

# Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



## Meeting minutes

### Details

- Meeting:** 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP Commercial)
- Location:** Teams Virtual Meeting
- Date/time:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021
- Chairperson:** **Robert Mulley**, Dr., Western Sydney University

### People present

1. Chairperson: **Robert Mulley**, Dr., Western Sydney University
2. **Steven McLeod**, Dr., Australasian Wildlife Management Society
3. **Tanya Stephens**, Dr., Australian Veterinary Association
4. **Nick De Vos**, NSW RSPCA
5. **Jason Wilson**, Aboriginal Communities (West)
6. **Ray Scott**, NSW Farmers
7. **Andrew Sanger**, DPI
8. **Ray Borda**, KIAA
9. **Terry Brill**, NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Unit, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
10. **Scott King**, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
11. **Jackie Burgess**, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

### Guests

12. **Peter Stathis**, National Parks and Wildlife
13. **Vanessa Wilson**, National Parks and Wildlife
14. **Danielle Stocks**, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

### Apologies

Nil

No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
	<b>Minutes</b> Previous 35 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes adopted, ratified and approved for publishing to the KMP website.	<b>Action:</b> The #35 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes ratified by the Chair	All Chair of the panel

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No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
1	<p><b><u>Chairpersons report</u></b></p> <p>Acknowledgement of country. Welcome Nick De Vos to the panel whom replaces Tanya Dominguez from RSPCA. Acknowledged KMAP's extra consultation sessions during 2020 for the Draft Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2022-2026 and KMP compliance strategy. No late items.</p>		
2	<p><b><u>DPIE Directors update – Scott King Acting director.</u></b></p> <p>During budget estimates the Environment Minister was asked many questions about the administration of the commercial and non-commercial programs. Questions included current regulatory mechanisms; establishing and setting populations with long term indicators; threats such exclusion fencing and health; the impact of commercial verse non-commercial culling and measures for increased conservation.</p> <p>In March the Department received notification that there would be an Upper House Inquiry into the health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW. DPIE, in conjunction with other agencies prepared a whole of Government submission to the Inquiry. The submission included current program policies and operations and highlighted that kangaroos can't be harmed without a licence; education/humaneness materials are distributed to licensees; populations are ecologically viable (which is supported by the science underpinning commercial surveying methodology and data); regulation is in place to ensure humane harvesting. It was acknowledged by the Department that exclusion fencing has knowledge gaps due to lack of research on this topic. The submission has been approved by the Environment Minister and is awaiting final approval from Premier and Cabinet..</p> <p>It is anticipated that witnesses will be called before the committee to clarify questions (including govt witnesses) and other industry stakeholders. At the end of the hearing the committee will provide the final report and recommendations on 7/9/21. Government will then have 2 months to respond*.</p> <p><b>*Note: This is actually 6 months.</b></p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>DPIE</p> <p>Circulate the submission to KMAP once submitted</p>	Terry Brill

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## **KMP Senior Team Leader update**

The KMP Compliance Strategy as developed during 2020/21. It has important 4 themes: inform, educate support & encourage; clear and consistent standards; an agile and strategic approach and increased efficiency and support for investigations. It will have annual action plan to implement the strategy. The timeline is not pre-defined in the strategy though it is likely to be for the duration of the 2022-2026 management plan. The strategy will contribute to providing the industry with grater integrity; increased reporting; more robust compliance inspection and investigations and will help informed best practice targets.

A mobile chiller trial will be conducted from 1 January 2022, of around 5 trial licences. KMP will use 2021 to prepare and conduct expressions of interest. There will be a requirement for a full time tracking device (for compliance purposes); all food safety requirements must be met during; it will be conducted over a range of areas and mobile chiller types. Policy considerations will be centred around licence conditions. KMP has identified a range of benefits for harvesters including potential significant work/health/safety for harvesters (ie driving times for harvesters to drive to properties and then deliver kangaroos to chillers). It may also flow over to benefits for remote landholders now able to have harvesting conducted on their properties without the large distance chiller consignment delivery time constraints. The panel acknowledged that other states have mobile chillers that are functioning well and have had positive results. The panel unanimously supported this trial.

The 2021 aerial survey will commence with a training session for fixed wing counters in May 2021 run by Steve McLeod. It will include training flights and theory of counting. KMP impose a high level of scrutiny when appointing new counters and only appoint those with high levels of accuracy during testing. In 2021 KMP recruited 3 new counters. The best of fixed wing surveyors will be given opportunity to participate in the tablelands helicopter surveys. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that this training session has been conducted and includes both existing and new surveyors. Data analysed from the counters and has identified that NSW Counts are twice as precise as other surveys from other states or internationally. The accuracy of the surveys can be defended comprehensively. The robust and rigorous scientific analysis is important in education the public about the integrity of the current survey methods.

The extension for the current KMAP has been approved along with approval to recruit a new panel. KMAP#4 was extended from 31/12/2020 to 31/12/2021 and will overlap to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of KMAP#5. The new KMAP will have the same existing stakeholder groups with an additional Aboriginal and NSW farmer representatives. There will also now be two

DPIE

Send compliance strategy to Nick De Vos

Jackie Burgess

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No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
	harvesters. The new Terms of Reference are being reviewed and KMAP will be consulted prior to recruitment. It is anticipated that the new panel will have 1 face to face and 1 virtual meeting each year.		

4	<p><b><u>NPWS Non-commercial Licensing – Peter Stathis &amp; Vanessa Wilson NPWS</u></b></p> <p>NPWS have many service delivery obligations. Rangers are primarily responsible for issuing non-commercial licences to harm kangaroos, however they are not dedicated solely to this task. Community expectations are therefore often skewed regarding service delivery expectations. There are often many questions asked &amp; political focus about why non-commercial licences to harm kangaroos are still granted, especially during time of drought, major weather events or fires. Reporting is an area that improvement in compliance by licensees would be beneficial.</p> <p>Changes to non-commercial licensing commenced in August 2018. The aim was to reduce red tape and improve consistency of licence administration, while ensuring the ecological sustainability of kangaroo populations. The Local Land Service (LLS) also initiated a public register of licenced persons to help landholders with culling. This was mainly in response to the continued drought. Licence conditions were revised to ensure an easier licensing process. This included the removal of the requirement for carcass tags to be attached; allowing some licence applications to be submitted over the phone; removal of the requirement for separate licensing of shooters operating on behalf of a licensed landholder; introduction of maximum limits on the number of kangaroos that can be authorised to be culled per 3 month licence, based on property size, species and location. Maximum limits are set annually based on population estimates established by the commercial program. Previously the ‘shoot and let lie’ rule was considered by some to be a health/biosecurity issue which could attract pests, but now landholders and shooters can use the carcasses for non-commercial purposes, such as pest baits. In 2018 when the changes were introduced, limits were based on property size and species and were consistent across the state. In subsequent years limits were reduced or increased in response to changes in populations in certain kangaroo management zones. If a zone has the commercial quota suspended, then NPWS assesses applications on a case by case basis. All properties up to 20ha must be assessed on a case by case basis and licensees must notify neighbours and police. The NPWS website and intranet was updated in February 2021. The update provides information on a 4 pronged approach: ‘can you live with kangaroos’; ‘contact NPWS for non-lethal method ideas’; ‘connect with a commercial kangaroo harvester’ or ‘obtain a non-commercial licence’.</p> <p>In August 2018 a large surge of licences were issued (due to ease of applying and high interest of landholders). In 2018 the number of animals licensed to be harmed under non-</p>	NPWS  Vanessa Wilson will PDF the presentation for distribute to panel	Jackie Burgess
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No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
	<p>commercial licences was higher than the in the commercial program, however that trend has not continued since 2018.</p> <p>Industry commented that their preference would be for the administration of the commercial and non-commercial programs to be combined and that animal welfare is always the priority for industry. NPWS said that this alignment may be an option for strengthening internal administration processes. NPWS also acknowledged the disparity in reporting reliability between non-commercial and commercial licensing, noting that the commercial program has robust and highly enforceable reporting requirements by licensees which contributes to the confidence and credibility of the commercial program.</p>		
6	<p><b><u>2020 Draft Annual Report KMP Senior Team Leader</u></b></p> <p>Draft 2020 Annual report presented. The wallaroo correction factor issue identified in late 2020 has been included the report. This applies to the populations in Armidale, Glen Innes and Upper Hunter zones. The South East NSW zone has the highest harvest activity out of all commercial zones. In 2020 there were slightly higher weighted average carcasses weights than the long -term average. The overall male bias in the harvest has reduced in 2020 compared with the long-term average. Overall, there has been an increase in compliance outcomes in comparison to 2019.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actual harvest, by zone and species</li> <li>• Harvest sex bias for each species in each zone</li> <li>• Average carcass weights for each species in each zone</li> <li>• Non-commercial culling within the commercial harvest zones</li> <li>• Licensing and Compliance statistics</li> </ul> <p><i>The Chair asked the Panel whether they agreed to adopt the information presented and endorse the 2020 Annual Report. Adopted unanimously by the panel</i></p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Panel endorse the 2020 Annual Report</p>	

No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
7	<p><b><u>Panellists update</u></b></p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a large amount of feed available for kangaroos</li> <li>• Flood waters are still prevalent in northern regions rivers</li> <li>• The proposed ban in for kangaroo products into the United States has gained momentum with the number of senators supporting the proposed bill growing from 2 to 8. Getting this bill approved may be remote but it has generated a lot of publicity. If the ban is successful, it will place great strain on the industry. Despite these pressures the industry is going strong and paying harvesters double the price in 2021 than in 2020. Broadscale fencing and non-commercial culling are topics that animal rights groups are continuing to raise</li> <li>• There has been a great deal of interest in the new Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial purposes</li> <li>• Kangaroo products are very high quality pet food, especially for animals with allergies. Kangaroo products have an opportunity to be promoted as a sustainable companion animal food source</li> </ul>		

8	<p><b><u>Draft 2022-2026 Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan – Danielle Stocks</u></b></p> <p>The draft 2022-2026 NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan was shared prior to the meeting for review by the Panel.</p> <p>Key points about the new draft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the format and way information is presented in the new draft makes it clearer what our aims are, and how they will be achieved and managed. It also better aligns with other state plans.</li><li>• Clarity of the plan’s purpose and scope will be improved in response to comments from the Kangaroo Management Taskforce (KMT), especially to emphasise that this plan is about commercial harvest only and not management of kangaroos as a species or non-commercial culling</li><li>• Omission of special quota information is noted and will be rectified.</li></ul> <p>General feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Format changes supported and described as more user friendly and easier to read</li><li>• Revised performance indicators, especially around compliance monitoring, in response to KMAP feedback and development of new compliance strategy</li><li>• Enhance commitment to stakeholder engagement and capacity building</li><li>• Need to define and distinguish between use of the terms ‘ecologically sustainable’ and ‘ecologically viable’. A robust definition from the scientific literature should be included in the plan</li><li>• Replace references to ‘migration’ with ‘dispersal’</li><li>• Some typos and spelling errors noted – members will be provided marked up copies of the draft to reference changes needed</li><li>• Representation of sub-species of Wallaroo and Euro to be reflected more clearly in the plan</li></ul> <p>Facilitated discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Potential to include Euros in the new plan</u>: Accurately monitoring Euros was the main concern as they are difficult to count and apply correction factors. If included, the cost to undertake surveys and management for accurate science to ensure population viability needs to be balanced with the actual uptake of harvest of the species</li></ul>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Panel endorse the draft plan</p>
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No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Expansion of zones</u>: Walcha Council has requested two other sections of Walcha council areas to be added to the Armidale commercial management zone. Survey of the proposed additional areas is required to provide baseline data; however, using existing population estimates and retaining quotas based on this until next scheduled surveys would not pose a risk as the population within the zone would likely be increased and allocated quota therefore a smaller percentage of the estimated population.</li> <li>• <u>Land available for commercial harvest</u>: Definition expanded to allow harvesting on privately owned land as well as public lands other than those identified for conservation purposes such as nature reserves. Definitions need to be clearer and be able to be interpreted for compliance and surveying efforts</li> <li>• <u>Skin only harvesting</u>: Kangaroo Management Taskforce (KMT) has requested skin only harvesting. Panel agreed not to include this on the basis of international criticism of skin use and therefore the the importance of full utilisation of the carcasses, as well as the lack of market and low market price for skins</li> <li>• <u>Special measures to increase quotas during boom periods (high populations)</u>: Research and modelling available to support any decision on this. In theory, increasing the commercial quota reduces number of animals shot via non-commercial cull during such times. Increased monitoring of the population would be required. Industry may not have capacity to receive extra animals at short notice, although becoming more sophisticated at adjusting business as population and availability changes. Need to balance goals of multiple stakeholders beyond industry and landholders. An adaptive management approach to trial any change recommended, including business case, sustainability and how any increased quota is justified and communicated.</li> </ul> <p><i>The Chair asked the Panel whether they endorsed the draft 2022-2026 NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan. Endorsed unanimously by the panel.</i></p>		

## Meeting minutes

No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
	<p><b><u>Other Matters</u></b></p> <p>Natural resource management &amp; conservation. A collaborative project has commenced for the Future Drought Fund regarding the distribution and abundance of kangaroos in relation to grazing pressure. This project will provide insights into understand the triggers surrounding kangaroo movements. These predictions will feed into other models about kangaroo movement patterns. The project is scheduled to run until June 2022.</p>		

Meeting closed at 3:40pm.

### Next meeting

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021. A face to face meeting is preferred. Travel arrangements are to be finalised by KMP 1 month prior to the meeting and the agenda distributed by 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### Carry over from 35<sup>th</sup> KMAP meeting

Action	Responsible	Status
1. Can the minutes from the last meeting of the Kangaroo Management Taskforce be shared with the panel	DPIE	Partially completed via updates from KMP STL but email not sent to the panel
2. Non-commercial kangaroo licensing. Invite Peter Stathis from NPWS to the next KMAP meeting if time permits in the agenda. Non-commercial Data sharing	DPIE	Non-commercial reports are in the draft 2020 Annual report and Peter Stathis presented an update at meeting # 36.

Action	Responsible	Status
3. Update on Draft Code of Practice	AgriFutures Steve McLeod	Final COP was emailed to KMAP  Milla Bristoe was the manager within AgriFutures for that project reference group. Milla has now left that role. It is unclear how further communications will be conducted  DPI has completed their commitments for this project.
4. Additional Representatives are required from NSW Farmers (Northern region) and Aboriginal (Southern region)	DPIE Terry Brill	Approval to recruit a KMAP#5 with additional members and 2 harvesters