

**MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE NSW KANGAROO
MANANAGMENT ADVISORY PANEL.**

OEC CENTRE, DUBBO – 12TH OCTOBER 2005

PRESENT: Joshua Gilroy (Chair), Nicole Payne (DEC), Geoff Woods (DPI), Marie Russell (RLPB), Sandy Bright (PAWD), Mike Cavanagh (KIAA), Francis Brown (NSW Farmers Assoc.), Dr Tony English (Aust Vet Assoc.), Stephen Coleman (RSPCA), Greg Bates (AGMPA).

APOLOGIES: Michael Mulligan (AGMPA), Rosemary Barnes (NSW Farmers Assoc.)

1. Formalities

Ratification of Minutes #3

- The minutes for Meeting #3 were formally adopted.
- Panel members made no objection to Ros Muston receiving copies of the draft minutes of future meetings.

Review of Actions from Meeting #3

- Action 1: A contact details table to be re-sent to Mike Cavanagh and Michael Mulligan..
Sent on 12th August.
- Action 2: A reminder will be sent to all members re mini CV's
Sent on 12th August.
- Action 3: A draft of the Fauna Dealer Review will be posted ASAP to all members. Responses from the Panel will be forwarded to the Minister.
Sent on 2nd August. No responses have been received.
- Action 4: Post a copy of the Model Management Plan from Department of Environment and Heritage to all Panel members.
Sent on 2nd August.
- Action 5: DEC will provide the Panel with copies of the South Australian and Queensland Management Programs and a summary of each.
Sent on 6th September.
- Action 6: DEC will bring back to the Panel as much information as possible on Queensland's skin only shooting harvest.
A Consultant has been engaged by DEC for a more comprehensive review. The report will be forwarded on to the Panel in time for the March meeting. The Consultant, Sally Egan from EA Systems P/L Armidale, will also be asked to address the March meeting.

- Action 7: DEC will send Panel members an updated copy of the “Correspondence register” so that they can advise which reports they have not received.
Sent on 12th August.
- Action 8: DEC will make a summary of chiller and truck registration requirements and bring it back to the Panel.
Sent on 6th September.
- Action 9: DEC will send a letter to the organisations that Panel members represent, informing them formally of the KMP review and the rationale as to why this needs to happen.
Sent on 12th August. Responses have been received from DPI and NSW Farmers Association.
- Action 10: Electronic version of aerial survey Fact Sheet to be sent to all panel members.
Hard copies sent on 2nd August 2005, emailed on 11th August.
- Action 11: Panel members to be sent population estimates to be tabled at the September meeting, by the end of August.
Sent 9th September.
- Action 12: Discussion paper on Code of Practice to be distributed to the Panel.
Sent on 2nd August.
- Action 13: DEC will respond to KIAA’s request and send a copy to all Panel members
Sent on 2nd August.

Action 1: A new folder will be given to the KMAP members, with a list of what information is relevant for the Review of the KMP.

- Panel members asked that all future documents sent out by DEC are dated.

2. Latest statistics

Tag allocations

- Most zones in the eastern part of the State are fully allocated and have been for some months.
- In contrast the Western zones are only part way through their allocation, and are unlikely to be fully allocated by the end of the year. Examples: Broken Hill 40% allocated, Tibooburra 48% allocated. It is thought the kangaroo populations in these zones are too scattered to be economically viable for the trappers. The stop/start recovery of the population in these zones would also be affecting the allocations.

Commercial Harvest

- In most areas where the quota has been fully allocated *ie.* Glen Innes, Upper Hunter and Armidale the take figures are high. Most tags allocated in these areas have now been utilised.
- Returned tags in these areas are being redistributed for full allocation of the quota.
- Extensions are still available from DEC for “exceptional circumstances”. These cater for unforeseen circumstances that the trapper cannot plan around *eg.* illness of a trapper or close family members.
- DEC are now intervening on behalf of the Industry and Landowners to facilitate full utilisation of the quota. This was not the case in previous years.
- A transfer of quota from those zones which still have available quota to zones that are fully allocated and where demand is highest, would not be in the interest of the sustainability of kangaroo populations, which is DEC’s main aim. This could jeopardise the whole Kangaroo Management Program.
- Industry advised that they could not operate on the efforts of “full-time” shooters alone. ‘Part-time’ shooters were required to make up the short fall.

Action 2: DEC will collate information on shooter/take figures over the last three years.

- DEC will continue to update the KMP web page with all the latest statistics so informed decisions can be made by people interested in the Kangaroo Management Program and kangaroo culling.

3. 2006 Quota Submissions

Population estimates

- There was a decline of around 20% in population estimates in the annual surveys of the Western Plains.
- No changes in the Northern Tablelands or the SE NSW zones as these zones are only surveyed every three years.

Proposed Quotas

- The quota estimate for 2006 is around 900,000 animals.

Management of reduced quotas

- Several options were put before the Panel for managing the 2006 commercial quota:
 - Restrict the number of tags per occupier licence
 - Withhold some quota until June/July

Reduce “panic buying”
More equitable distribution of available tags

- Industry would like to see a later start date for allocation rather than the stop/start method of withholding quota for the months when crop protection is needed.
- DEC needs to be satisfied that quota is available during the critical “crop protection” times to try to reduce the need for non-commercial culling.
- In western zones where quota is still available, the greatest challenge to Industry of lowered quotas is professional trappers drifting away to find alternative work because of the drought.
- DEC cannot make decisions regarding kangaroo management that are based solely on economic considerations. Decisions must further the objects of the Act, which relate to conservation.
- Comments from the Panel on the management of reduced quotas to be received by 31st October 2005.

SE NSW update

- 2007 will be the final year of the trial
- Non-commercial shooting is being monitored in this zone. There has been a decline of 37% Eastern greys taken under non-commercial licences since September 2004, and 56% reduction since the commencement of the trial.
- This trial will determine whether other areas are opened up to commercial shooting.

Timetable for comments to be received.

- Comments on the Quota submissions to be received by DEC no later than 31st October. These will then be forwarded to the Minister.

4. Review of KMP

Review progress on information requirement

Action 3: DEC will commission a literature review to update previous review for the 2002 Management Program.

Action 4: Clarify with DEH re: non-commercial shooting not being included within the plan.

Action 5: How many non-commercial licences are issued in the commercial zone?

- Does the new plan need to include the capacity for adaptive management?
- Does the new plan need to contain capacity to adjust the quota mid-year, and does this need to be discussed with the Commonwealth?

Action 6: DEC to make available to the new members of the panel the presentations from guest speakers at the last review.

Action 7: All panel members to receive a copy of the “Commercial Harvesting of Kangaroos in Australia”

Panel members were given a copy of this document at their inaugural meeting on 20th October 2004.

PAWD report on skin-only shooting

- A submission from PAWD for the re-introduction of skin only shooting was received by DEC on 28th September 2005 and forwarded to other Panel members for their information.

PAWD report on Euro quota proposal

- PAWD were unable to report on how many properties in the Broken Hill zones required culling of Euros.
- PAWD feel that the tool to cull euros should be included in the new plan, even if not used immediately.
- DEC would have to pre-empt any decision with a survey of Euros in 2006, before a quota would even be considered by the Commonwealth.

Action 8: DEC to collate figures on previous Euro takes and how many properties were licensed.

Skin Only shooting

- A consultant (Sally Egan, EA Systems P/L Armidale) has been engaged to conduct a comprehensive review of the feasibility of re-introducing skin-only shooting in NSW. The brief requires that the costs and benefits to all major stakeholder groups be considered. The draft report should be available to Panel members early in the New Year, and it is expected that the consultant will present the report at the March meeting.

5. Other Business

Fauna Dealer Wholesaler review – progress on decision

- There have been many changes in the Fauna Dealer sector since this report was commissioned. This creates a problem for DEC in making a recommendation to the Minister.

- DEC feel that the Fauna Dealer Review may need to be refreshed taking the new situations into account before recommending an option.
- DEC would also like the effects of the drought to settle before making a decision.
- Panel members agreed that there was no point in sending a package to the Minister for his decision until DEC is able to make a clear recommendation on the future direction for this policy.

Action 9: DEC to send an updated list of who holds a current Fauna Dealer licence to the Panel members with the draft Minutes.

Code of Practice review progress

- The working group has received an updated revised code to be reviewed within the group. This is not yet for public comment.
- DEC feels the revised draft is not a significant improvement over the current version.

Any documents not received from correspondence register

- DEC will need a list of any items not received by Panel members

Action 10: An updated list of the correspondence register will be sent to the Panel members before the March meeting. Panel members to check that they have received all documents listed and advise DEC of any missing documents.

Update contact details if required

- It is the responsibility of members to make sure this is kept up to date. In particular, current contacts within their organisations are required to ensure timely delivery of correspondence.

Next meeting date

- The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd March. This will be a one-day meeting and will include normal business and the KMP review. DEC will check the availability of Ros Muston to facilitate this meeting.

List of Actions

Action 1: A new folder will be given to the KMAP members, with a list of what information is relevant, for the Review of the KMP.

Action 2: DEC will collate information on shooter/take figures over the last three years.

Chart summaries sent 26th October.

Action 3: DEC will commission a literature review to update previous review for the 2002 Management Program.

Action 4: Clarify with DEH re: non-commercial shooting not being included within the plan.

Action 5: How many non-commercial licences are issued in the commercial zone?
Extracts from reports to Commonwealth 2003 - 2nd quarter 2005, plus chart summary. Sent 26th October.

Action 6: DEC to make available to the new members of the panel the presentations from guest speakers at the last review.

Action 7: All panel members to receive a copy of the “Commercial Harvesting of Kangaroos in Australia”.
Panel members were given a copy of this document at their inaugural meeting on 20th October 2004. Document not sent again.

Action 8: DEC to collate figures on previous Euro takes and how many properties were licensed.
Chart summary sent 26th October.

Action 9: DEC to send an updated list of who holds a current Fauna Dealer licence to the Panel members with the draft minutes.
List sent 26th October.

Action 10: An updated list of the correspondence register will be sent to the Panel members before the March meeting.