, agenda accepted
3. Ratification of Minutes #11: Previous issues for Meeting #10 rectified. PAWD has asked that the organisation is listed as putting comments forward, rather than the individual. Minutes for meeting #11 will be amended accordingly, otherwise accepted.
4. Review of Actions from #11: Not dealt with - deferred to next meeting.

Action 1: *Landholder Representatives to communicate to their members the importance of completing application forms accurately.*

Action 2: *All members to send any requests for edits to Annual Report by 26th March. None received*

Action 3: *DECC to prepare a formal request to Processors regarding financial assistance for trappers involved in the seasonality project. Need to specify potential numbers and timeframe. Nil responses received*

Action 4: *DECC to include clarification of legal vs market weights and minimum weights with tails on with next trapper newsletter. Included in renewal newsletter*

Action 5: *Trapper number table to be sent to all members. Done*

Action 6: *Discuss administrative matters at next meeting, when possible RLPB boundary realignments will be known. Discussed this meeting, dependent upon outcome of fee review process.*

Action 7: KMAP organizations to contact DECC to arrange any face to face meetings. NSW Farmers' Association meeting attended 28 July.

Action 8: All Members please send availability for the period 29th Sept – 10th Oct.
Done

5. Fee Review Process.

- Manager KMP gave an overview of the consultation process to date including meetings with harvesters across state. Overall meetings poorly attended, but those who did attend represented the full spectrum of circumstances.
- At the meetings there was quite a lot of discussion on different models and costings put forward. Some costings were adjusted interactively to reflect input from attendees requesting a potentially more equitable distribution of price increases.
- Most attendees agreed that price increases were inevitable.
- Centralisation of administration of program seems to be widely accepted as necessary to reduce price increases.
- PAWD: As the need for such stringent compliance activities is in response to community needs, community should be contributing to the costs of compliance rather than the program itself.
- KIAA: Not isolated in the self funding expectation of regulators, eg NSW Food Authority.
- DECC: By maintaining full cost recovery model, KMP better able to maintain autonomy and control of expenditure decisions.
- General opinion- Option 3d in a centralised system is the most palatable.
- Some discussion on which offices best placed to stay in proposed centralised system.
- Mail movements need to be looked at closely, also quantity of work to required to sustain one full time position in the secondary processing location proposed for Broken Hill.

Action 1:

- *All submissions on fee review must be received by Manager, KMP by 17th October.*
- *Submissions will be circulated to all KMAP members*
- *Fee illustration spreadsheet to be sent to KMAP members for information*

6. Harvester Licence Moratorium

- Presentation by OzArk.
- Details of limitations of survey, large bias in survey sample due to timeframe and availability of interested party contact details.
- Issues arising from survey and subsequent discussions:
 - Landholder exemptions need to be considered;
 - Potential problems if new zone goes ahead without new shooters to service it;
 - Mechanism for restricting shooters to certain zones- is it possible - database would struggle with this and changes very expensive to make.

Action 2:

- *Manager, KMP to send OzArk report to KMAP members once edits completed.*
- *Submissions to be received by Manager, KMP one month later.*
- *All current harvesters will be sent renewal notices for 2009.*

7. Proposed New Zone

- Results of aerial surveys distributed to meeting, leading to a potential quota of approximately 160 000.
- Forbes RLPB was surveyed as part of fixed-wing survey with a view to it being added to Griffith zone, but likely to be very low numbers.
- Discussion of options for adding new areas to current zones as opposed to new zones, to minimise need for establishment of new offices if decentralised licensing model is retained.
- Issues around consistency in survey frequency and method need to be considered, plus dealing with additional workload for existing offices if new areas are added.
- Will exacerbate the problem of economic inefficiency in decentralised licensing model if new offices are added.

Action 3:

- *All submissions regarding proposed new zone must be received by Manager, KMP by 17th October. Will need to make comment on Moratorium and impacts on the potential new zone.*
- *Submissions will then be circulated around all KMAP members*

8. Barrier Ranges Sustainable Wildlife Enterprise Trial

- Almost all of the tags for the first 8000 tag licence have been issued, and these tags are due to expire at the end of October.
- 1700 tags for the second 4000 tag licence have been issued.
- There has been one harvester drop out from the trial due to a conflict with a landowner, and one harvester who was not ready with his PT licence for the first General Licence come on board for the second GL.
- Trial admin officer has done a wonderful job keeping the administration correct and ensuring harvesters get their returns in on time. There have been no unusual compliance issues to date.
- Trial proponents have asked if DECC would consider an additional General Licence to cover the first half of 2009 until the funding of the admin position runs out, and also to give the trial a full 12 months of implementation. There should be no problems with this.

9. Tag Allocation and Take

- To today, there had been 65% allocation of tags across the state, and due to extension of all current tags to the end of 2008 due to industry issues, it is unlikely that the allocation for the full year will reach even 80 % of approved quota.

- DECC: Put forward that it was important for harvesters to understand that extensions similar to those granted at the end of this year would not be forthcoming next year, so it will be important to purchase tags carefully.
- Next years' quota looks like being similar or slightly higher than 2008 due to increases in numbers generally across the state.
- Ballot process: DECC requested input into the format of the ballot process for next year. If there was to be a single ballot, landholders would need to nominate the start date for tags rather than harvesters to allow for protection of crops. However there are also issues with processors' capacity to deal with wide variations in supply and gluts associated with crop protection activity.
- RLPB: Need to look at exemptions from moratorium for landholders to deal with increased pressure on fodder for stock.

Action 4:

- *All submissions regarding ballot process must be received by Manager KMP by 17th October.*

10. AAT Update

- Tribunal wished to see a safety net/trigger point where the harvest is suspended. KMP to develop trigger points in conjunction with appropriate experts. The proposal has been distributed to all KMAP members by post.

Action 5:

- *Manager KMP to email documents to KMAP members and telephone those who could not attend to discuss matter with them.*
- *All submissions regarding trigger point for harvest suspension must be received by Manager KMP by **23 October**. DECC will review and provide revisions to KMAP members by **31 October**.*

11. Compliance

- Three prosecutions coming up soon.
- Due to lack of activity in the industry, there are a lot of empty chillers.

12. Code of Practice.

- Latest revision has led to the development of two draft Codes of Practice, one for commercial harvest situations, and one for non-commercial shooting.
- There is still some disagreement over the non-commercial code. As the two codes will replace the former one, both the new codes must be in place before the former is able to be repealed, hence the delay in implementation.

Meeting Closed: 3.10 pm

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Action 2: Done

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