

**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NSW KANGAROO  
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY PANEL  
MAINSTAY MOTEL, DUBBO – 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2004**

**PRESENT:** Joshua Gilroy (DEC- Chair), Nicole Payne (DEC), Phil Cameron (Dubbo Field Nats), Geoff Woods (DPI), Rosemary Barnes (NSW Farmers Assoc), Marie Russell (RLBP), Sandy Bright (PAWD), Mike Cavanagh (KIAA), Greg Bates (AGMPA).

**APOLOGIES:** Tony English (Australian Veterinary Assoc), Gerald Rose (RSPCA), Humane Society International.

Meeting commenced at 10am

### **1.2 Arrangements for meeting and adoption of agenda**

Joshua Gilroy indicated that the primary purpose of this first meeting was to discuss the commercial quota submission for 2005. Other important arrangements for the ongoing function of the panel would necessarily be deferred until the next meeting.

It was decided the meeting in February 2005 would also include the alternative representatives from each group so that these people have the necessary information and background to fill in for primary representatives when required.

The Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference for the new advisory Panel will be developed at this meeting, with input from all who attend.

AGMPA addressed problems faced at previous meetings, where comments made by members were misquoted or used inappropriately outside the context of the committee. Industry representatives asked for assurances that panel members will be able to speak openly without fear of similar misuse.

The group agreed that protocols would be put into place at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that comments on the minutes of the previous meeting would be submitted and distributed to the group one week prior to the next meeting. A reminder would be sent to the Panel, by DEC, one month before the meeting.

*Action 1.1 DEC to email last years submissions and comment to the group within the next few days.*

### **1.3 Function and operation of KMAP including historical context.**

Joshua Gilroy (DEC) gave the group background information on the life of the Advisory Committee. The Committee has been in existence since the 1980's. When the group was first established issues were voted on by the members. In 1997 this was

abolished and the Committee's main function since has been to gather information from their stakeholder groups and take it to DEC.

Recently the group was renamed to the Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel, and the membership was reviewed. This change was first instrumented in 2002 to be consistent with the new Kangaroo Management Program (2002-2006). The advisory panel, convened by DEC, will be the main forum through which stakeholder group representatives can raise issues for discussion as well as communicate their group's positions and interests to Government on a regular basis.

All groups from the previous Advisory Committee were invited to nominate for appointment to the new panel. All previous members chose to nominate, except the NSW Nature Conservation Council (NCC). Verbal discussions with the Executive Officer of NCC revealed that they had made a decision not to be part of the new group. Attempting to obtain written advice on this decision was the main reason for the delay in the formation of the new Panel. NCC will still be considered for appointment should they approach DEC to be part of this Advisory Panel.

Members were given the chance to introduce themselves to the rest of the Panel with a short history of their experience with the Industry and issues their groups were most concerned with.

List of Representatives:

<b>Community sector / interests represented</b>	<b>Organisation/individual</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Animal welfare	Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)	Dr Tony English
Animal welfare	RSPCA	Mr Steve Coleman
Rural Conservation interests	Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society Inc.	Mr Phil Cameron
Conservation interests	Humane Society International	Not advised
Landholders	NSW Farmers Association	Mrs Rosemary Barnes
Landholders	Pastoralists' Association of West Darling (PAWD)	Mrs Sandy Bright
Landholders / Public land management	Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB)	Mrs Marie Russell
Kangaroo processing industry	Australian Game Meat Producers Association	Mr Mike Mulligan
Kangaroo processing industry	Kangaroo Industries Association of Australia (KIAA)	Mr Michael Cavanagh
Professional kangaroo trappers	(a Professional trapper organisation)	
Aboriginal community interests	NSW Aboriginal Land Council	Mr Les Trindall
State government rural interests	NSW Agriculture (Dept Primary Industries)	Mr Geoff Woods
State Government conservation interests	DEC	Ms Nicole Payne

## **1.4 Background/introduction to the KMP and kangaroo licensing procedures**

Nicole Payne (DEC) outlined the roles of each organisation / group involved in the kangaroo licensing process, and the State and Federal legislation most relevant to the kangaroo industry. The provisions of this legislation constrain the development of policy and procedures for the commercial kangaroo harvest. The Kangaroo Management Program (KMP) has been developed to meet these legislative requirements, and has the status of subordinate legislation, making it legally enforceable.

The full Powerpoint slide presentation is attached in Appendix 1.

## **1.5 2004 tag allocation and commercial take figures**

### Allocation:

The quota for 2004 is 71% allocated to 20 October, with 5 zones fully allocated for Eastern Grey kangaroos. Wallaroo tags are still available in some of these zones, as they are not the preferred species for most trappers.

### Take:

KIAA asked why (DEC) had moved to a four monthly duration of S121 licences without discussion with the Industry. KIAA felt this move would increase the capacity for non-professional (*ie.* part-time) shooters to hoard tags.

DEC explained that as it was not policy to refund unused tags, unless for circumstances beyond the trapper's control, trappers would be putting themselves at a financial disadvantage should they choose to hoard tags. Because of an over allocation in 1996 of 20,000 tags, it was also DEC policy not to reallocate quota until the "unused" tags were returned.

DEC also explained that it was not their responsibility to ensure an equitable distribution of tags. Licences are processed as they are received.

Greg Bates (AGMPA) felt that because of low quotas this year and maybe for the next few years, that shooters hoarding tags was a problem that needed to be addressed by DEC.

*Action 1.2 DEC will prepare a discussion paper on "Options for managing the 2005 commercial quota" before the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2004 for Panel members to comment on.*

Panel members were to take these issues back to their organisations and bring possible solutions to the table in writing by 30 November 2004.

Some of the options discussed were:

- DEC to run reports to see what tags are outstanding.
- A hard line to be taken on unshot tags at the end of each year.

- DEC to revisit policies on unused tags.
- Infringe people who do not return tags.
- Limiting tags per licence.
- Holding back tags for winter crops toward the end of the year.
- DEC to be more hard lined on refunds/extensions.

Many of these are already routinely implemented.

DEC will gather information to see what is actually happening for the latter part of 2004, to ensure Trappers are not hoarding tags, and will let the Panel know the trend on refunds/extensions in fully allocated zones.

Joshua Gilroy stated that while trying to simplify the licensing process for the commercial industry, DEC is continually met with requests to make licensing more complicated.

## **1.6 2005 Draft Quota Submission**

Nicole (DEC) explained the document and it's implications on the quota for 2005. Because of a drop in the population estimates of around 17% the quota for 2005 will be reduced by about 16%. It is expected that the available quota will be fully allocated in 2005 in all zones except Tibooburra and Broken Hill.

KIAA asked "if the population estimates in 2005 showed an increase in population, would the quota for 2005 then be increased?"

DEC explained that this was logistically very difficult because Commonwealth government approval would need to be obtained following the full consultation process. Because of the time needed to analyse survey data and undertake consultation, a revised quota could not be approved before the end of the year. However, Special Quota, which is requested as part of each year's quota submission, could be used where populations showed an increase and commercial quota had been fully allocated.

The Department of Environment and Heritage asked DEC for additional information in the Quota Submission for 2005:

1. How did SE region trial go?
2. Provide figures on actual take (including those under special quota)
3. How the continuing drought has been taken into consideration (noting that there is widespread concern about a dramatic population decrease due to drought).
4. Monitoring undertaken in 2004.

These issues have been addressed in the quota submission.

Because of the approval process and the need to have the quota approved in time for 1 January 2005, DEC asked for submissions from panel members by COB Friday 29 October 2004.

*Action 1.3 Nicole to email 2005 Draft Quota Submission document to Ross Andrews (PAWD), Mike Cavanagh, John Kelly (KIAA), Chris Lane (RLPB), Ron Hacker and Barry Kay.*

## **1.7 Review of Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos**

DEC advised the group that as the current Code of Practice had been in place since 1984, it was well overdue for a review.

The submissions for this review closed on 15 October 2004, but DEC feels that late submissions would be considered.

The working group for the review would now look at the submissions received and decide if a new Code is needed.

The new code (if produced) would then go out for public comment prior to finalisation and approval.

## **1.8 Other Business**

1. “Review of Kangaroo Fauna Dealer Wholesaler Licensing in NSW”.

All panel members were given a copy of this paper and asked to be familiar with it by the next meeting.

2. Sponsoring of a Professional Shooters Group.

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Protocols for the Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel.

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **1.9 Next meeting/s**

The next meeting will be held on 24 February commencing at 9am.

## **List of Actions:**

Action 1.1 DEC to email last years submissions and comment to the group within the next few days.

Action 1.2 DEC will prepare a discussion paper on “Options for managing the 2005 commercial quota” before 29 October 2004 for panel members to comment on by 30 November 2004.

Action 1.3 Nicole to email 2005 Draft Quota Submission document to Ross Andrews (PAWD), Mike Cavanagh, John Kelly (KIAA), Chris Lane (RLPB), Ron Hacker and Barry Kay.

**Appendix 1 - Background/introduction to the KMP and kangaroo licensing procedures**