

FATE

Future of Australia's Threatened Ecosystems



Peter Ampt and Alex Baumber, FATE Program, UNSW

What is the FATE Program?

- An action research program to demonstrate and evaluate the potential for the **commercial use of native species** to contribute to sustainable and productive land-use systems in rural and regional Australia
- Our aim is to integrate native species enterprises into existing rural enterprises to make a positive impact on landscapes and on conservation objectives

FATE and kangaroos

- Paper and review of 'Kangaroos: myths and realities' current issue of Royal Zoological Society journal.
- 'Choosing kangaroo' marketing project funded by RIRDC.
- **Landholder involvement in kangaroo management - Barrier Ranges Project**

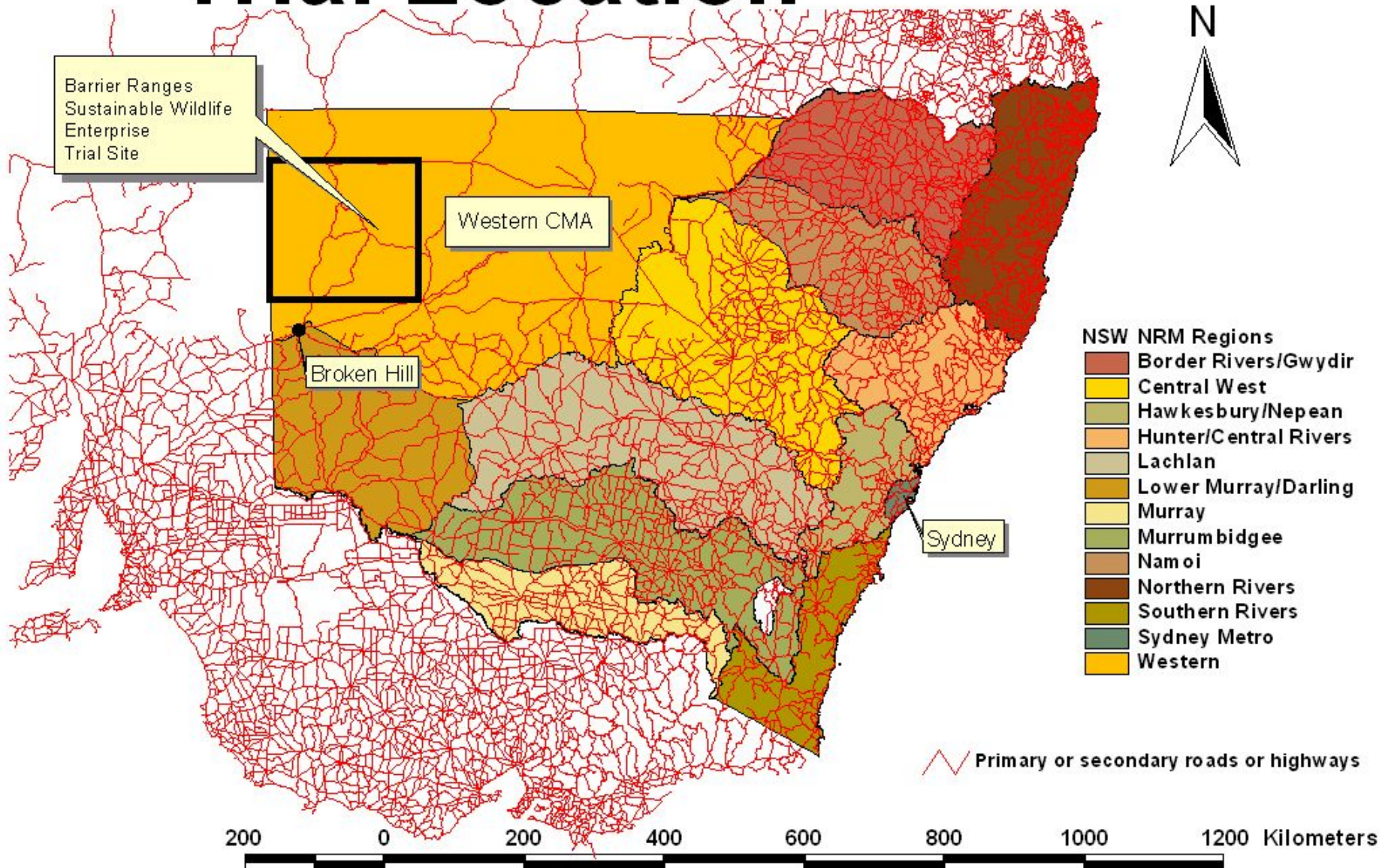
FATE's Collaboration with BARG (Barrier Area Rangecare Group)

- FATE has been working with BARG since March 2005.
- BARG voted in November 2005 to work towards collaborative management of kangaroos.
- Tilpa Rangeland Investment Co. people have been part of the process.
- We believe this is a first step towards greater valuing of kangaroos as a resource, closer integration of kangaroo management with other enterprises and incentives to undertake conservation actions.

Barrier Area Sustainable Wildlife Enterprise Trial

- Approx 27 landholders in BARG altogether, guided by steering committee consisting of landholders, FATE staff, Western CMA rep and shooter rep
- Project funded by RIRDC for three years July 2006 – June 2009
- Development of kangaroo harvesting strategies and business plan. Workshops with landholders, industry and experts
- Monitoring of harvest using GPS and GIS, monitoring of rangeland health through Landscape Function Analysis (LFA).
- Supported by part-time local coordinator based at Western CMA in Broken Hill

Trial Location



Barrier Ranges Project Objectives

- To develop a collaborative approach to kangaroo management across the BARG area.
- To develop a collaborative kangaroo enterprise that provides returns to BARG.
- To integrate kangaroo management with other enterprises and activities on the participating properties to achieve improved management of total grazing pressure.
- To establish and undertake community monitoring of landscape function and kangaroo populations to inform adaptive management.
- To document the process and develop a model for similar initiatives in other locations.

Improving resource condition through adaptive management

- Use AEMS Property Manager System to help implement EMS.
- Use Landscape Function Analysis (LFA) to show changes in resource condition and to help make management decisions.
- Develop an across-BARG information system to determine trends in landscape condition and total grazing pressure
- Long-term goal is being able to relate specific management decisions to changes in LFA values

How does this fit into the NSW KMP Goal

- “To maintain viable populations of kangaroos throughout their ranges in accordance with the **principles of ecologically sustainable development**”
- ESD includes integration of “economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations”
- ESD includes promotion of “improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms”
- Adaptive Management Trial under Aim 4 of the 2007-2011 KMP

Drivers to achieve integration and valuing of wildlife resources

- Internationally, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity promotes an **ecosystem approach** to integrate wildlife use with overall ecosystem management.
- Local people managing the ecosystem are the key (ie landholders) - devolve more power and economic returns to them.
- Integrate kangaroo harvesting with CMA goals regarding managing areas for conservation (eg Western CMA goal of 12% of area managed for conservation within 10 years)

Obstacles to landholders valuing and managing kangaroos

- Difficult to manage kangaroo population explosion events
- Difficult to collaborate with neighbours
- Difficult to enter into a long-term commercial arrangements
- Difficult to manage commercial risk due to variability in harvest
- Qld 1999 survey –Government controls more important than price in why landholders don't see kangaroos as a economic resource

Proposed Actions of Trial

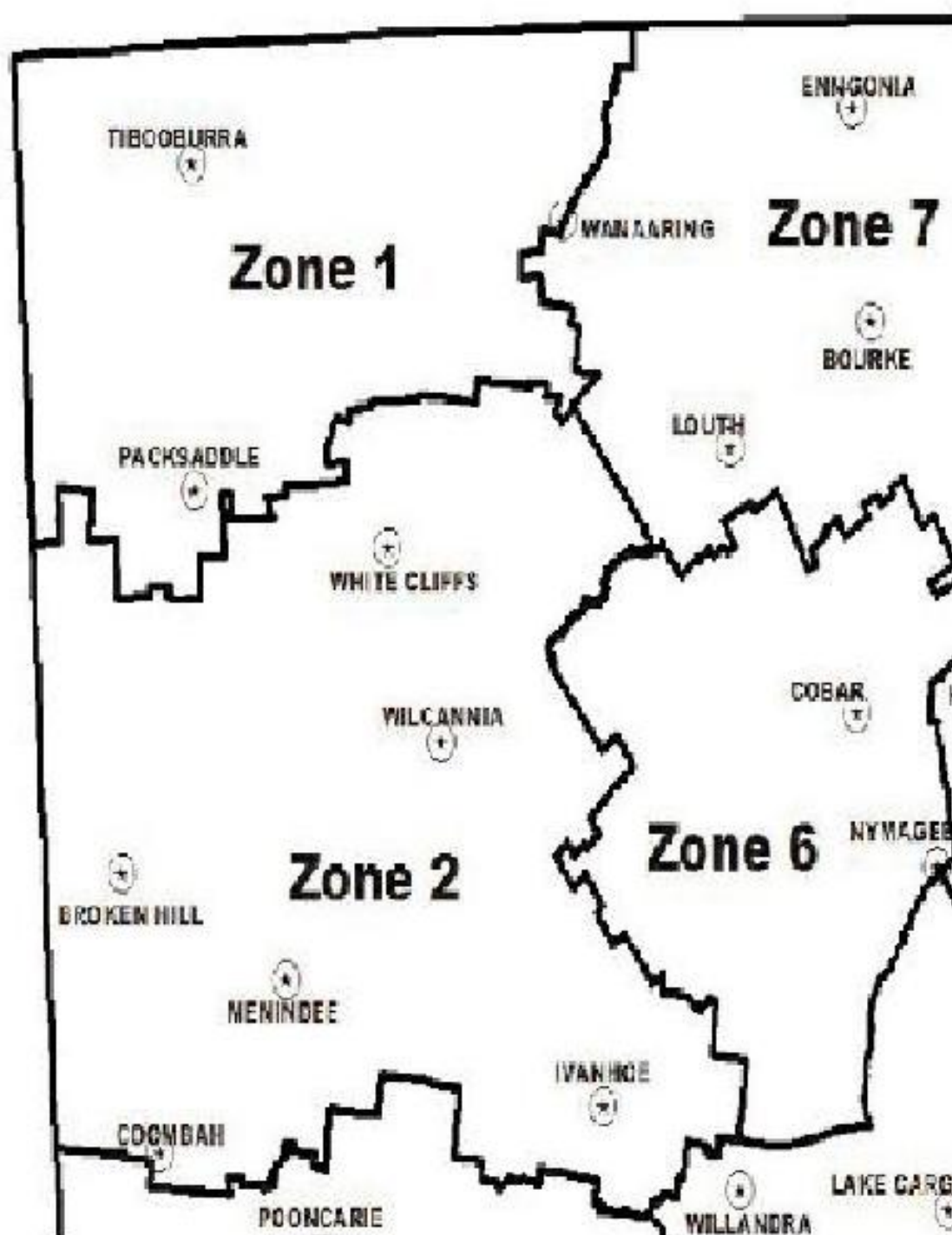
- **Group licensing** – treat group like one property, tags to be used across all properties in the group.
- **Group annual harvest target** within zone quota – not a “guaranteed” quota but a target to work towards.
- Make longer-term **arrangements with shooters** to each take a portion of the group quota.
- Make longer-term **arrangements with processors** who may value an improved security of supply (not royalties simply for access).

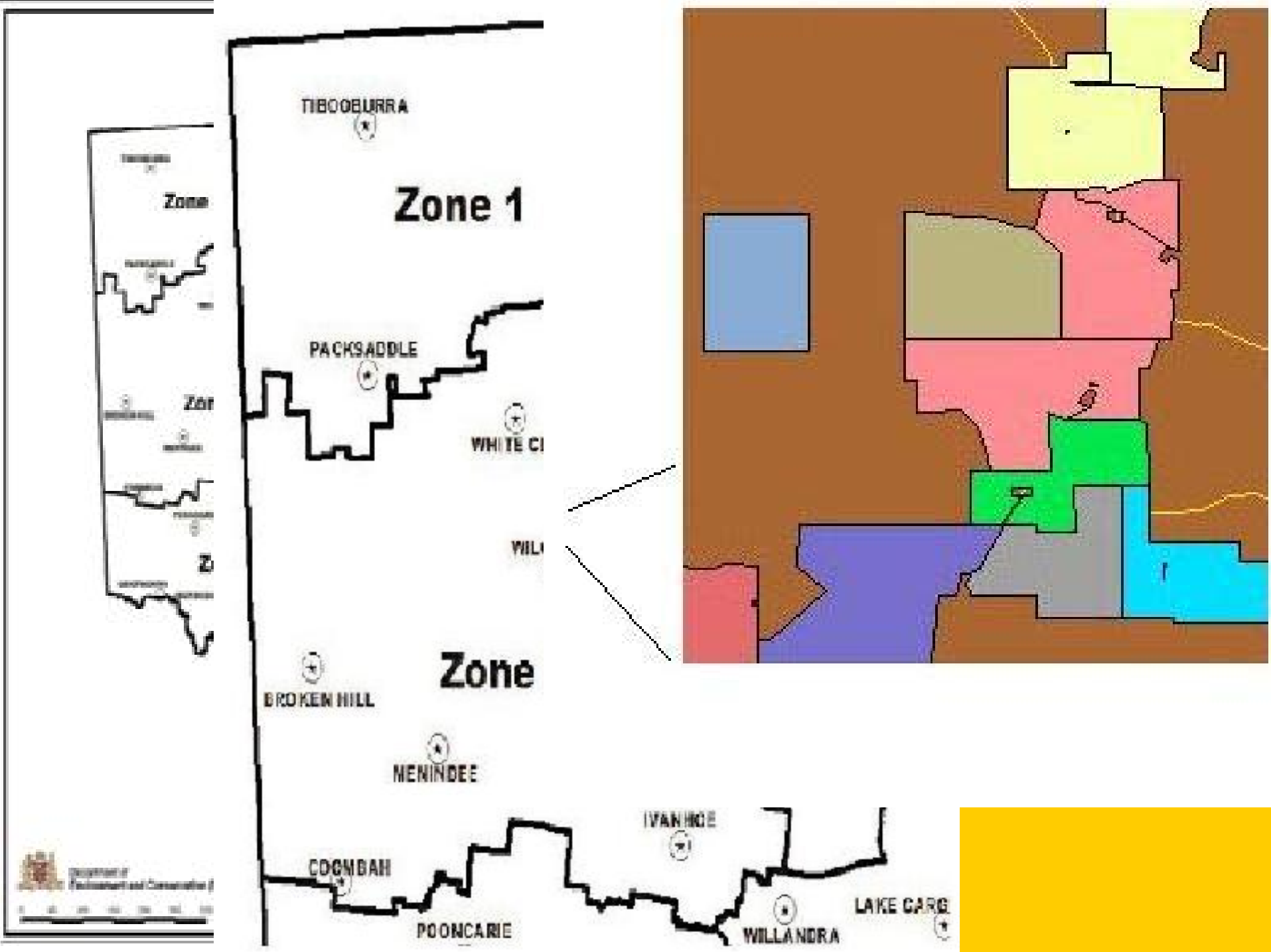


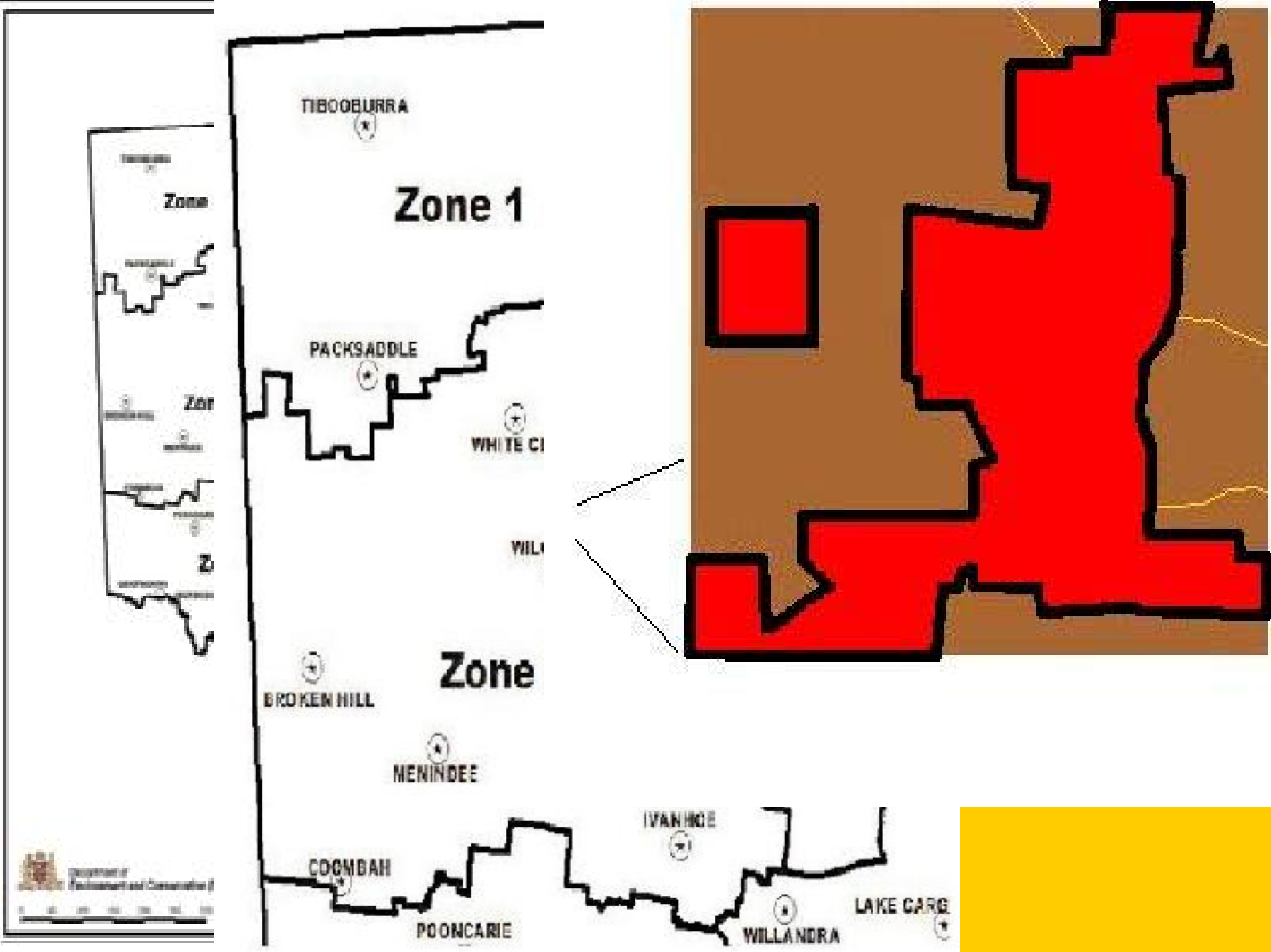
Kangaroo Management Zones

- ☐ Zone 1 - Tibelluna
- ☐ Zone 2 - Broken Hill
- ☐ Zone 4 - Lower Darling
- ☐ Zone 6 - Colbar
- ☐ Zone 7 - Colbar North
- ☐ Zone 8 - Namadji
- ☐ Zone 9 - Armidale
- ☐ Zone 10 - Coonah/Griffith
- ☐ Zone 11 - Griffith
- ☐ Zone 13 - East River
- ☐ Zone 14 - Upper Hunter
- ☐ Zone 10 - Southwest NSW









Potential advantages for BARG members

- More flexible management of the kangaroo component of total grazing pressure.
- Ability to integrate kangaroo management with other enterprises.
- Will no longer need to apply for tags individually.
- Working together means a larger area - better management of risk associated with harvest variability and increased ability to negotiate supply deals with processors.
- Generate some income for BARG to contribute towards other objectives.

Potential advantages for shooters

- Able to work anywhere on BARG in collaboration with coordinator, not confined to property from which tags were issued.
- BARG will seek to provide/facilitate conveniently located chillers cutting down travel.
- Able to harvest more heavily during times of localised over-population than under present arrangements.
- Provided with GPS and data recording device.
- Data and KMP returns managed by BARG.

Outcomes to be Tested

- **Increased valuing** of kangaroos by landholders – economic returns and changes in attitudes
- **Integration** of kangaroo harvesting with other management – more strategic approach to where and when kangaroos are harvested
- **Incentives** to undertake conservation activities – manage areas for conservation but still get income from kangaroos
- **Changes in land condition** due to management of kangaroos – will be monitored but results will be a long way off

Issues to be Resolved

- **Legal provisions** of National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 – Occupier's licence may be a problem but General licence could be a solution. Need to work out how this would fit in with normal KMP licensing.
- **Policy approach** - Is DEC and KMAP supportive of exploring these ideas? What sorts of benefits do you need to see to justify the possible extra work-load due to changes to normal procedure?
- **Monitoring procedures** – What performance indicators are most important and achievable within a 2-3 year time-frame?