

Details

Meeting: 39th Meeting – Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP Commercial)

Location: Online

Date/time: Thursday 3rd Nov 2022

Chairperson: Tanya Stephens

People present

1. **Tanya Stephens**, Dr, Australian Veterinary Association
2. **Thomas Newsome**, Dr, Scientific community
3. **Liz Arnott**, Dr, NSW RSPCA
4. **Jamie Woods**, Aboriginal communities
5. **Erlina St Vincent**, Dr, Department Regional NSW
6. **Doug Jobson**, Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia
7. **James Meyers**, NSW PKH Licensee
8. **Steve Johnstone**, NSW PKH Licensee
9. **Terry Brill**, NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Unit, Department of Planning and Environment DPE
10. **Graeme White**, Director Compliance and Licensing, DPE
11. **Sheridan Maher**, (Minutes) DPE

Guests/presenters/observers

Loretta Reilly, KMP DPE

Patricia O'Keeffe, KMP DPE

Fabiola Silva, KMP DPE

Suraiya Mahjabeen, KMP DPE

Apologies

Garry Trindall, Aboriginal Communities

Greg Rogers, NSW Farmers

Gerard Glover, NSW Farmers

Steven McLeod, Dr, Scientific community

Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



Meeting minutes

	Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
1.	Welcome and IT check Sheridan		
2.	Acknowledgement of Country Terry		
3.	Introductions Welcome to new members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Graeme White, new Director Compliance and Licensing, DPE • Dr Erlina St Vincent, General Mgr, Western Local Land Services LLS, Dept Regional NSW • Dr Liz Arnott, Chief Veterinary Officer, RSPCA NSW 		
4.	Introduction to mtg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined meeting procedure • Late agenda item added – <i>Potential for refund of tag fees</i> • Agenda adopted • Conflict of interest or Pecuniary Interest form updates 	Any updated forms to be emailed to Sheridan	Any member this applies to
5.	Chairperson's report Minutes of the 38 th meeting (6 April 2022) were ratified out of session and are published on the DPE website. KMAP Minutes link to website Actions of previous meeting were addressed. No business arising from previous Minutes. Other business arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSPCA position to remove kangaroo products from shelters/stores – for discussion at Item 9. 		
6.	KMP Team Leader's report Presentation by Terry: 2022 in Review - another busy and challenging year for KMP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements to WMS. • Increased monitoring of CTA's to improve reconciliation of tags. • Compliance workshop held in Broken Hill – consistency across regions, review of Licence Conditions. • Aerial surveys – challenges due to weather and COVID; supported Qld population surveys. 		

Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressing some major initiatives – trial of digital tags to commence Jan 2023 and TAFE refresher course in development. • Flooding has limited harvesting. Harvest to date is at 19% of quota compared to 22% of quota this time last year. Tag orders down 14% compared to last year. • Harvesting in some areas may not be possible for the rest of the year due to flooding and wet conditions. • Total harvest will undoubtedly be lower than last year. <p>2023 Renewals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMP team is preparing for renewals to occur in December 2022. • 2023 fees to remain unchanged from this year. • Tyvek tags being introduced for 2023 harvest year (less plastic, preliminary step to digital tags if trial is successful). • Mobile Chillers will be permitted to operate in 2023 – with new conditions developed for their use. • 2023 Licence Conditions – have been reviewed, with the following amendments proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ simplified weight requirement ○ defined hours for harvesting ○ movement, dressing and loading of carcasses to limit interaction with public spaces ○ clauses to permit and regulate the use of Mobile Chillers ○ defined ‘offsider’ 		
7. Break for tea/coffee (10 mins)		
<p>8. 2023 Quota – report on population surveys and harvest quotas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation was provided on the 2022 aerial surveys. • Western Plains were surveyed in July; Northern tablelands were surveyed in September. • Survey data has been analysed and the 2023 Quota Report is in preparation. • Estimated kangaroo populations have increased in all zones surveyed since last year. Next year’s harvest quotas will therefore be increased. • There will be no zone closures in 2023. • A 10% harvest quota has been applied to Western grey kangaroos and Eastern grey kangaroos in the Bourke and Tibooburra zones, and to Eastern grey kangaroos in Narrabri. 		

9. **Items for discussion and feedback**

(i) RSPCA decision to remove kangaroo products from their shelters/stores

- It was recently highlighted that the sale of kangaroo products by RSPCA is inconsistent with RSPCA's general policy on the commercial use of wild animals. Products have subsequently been removed from RSPCA retail outlets. A review of the relevant policy is currently underway as it was last reviewed in 2010.
- Internal RSPCA review 2022/23, no definitive date for completion. Concerns include responsible sourcing, the level of industry surveillance to measure regulatory compliance, welfare of dependent young, and the field application of methods to cause death of dependent young.
- Question raised as to what the knowledge gaps are for the RSPCA to make an informed decision. Recent publication by the Ecological Society of Australia has many very relevant articles - [Special edition Ecological Management and Restoration](#)
- Other relevant info was noted - papers by Trudy Sharp and Steve McLeod and the 2020 National Code for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies [2020 National Code for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies for commercial purposes](#)
- Scope to improve the training and accreditation of harvesters.
- Need for data and better surveillance in the field of compliance with the Code.
- Scope to improve the transparency of the program.
- Further discussion ensued. KMP agreed to hold a workshop in early 2023 to explore further the issue of animal welfare and how to achieve the best possible outcomes from the commercial KMP. [Outline of workshop ideas at end of minutes]

(ii) Zone boundaries

- How to address requests for commercial harvesting outside of commercial harvest zones? The KMP receives enquiries and requests for commercial harvesting in areas outside of commercial harvest zones. Options include extending boundaries or look at exemptions – neither are straight forward options, but commercial harvesting is preferred to culling and wasting the animals. Requires further consideration.

(iii) Landholder Consent (LHC) forms

- Revised LHC forms have been drafted to allow consent to be granted for up to 3 years. The list of accepted documents to prove land ownership has been expanded – currently rely on LLS rates notice, which aren't always readily available. Both revisions were considered a positive improvement to the licence application/renewal process.

KMAP to hold a workshop in Q1 (March) 2023. See Appendix A at end of these Minutes.

Sheridan/Terry to develop and organise (objectives and agenda and list of participants for KMAP review by mid-Feb 2023)

Explore further with LLS

Terry

Investigate KMP getting access to PIC# database

Sheridan

	Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
10.	Break for lunch (20 mins)		
11.	<p>Update on program improvements and projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Tags proof of concept trial - by Loretta Riley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TagTrac App ready for testing in the field. Trial to be undertaken from Jan 2023 due to wet weather decreasing harvest activity in the remainder of this year. ○ Some concern expressed by KMAP members about the logistics of scanning carcasses as they leave the chiller if only a partial load is being removed. The purpose of the trial is to identify issues, such as this, and consider how to deal with them. • TAFE refresher course and knowledge test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TAFE has been contracted to develop an online commercial kangaroo harvesting refresher course and knowledge test. Initially will be required of new licence applicants and licensees re-entering following suspension. • Inquiry – progress against the Government’s response <p>Three projects being progressed to support commitments made by the Government’s response to the Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Engagement with Aboriginal communities</i> – The Western LLS’s Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee has invited members of the Kangaroo Interagency Working Group (includes Terry and Erlina, plus NPWS and DPI) to a mtg in Cobar 9/11/22 to consider their range of views on kangaroo management. This is the start of what will be a considered approach to listening to and engaging with the many Aboriginal communities in New South Wales on their views and aspirations in regard to kangaroo management across the state. ○ <i>Independent review of survey methods</i> – initial meetings have occurred with the Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Monitoring (CREEM, United Kingdom) to an expert independent review of the methods KMP uses to estimate kangaroo populations and determine harvest quotas. ○ <i>Documenting the science that supports the KMP</i> – a project is being scoped to determine how best to document and deliver the scientific information that underpins KMP, to the general public. 		

Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



Meeting minutes

Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research projects – update on 2 x PhD scholarships Two PhD scholarships supported by DPE, DPI, Syd University and AgriFutures Australia, 2023-2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Kangaroo population research - scholarship recipient Evan Curtis (more at Appendix B). (2) Animal welfare (kangaroos) – scholarship recipient yet to be appointed. 		
<p>12. Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tag refunds Is there any scope for refunding tag fees? The ongoing wet weather and flooding is impacting the ability of harvesters to get out on properties. Some are unlikely to be able to harvest at all for the remainder of the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KMP to consider if/what options are available for refunding or crediting tag fees? What criteria could be used to ensure equitable outcomes? Who would be potentially eligible? Do you consider those zones in areas that have been declared natural disasters? Other options? Would KMP qualify for reimbursement under the special flood support provisions? 	DPE/KMP to pursue and provide feedback.	Graeme/Terry
<p>13. Meeting admin</p> <p>Meeting folders to be mailed to Erlina, Liz and Graeme.</p> <p>KMAP meeting expenses to be followed up by Sheridan.</p>		Sheridan to action

Items to be carried over to next meeting, and for action

Items/actions	Responsible	Status
1. No items to be carried forward		
2. Any updated forms to be emailed to Sheridan	Any member this applies to	
3. KMAP to hold a workshop (animal welfare) in Q1 (March) 2023 See Appendix A at end of these Minutes	Sheridan/Terry to develop and organise	
4. Explore KMP commercial zone boundaries with LLS	Terry	
5. Investigate KMP getting access to PIC# database	Sheridan	
6. DPE/KMP to look into tag refunds and provide feedback	Terry	
7. Post KMAP meeting folders to Erlina, Liz and Graeme	Sheridan	

Meeting minutes

Meeting closed at 1:30 pm

Next meeting

Thursday 30 March (to be confirmed).

Location – to be confirmed. Consider aligning with the proposed Workshop – **details below**

Appendix A

Workshop – KMP animal welfare

Goal – define and agree on a plan (i.e. 5 yrs or other timeframe) to ensure the NSW KMP has the best possible animal welfare outcomes and provides ongoing evidence to support it.

What and where: 1 day workshop – Dubbo, Syd, Canberra?

Participants – KMAP, scientists, RSPCA, AVA, other animal welfare experts, industry (harvesters and animal dealers), NSW KMP, landholders, Aboriginal community representation, other stakeholders? Who else?

What to address:

- How to improve transparency (auditing? third party certification?)
- How to improve public confidence in the industry
- Decisions based on best available science
- Focus (but not sole focus) on dependent young
- Consider the scope – should non-commercial be included?

Appendix B

PhD scholarship one

Project Summary:

This project will fund a Scholarship that addresses the sustainability of the kangaroo industry and focuses on strategy number 1.2 in the AgriFutures Australia Kangaroo Program RD&E Plan 2021-2026.

The specific questions to be addressed include:

1. Do kangaroos move between management zones and can our understanding of this improve our understanding of population rates of change?
2. Can drone technology improve the accuracy and precision of population surveys in the NSW Tablelands and are the use of drones economically viable?
3. Can a combination of design and model-based frameworks for population dynamics models guide quota setting in response to climatic variance, and how does this affect the risk of overharvest?