



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW SOUTH WALES COMMERCIAL KANGAROO HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007-2011

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Contents

2009 ANNUAL REPORT NEW SOUTH WALES COMMERCIAL KANGAROO
 HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007-2011..... 2
 A: ACTUAL HARVEST IN 2009 BY ZONE AND SPECIES 4
 B: HARVEST QUOTA MANAGEMENT 5
 C: SPECIAL QUOTA 5
 D: SEX BIAS BY SPECIES AND ZONE 6
 E: AVERAGE WEIGHTS BY SPECIES AND ZONE 8
 F: NON-COMMERCIAL CULLING WITHIN THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST ZONES
 15
 G: MONITORING COMPLIANCE IN THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST ZONES..... 17
 1. Compliance audits 17
 3. Penalty infringement notices..... 18
 4. Licence cancellations..... 18
 5. Prosecutions 18
 Table 1: summary of compliance breaches and actions for 2008. 19
 H: OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST IN 2009 19
 I: RESEARCH INVOLVEMENT IN 2009 19
 APPENDIX A: PROGRESS AGAINST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN 2009.... 21

2009 ANNUAL REPORT NEW SOUTH WALES COMMERCIAL KANGAROO HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007-2011

Notes regarding terminology

The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) is now known as the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

References in this document and in the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2007-11 to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) should be taken to indicate DECCW.

On 1 July 2008 amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 came into force. Among the amendments was a change of name for licences issued under Section 123 of the Act. "Trapper Licences" are now called "Commercial Fauna Harvester Licences". In this report, persons licensed under section 123 are referred to as "harvesters". References to "trappers" in the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2007-11 therefore apply to "harvesters" in this and other documents.

New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) has been researching, monitoring and managing the commercial harvest of kangaroos in NSW since the 1970's. During this period, there has been a sequence of kangaroo management plans that provided the framework for the harvest, in accordance with legislative requirements.

In December 2006 the Commonwealth Government declared the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2007-2011 to be an approved wildlife trade management plan for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This plan sets the framework for the commercial harvest of kangaroos in NSW following the expiry on 31 December 2006 of the Kangaroo Management Program 2002-2006.

The Plan was amended in December 2008 following an appeal in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. One of the amendments requires DECCW to suspend harvesting if new aerial surveys indicate that the population estimate for a particular species in a zone has fallen below the specified threshold. The Tribunal's decision, including the thresholds for each species, is available at:

www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/AATA/2008/1079.html

This report details the operation of the current management plan for its third year (2009) as required by Performance Indicator 17.1 of the plan. Appendix A details each performance indicator, and the progress made during 2009.

The following information is presented:

- Actual harvest, by zone and species, compared to the approved quotas;
- Details of any Special Quota utilised;
- Harvest sex bias for each species in each zone;
- Average carcase weights for each species in each zone;
- Non-commercial culling statistics within the commercial harvest zones;
- Compliance statistics:

- Number of premises inspected;
- Number of Penalty Infringement Notices issued and the reason;
- Number of prosecutions undertaken (offence and outcome); and
- Any joint surveillance/enforcement activities completed.
- Any unusual situations that arose (eg. flood/disease outbreak; market factors);
- Any experiments or research undertaken by DECCW or sponsored by DECCW.

Population survey methods, and setting of quotas, are detailed in a separate report. Results of aerial surveys, and quotas for 2010 are contained in the 2010 Quota Report for NSW, available from the Kangaroo Management Program's web page:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifemanagement/KangarooManagementProgram.htm

A: ACTUAL HARVEST IN 2009 BY ZONE AND SPECIES

%q – commercial take as percentage of approved quota %p – commercial take as percentage of population estimate

Ave Wt – average carcase weight in kilograms of harvested females (F) and males (M)

* Reduced quotas following suspension of allocation in accordance with amended management plan (see page 2)

Eastern Grey Kangaroo									
Zone Name	No.	Pop	Quota	Harvest	%q	%p	% Male	Ave Wt F	Ave Wt M
Tibooburra	1	69,768	10,465	1,174	11	2	62	19	26.3
Broken Hill	2	187,681	28,152	6,764	24	4	82.7	18.2	25.5
Lower Darling	4	121,724	18,259	4,345	24	4	61.7	18.8	26.4
Cobar	6	119,323	17,898	5,593	31	5	90.1	18	22.5
Bourke	7	105,945	15,892	4,799	30	5	92.9	17.4	24.9
Narrabri	8	513,617	77,043	46,094	60	9	80.2	17.9	24.9
Armidale	9	141,610	21,242	17,947	84	13	62	17.9	27.1
Coonabarabran	10	505,478	75,822	39,322	52	8	82.5	18.5	24.6
Griffith *	11	526,871	36,946	32,753	89	6	67.8	19	26.4
Glen Innes	13	236,600	35,490	24,325	69	10	67	18	26.6
Upper Hunter	14	92,016	13,802	9,816	71	11	73.5	18.9	28.5
SE NSW	16	514,969	77,245	13,442	17	3	64.2	18.8	28.7
C/T North	48	433,030	64,955	4,813	7	1	74.6	18	28.4
C/T South	49	535,600	80,340	3,031	4	1	73.2	19	29.1
Totals		4,104,232	573,550	214,218	37	5	73.9	18.4	26.4
Red Kangaroo									
Zone Name	No.	Pop	Quota	Harvest	%q	%p	% Male	Ave Wt F	Ave Wt M
Tibooburra	1	606,518	103,108	29,920	29	5	71.1	18.9	28
Broken Hill	2	1,190,299	202,351	85,439	42	7	78.2	19	26.6
Lower Darling	4	251,731	42,794	15,254	36	6	64.6	18	25.6
Cobar	6	156,639	26,629	8,035	30	5	89.4	19.1	25.2
Bourke	7	140,371	23,863	12,454	52	9	87.3	18.4	26.2
Narrabri	8	124,915	21,236	9,424	44	8	85.4	18.5	27.4
Coonabarabran	10	170,804	29,037	8,454	29	5	91.2	18.6	25.1
Griffith	11	228,433	38,834	13,878	36	6	66.6	18.5	26.8
Totals		2,869,710	487,851	182,858	37	6	79.2	18.6	26.4
Wallaroo									
Zone Name	No.	Pop	Quota	Harvest	%q	%p	% Male	Ave Wt F	Ave Wt M
Armidale	9	37,859	5,679	3,433	60	9	97.1	18.3	26.5
Glen Innes	13	32,184	4,828	3,935	82	12	98.6	22.9	26
Upper Hunter	14	44,923	6,738	2,705	40	6	99.4	22.3	28.2
Totals		114,966	17,245	10,073	58	9	98.4	21.2	26.9
Western Grey Kangaroo									
Zone Name	No.	Pop	Quota	Harvest	%q	%p	% Male	Ave Wt F	Ave Wt M
Tibooburra	1	23,290	3,494	1,044	30	4	71.2	18.5	24.5
Broken Hill	2	251,688	37,753	15,916	42	6	79.4	19	25.2
Lower Darling	4	245,496	36,824	9,241	25	4	64.8	17.7	23.7
Cobar	6	231,602	34,740	5,784	17	2	86.7	17.8	22.9
Bourke	7	46,832	7,025	990	14	2	90.7	17.3	25.2
Coonabarabran*	10	78,395	859	640	75	1	90.4	19.4	22.7
Griffith*	11	111,391	5,440	5,060	93	5	78.7	17.6	23.6
Totals		988,694	126,135	38,675	31	4	80.3	18.2	24.0

B: HARVEST QUOTA MANAGEMENT

In the Broken Hill, Griffith, Bourke and Tibooburra management zones, the commercial quota was allocated on a first in first served basis, with no formal restrictions on the number of tags allocated per application.

In other zones the annual harvest quota was released in stages to assist in the management of damage to winter crops and reduce non-commercial culling associated with crop protection. In those management zones where winter cropping is an important agricultural enterprise, 40% of the total quota was available for use from January, with the remaining 60% withheld for release in May. This system was put in place for the Narrabri, Coonabarabran, Glen Innes, Armidale, Upper Hunter, Cobar, Lower Darling and SE NSW zones.

The commercial quota was allocated in accordance with the following:

- 40% available to commence from 1 January 2009. If tag allocation reaches 40% of any species in a zone before the end of April, then no more tags will be issued for that species in that zone until 1 May.
- 60% available to commence from 1 May 2009.
- Restrictions were placed on the number of tags that could be issued per property per month, based on property size.

Tag numbers were restricted by property size for the two new Central Tablelands zones which commenced on 1 June 2009, with the whole annual quota made available.

Despite the restrictions on tag numbers, applications for commercial quota for eastern grey kangaroos in the Armidale zone exceeded the available quota, in both the first and second releases. The quota was allocated using a ballot system to ensure that all applications were treated equitably. For the 40% quota release, each harvester was given the opportunity to nominate either 1 January or 1 February start for successful applications. The 60% quota release was staged over three months, with 20% of the quota commencing in May, 20% in June and the final 20% in July, with no choice available to the harvester.

C: SPECIAL QUOTA

A special quota for 2009 was endorsed by the Commonwealth Government as part of the overall commercial quota and was potentially available to minimise the number of kangaroos shot under non-commercial licences.

Special Quota is not a pseudo commercial quota, its sole purpose is to provide for commercial utilisation of kangaroos that would be shot and left in the field under the normal non-commercial licensing system.

DECCW may only use Special Quota when the commercial quota for a particular kangaroo management zone has been fully issued. As specified in the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2007-2011, the use of Special Quota will depend on one or more of the following:

- consideration of local conditions including exceptional circumstance declarations;
- kangaroo population trends (based on most recent survey if completed); and
- climatic conditions during the quota year.

However, non-commercial culling proceeds regardless of available commercial quota, typically equating to less than 10% of the commercial harvest. An authorised DECCW officer must assess each application for a non-commercial licence. In the commercial zone, non-commercial licences are generally only requested when:

- it is not economically viable to take kangaroos commercially;
- the commercial kangaroo industry is unable to fulfil the landholders needs; or
- management zone commercial quotas are fully utilised.

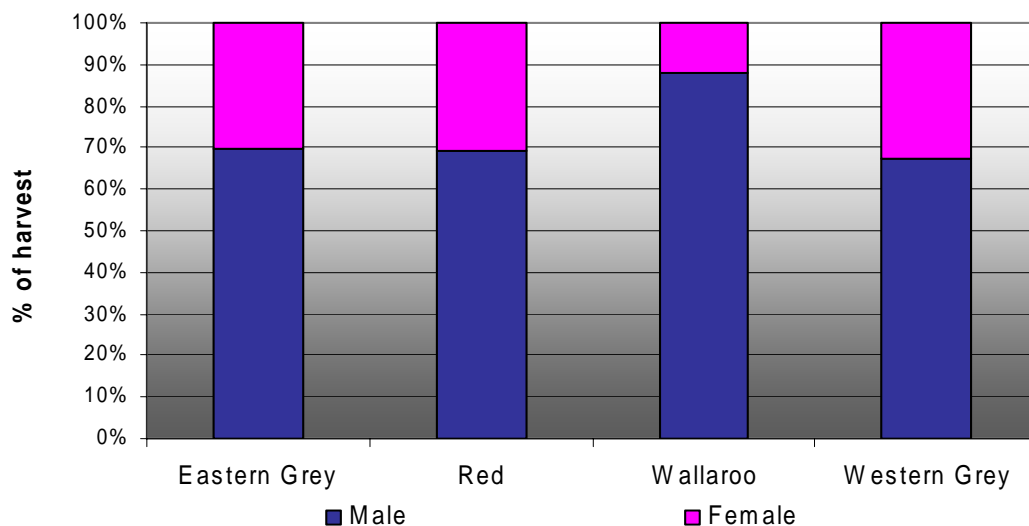
It is not necessarily intended to fully utilise the Special Quota, unless criteria justify such action.

During 2009, no Special Quota was utilised. Only in the Armidale management zone was the full commercial quota allocated, and there only for eastern grey kangaroos. Wallaroo quota was available. Circumstances did not justify the release of any Special Quota despite full allocation of the eastern grey kangaroo commercial quota.

D: SEX BIAS BY SPECIES AND ZONE

The commercial harvest is typically biased towards males, as they tend to be larger and heavier than females. Between 1997 and 2008, the total harvest comprised between 67 and 88 percent males (Figure 1). Data gathered throughout 2009 indicates that 76.3 per cent of the harvest overall was male, which is consistent with the long-term average. In contrast to the other harvested species (Figures 2, 3 and 5), the commercial take of wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*) is more strongly biased towards males, because females rarely reach the minimum size dictated by the conditions attached to harvester and fauna dealer licences (Figure 4). This has particularly been the case since 2008, when minimum carcase weights were increased by two kilograms over the previous standards. Further, the kangaroo processing industry utilised a tiered pricing structure to discourage the harvest of smaller animals whose skins are of little value under current market conditions.

Figure 1: Average sex bias in the harvest 1997-2008



Despite the tendency of males to be larger, commercial harvesters target a range of sizes above the minimum, particularly when densities are reduced and there are fewer target animals to select from.

Compliance officers also record the sex bias of the harvest opportunistically, such as when a chiller inspection coincides with the carcasses being loaded onto trucks. This enables inspection of every carcass, which is not always possible in a full chiller.

Figure 3: Red kangaroo harvest sex bias 2009

Figure 2: Eastern grey kangaroo harvest sex bias 2009

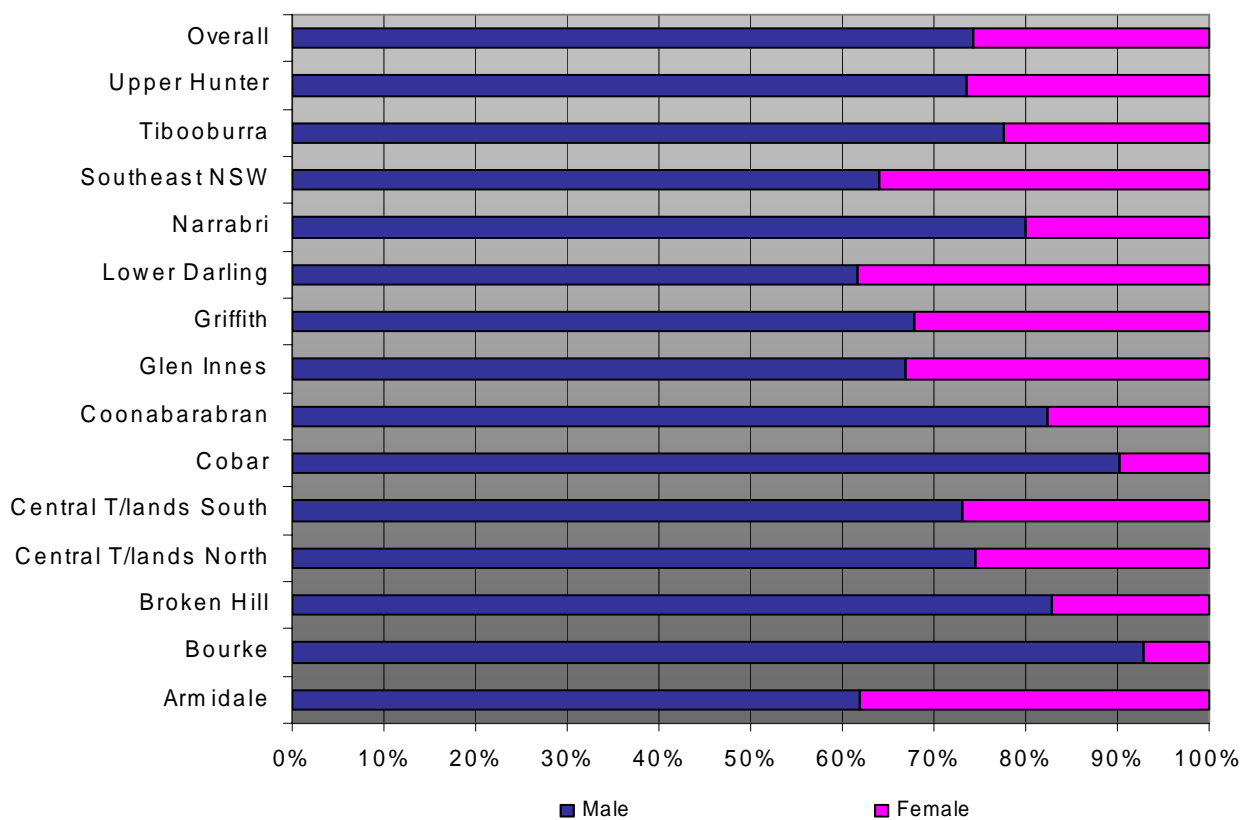


Figure 4: Wallaroo harvest sex bias 2009

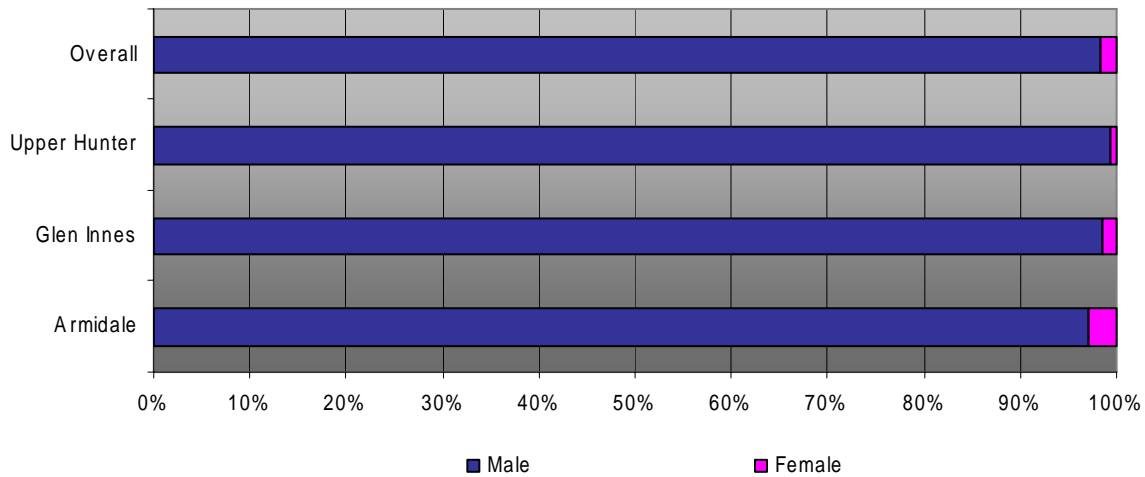
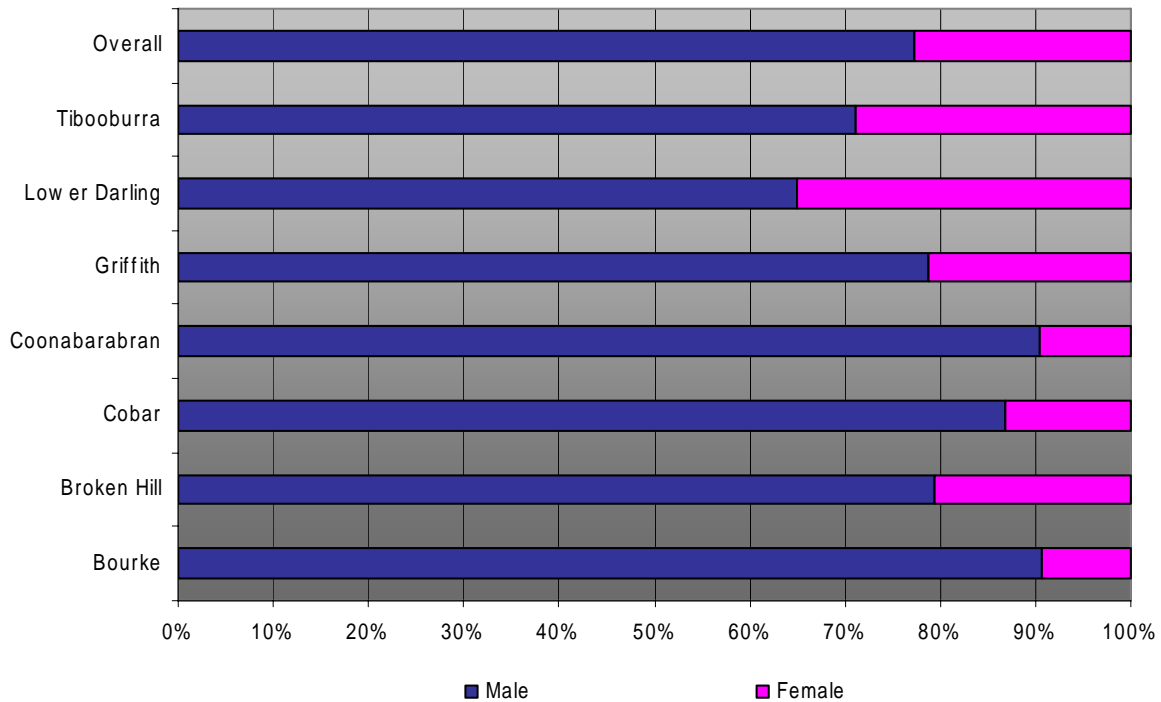


Figure 5: Western grey kangaroo harvest sex bias 2009

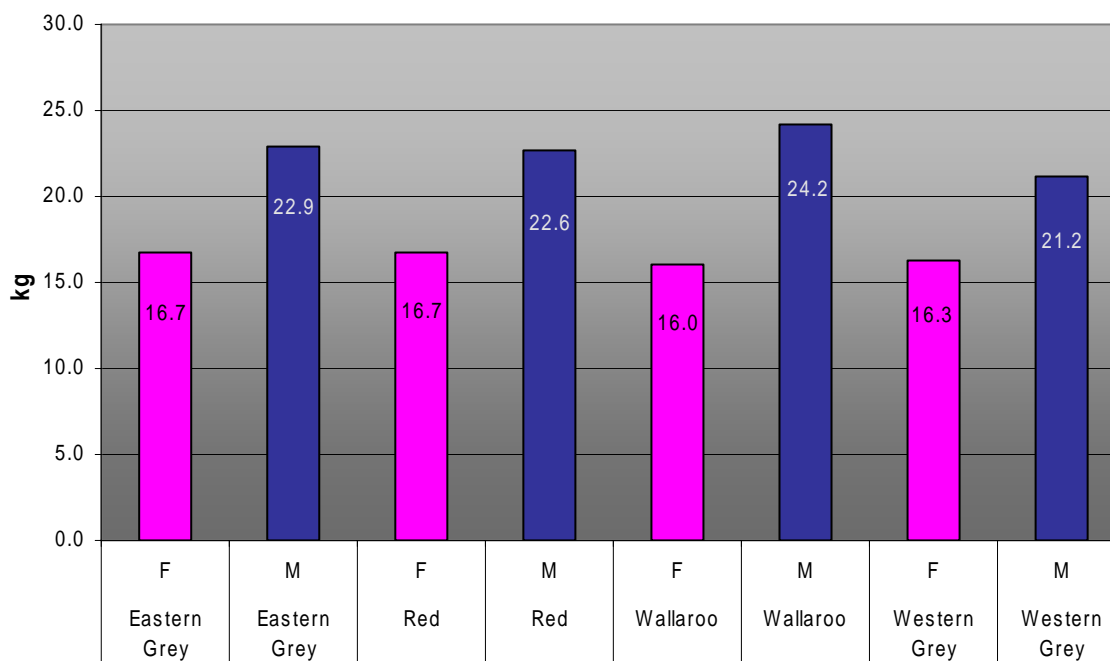


E: AVERAGE WEIGHTS BY SPECIES AND ZONE

Conditions attached to commercial harvest licences during 2009 required that kangaroo carcasses delivered to chillers for sale must not weigh less than 14 or 15 kilograms, depending on how the carcasses are dressed. Prior to 1 January 2008, the previous minimum carcass weights were 12 and 13 kilograms respectively. Above these minimum

weights, a wide range of weights is targeted. The long-term average carcase weights by sex and species (across all zones) are shown in Figure 6. Data collected during 2009 indicates average carcase weights across all species was 26.0 kilograms for males, and 18.5 kilograms for females, which is higher than the long-term average. This is to be expected given the increase in minimum carcase weight as part of licence conditions, and a two-tiered pricing structure implemented by the processing industry which discourages the harvest of animals at the bottom end of the acceptable weight range.

Figure 6: Average carcase weight 1997-2008



DECCW does not require licensees to record individual carcase weights. Instead, returns provide group weights for each category of carcasses (eg. female eastern grey kangaroos – number of animals taken and total weight). These totals are used to calculate the average weights of carcasses, by sex, species and zone (Figures 7-14).

Average carcase weights were calculated monthly and compared with the long-term average (1997-2008) for each sex, species and zone. None of the 2009 monthly results were more than one standard deviation below the long-term average. Standard deviations range from 1.9 kilograms for eastern grey females in the Cobar zone to 6.22 kilograms for red males in the Narrabri zone, reflecting the degree of variation in the size of animals taken and the relative sample sizes.

Average carcase weights were reasonably consistent from month to month. However, in the following charts, no consideration is given to the different sample sizes between sexes, species and zones - the total harvest of female wallaroos during 2009 was just 169 individuals, while the harvest of male red kangaroos was over 136,000.

Where large variations occur, the sample size is usually very small and statistical reliability is low – for example, only four female eastern grey kangaroos were shot in Tibooburra in September. The apparent decline in carcase weights for eastern grey females in the

Bourke zone in November is based on just two animals recorded. This variation is a result of statistical processes and is not a reflection of changes in the kangaroo population. Where larger samples are available (such as male eastern grey kangaroos in Coonabarabran zone), weights do not vary significantly.

In the charts that follow, there are a number of months where no animals of a given sex/species were shot in a particular zone – this results in discontinuous lines in the charts below. For example, in Figure 7 there were no female eastern grey kangaroos shot in the Tibooburra zone in either November or December.

Commercial harvesting only became available in the Central Tablelands North and Central Tablelands South zones from 1 June 2009, and did not actually commence until July. Consequently, there are no records for the first half of the year.

Figure 7: Average carcass weight eastern grey females 2009

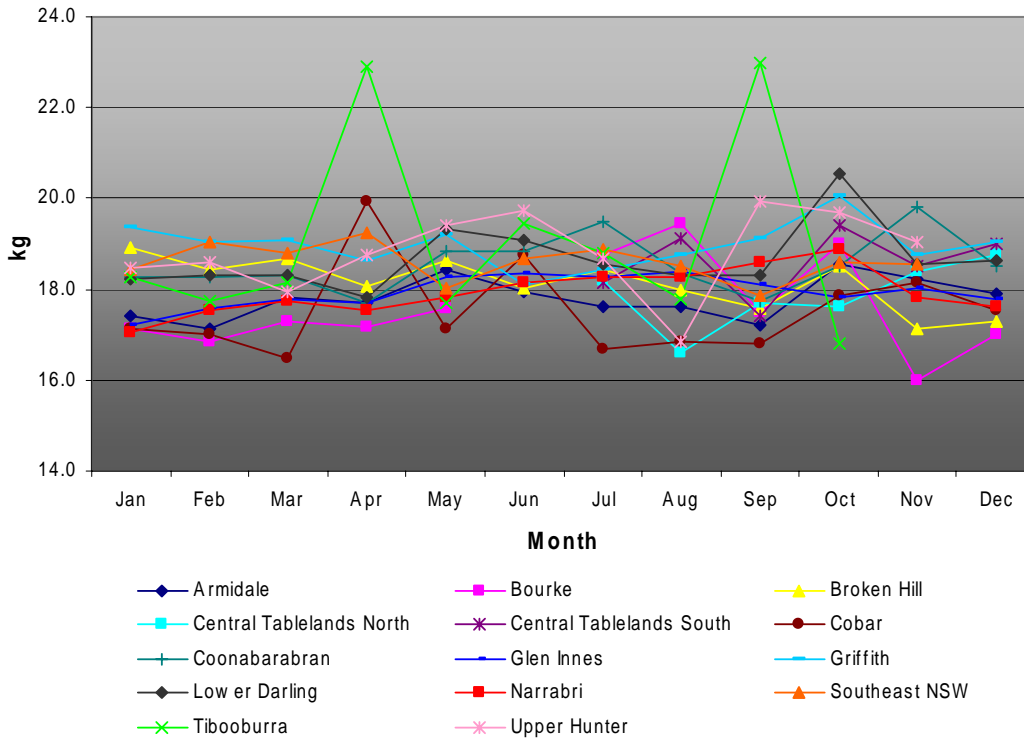


Figure 8: Average carcass weight eastern grey males 2009

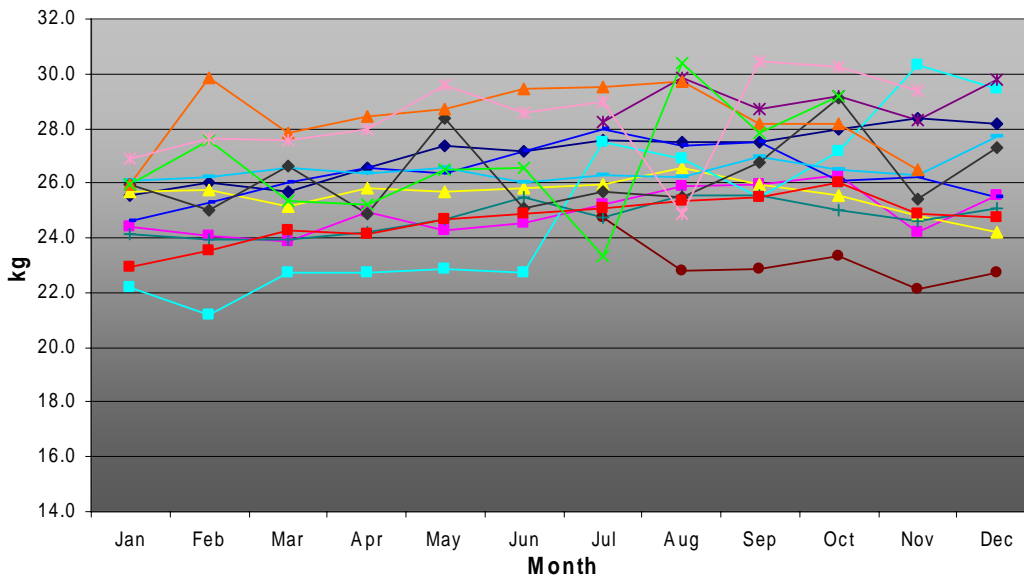


Figure 9: Average carcass weight red females 2009

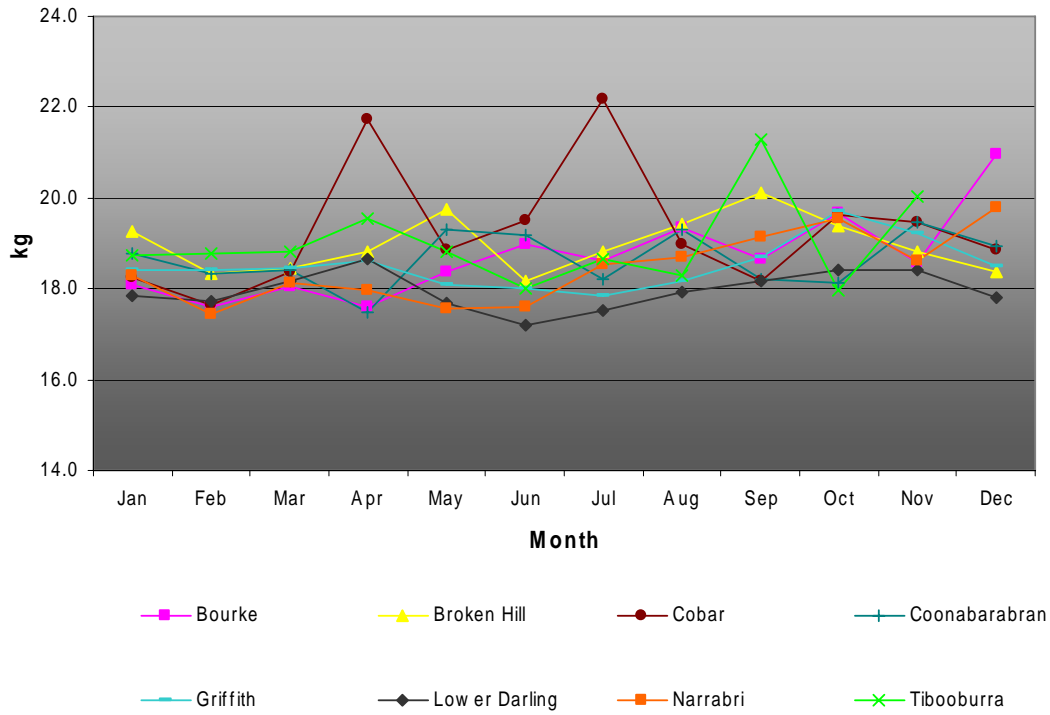


Figure 10: Average carcass weight red males 2009

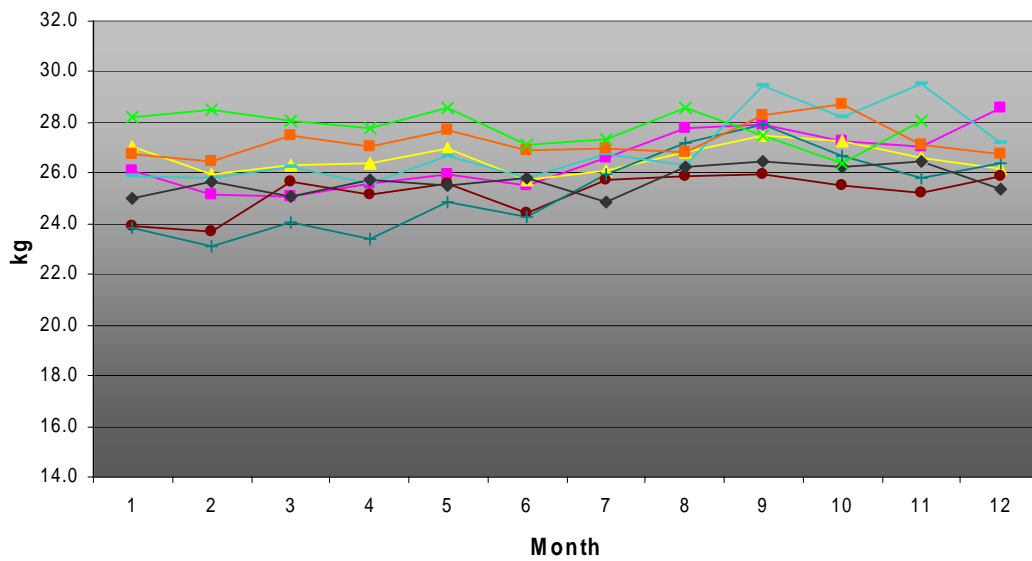


Figure 11: Average carcass weight wallaroo females 2009

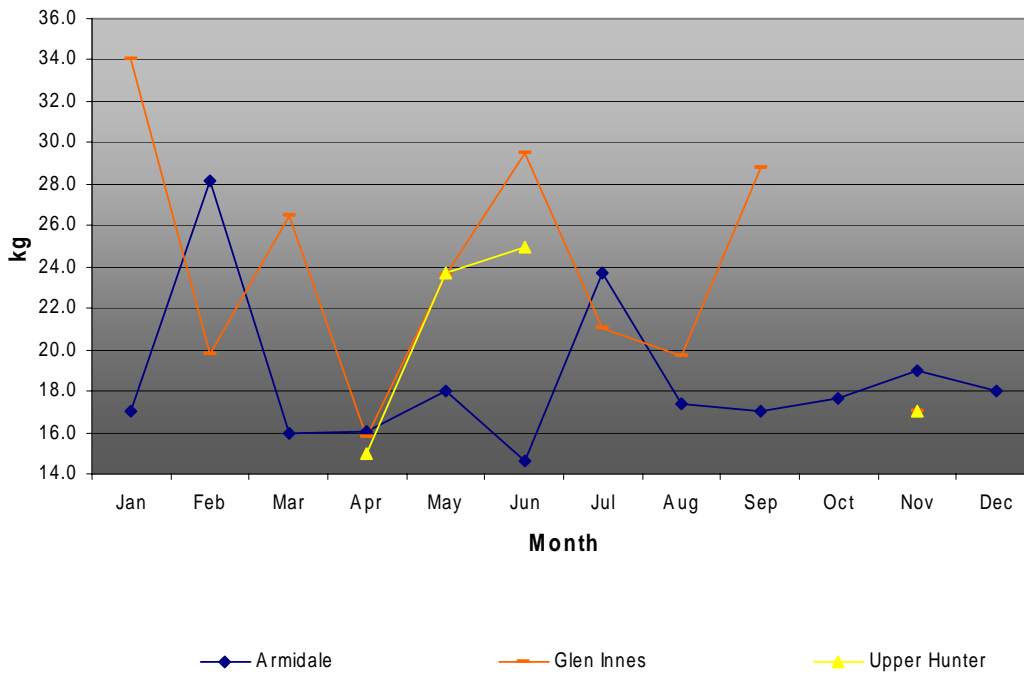


Figure 12: Average carcass weight wallaroo males 2009

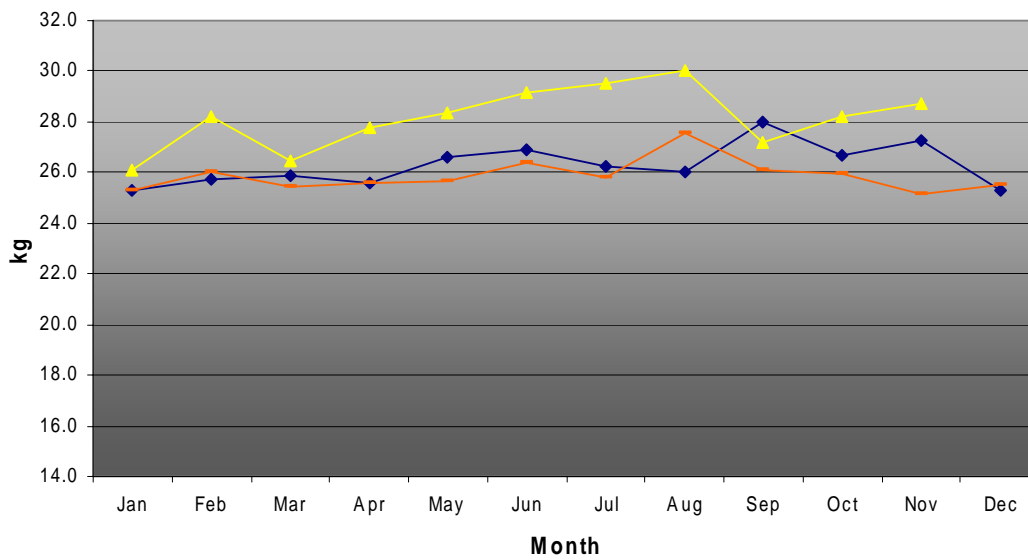


Figure 13: Average carcass weight western grey females 2009

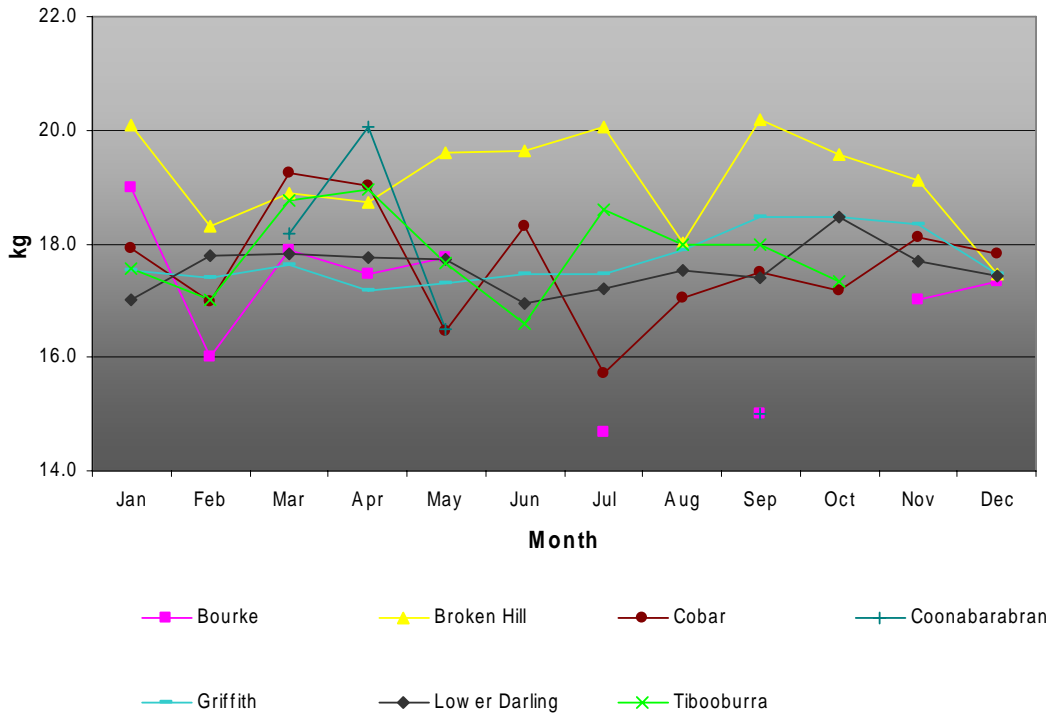
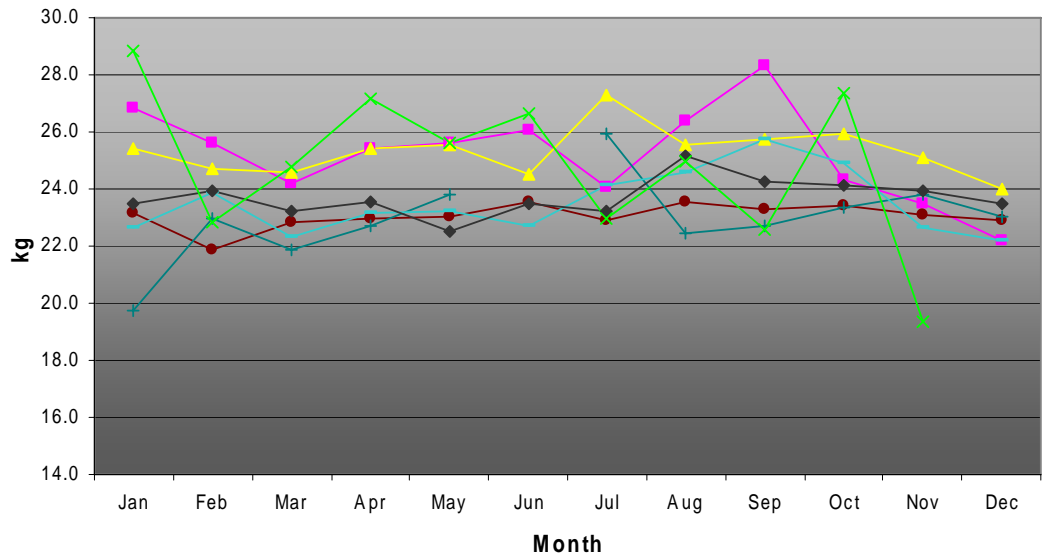


Figure 14: Average carcass weight western grey males 2009



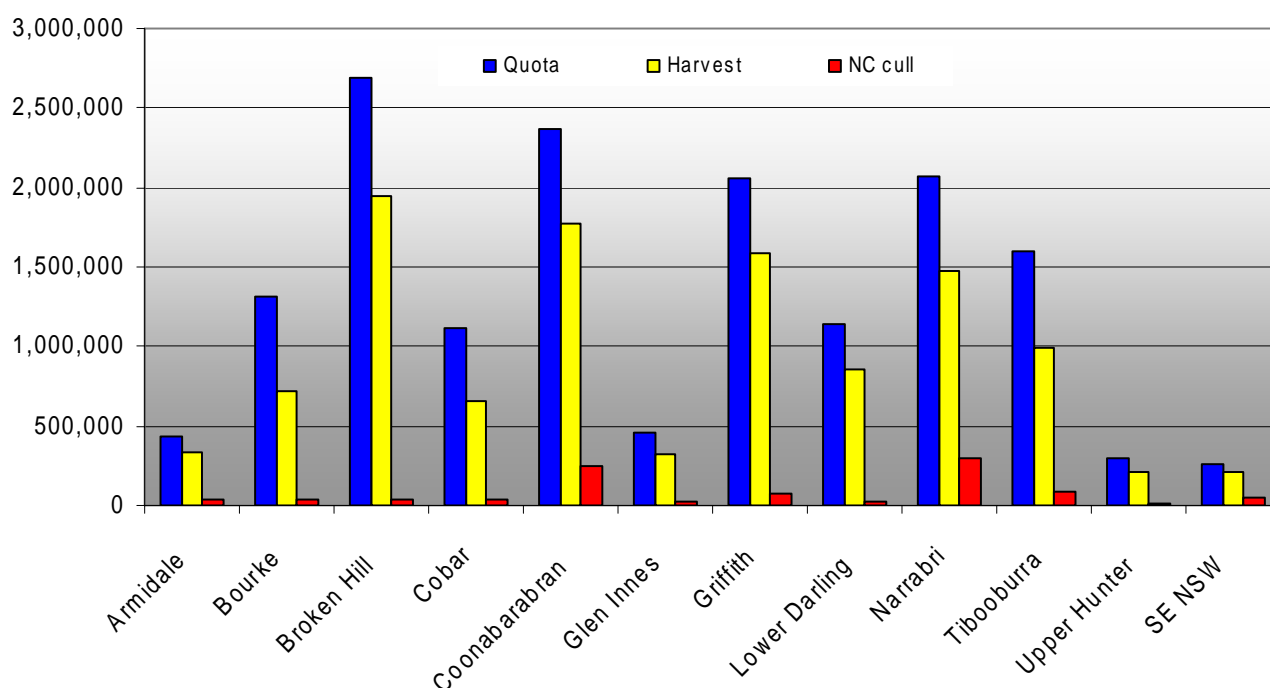
During routine inspections of chiller premises and processing works, a selection of smaller animals is weighed individually by compliance officers to ensure that the minimum weight standards are being maintained. Where underweight carcasses are detected, the harvester responsible may be cautioned or fined, depending on circumstances.

F: NON-COMMERCIAL CULLING WITHIN THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST ZONES

Some non-commercial culling always occurs within the commercial zone. Typically, the non-commercial cull represents much less than 10% of the commercial harvest (Figure 15). Southeast NSW commercial zone has been included in the long-term totals, however the commercial harvest in that zone only commenced in 2004. The Central Tablelands North and Central Tablelands South zones have not been included, as these only commenced operation from 1 June 2009.

Coonabarabran and Narrabri zones comprise the majority of winter cropping lands within the commercially harvested areas. As most non-commercial culling is associated with the protection of young winter crops, it is not surprising that these zones also show the highest non-commercial cull relative to the commercial quota and harvest.

Figure 15: Comparison of commercial quota, commercial harvest and non-commercial cull 1997-2008



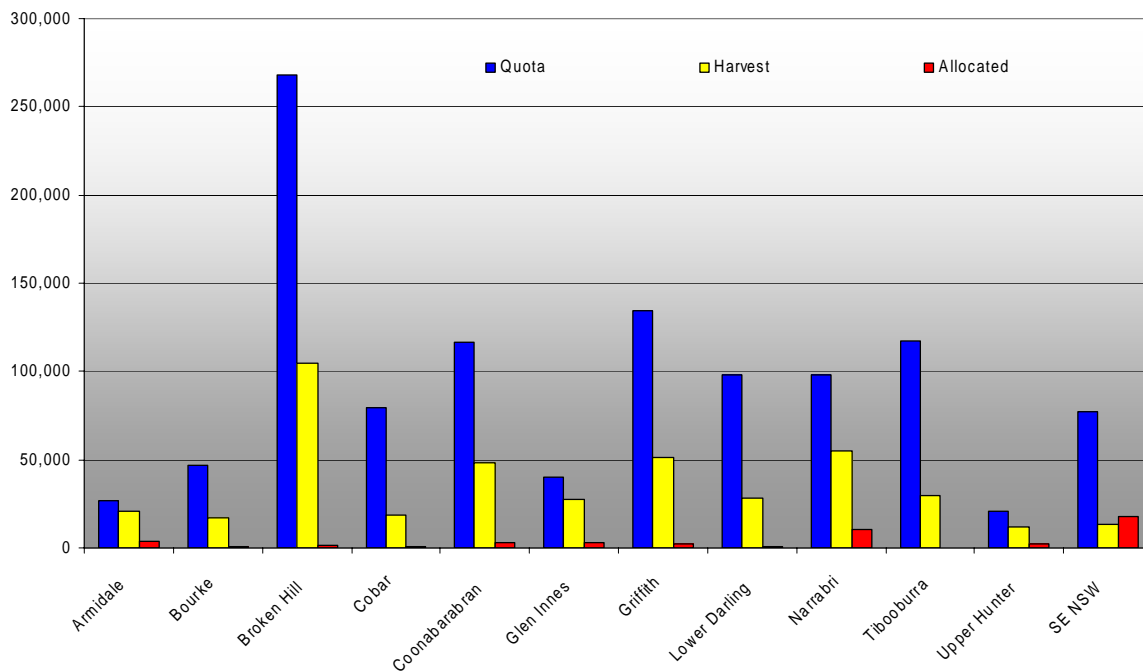
In 2009, non-commercial licences were issued for culling equivalent to 10.6 per cent of the commercial harvest, or 4.1 per cent of the commercial quota (Figure 16). With the closure of the Russian export markets mid-year, the commercial industry was not able to service landholder requirements to its usual extent, and DECCW fielded a much higher than usual number of enquiries regarding non-commercial licences. Nevertheless, the level of non-commercial culling undertaken remains low relative to the commercial harvest. This is

probably due to ongoing poor seasonal conditions limiting crop production, with consequently lower crop protection requirements.

SE NSW harvest management zone had a relatively high non-commercial cull – slightly exceeding the commercial harvest. In this zone, one processing company operated the majority of chiller premises associated with the commercial harvest. These chillers were closed when the Russian Government withdrew licences to export kangaroo products, resulting in virtual cessation of commercial activity in that zone. As a result, more non-commercial licences were requested.

Ballots were conducted to allocate available quota for eastern grey kangaroos in the Armidale management zone for both the first and second quota releases. Demand for wallaroo quota did not exceed availability and no ballot was required for this species.

Figure 16: Comparison of commercial quota, harvest and non-commercial cull 2009



G: MONITORING COMPLIANCE IN THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST ZONES

1. Compliance audits

The compliance audits are carried out continuously by Kangaroo Management Program (KMP) staff. Checks are “built in” to the KMS database and the KMP compliance officers based in Dubbo and Broken Hill conduct field investigations and compliance checks. Licensing staff contributed to compliance activities via scrutiny of applications, reports and investigation of suspect activities and irregularities. Other DECCW staff located in regional areas contribute via *ad hoc* inspection of chiller premises.

In addition to these activities, compliance staff investigate reports of illegal shooting activities to the fullest extent possible. Several reports of illegal shooting were investigated, however, no punitive action has yet been taken due to insufficient evidence.

Information to assist in enforcing the relevant sections of the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act* is shared with the NSW Police, the NSW Food Authority and interstate fauna protection agencies as required, within the boundaries of NSW privacy legislation.

Three collaborative compliance operations were undertaken by DECCW in 2009. All of these were within NSW and involved both DECCW and the NSW Police. One also involved the NSW Food Authority.

2. Inspection of premises

On average, the KMP compliance officers and/or NSW Food Authority compliance staff inspect over 200 chillers in Kangaroo Management Zones about four times each year. Chillers are inspected for:

- non-head shot kangaroos;
- valid tags;
- correctly affixed tags;
- untagged kangaroos;
- display of premise registration number and licence number for either pet food or human consumption (NSW Food Authority);
- presence of other animal carcasses.

Harvesters' vehicles are checked opportunistically for:

- appropriate registration through NSW Food Authority (either for human consumption or pet food);
- correctly set up/fitted out (NSW Food Authority MoU);
- untagged carcasses;
- harvester carrying s.123 licence.

Chiller inspection trips often include early morning visits to coincide with deliveries of kangaroos shot the previous night. On these occasions, vehicles are checked as above.

During 2009, 227 chiller premises were registered by fauna dealer wholesalers and a further 19 were registered by harvesters for their own use. A total of 677 inspections was conducted. Of these registered premises, 74 were not registered for the full year and were therefore inspected less frequently.

Industry difficulties with overseas markets resulted in many chiller premises closing for several months in the mid- to latter part of the year, coinciding with significantly slower commercial harvest and a reduced frequency of inspections. However, 60 chiller premises (about 25%) were inspected five times or more during 2009.

In addition to routine chiller inspections, DECCW officers investigated several instances of non-head shot kangaroo carcasses originating in NSW that were reported from processing works in South Australia. These investigations resulted in three cautions and five penalty notices being issued (see next section). One harvester was successfully prosecuted in 2009 for offences detected in 2008.

3. Penalty infringement notices

Issuing of verbal cautions, written warnings or infringement notices are at the discretion of the KMP compliance officer, in accordance with the Kangaroo Management Program's compliance policy and in consultation with the KMP Manager if deemed appropriate. Decisions on possible prosecutions involve consultation with DECCW Legal Services Branch.

During 2009, 118 infringement notices were issued, predominantly for the offence of contravening conditions of licence:

- Non-head shot (13)
- Unauthorised species (3)
- Exceed number authorised (1)
- Untagged carcasses (2)
- Fail to submit returns (harvester) (86)
- Fail to return unused tags (1)
- Fail to submit returns (chiller) (3)
- Submit false information (4)
- Transfer tags (1)
- Harm protected fauna (4)

DECCW officers seized a total of 82 carcasses as a result of licence conditions being breached. Seized carcasses that meet the commercial licensing requirements are sold by DECCW to avoid wastage. Carcasses that do not meet the licence requirements (that is, are underweight or body-shot) are not sold.

4. Licence cancellations

One harvesters' licence was cancelled in 2009 following repeated failure to comply with licence conditions despite two successful prosecutions and one infringement notice. The harvester lodged an appeal with the Minister for the Environment, who determined that the licence would be reinstated.

5. Prosecutions

DECCW prosecuted two licensed harvesters for separate offences:

- harm protected fauna and breach of licence conditions (shooting of kangaroos on unauthorised property); and
- breach of licence conditions (sale of body-shot carcasses).

In both cases, the prosecutions were successful and the harvesters were fined by the Court. Penalties were \$3,500 fines (two) and \$500 costs to DECCW and \$1,200 fine plus \$500 costs respectively.

NSW Police prosecuted one person for kangaroo-related offences detected by their officers. While the offence was proven, no conviction was recorded against the offender and no fine was imposed. As this prosecution was not undertaken by DECCW it is not included in the summary statistics in Table 1.

Table 1: summary of compliance breaches and actions for 2008.

Offence	Action	Result
Contravene conditions of licence (s 133(4) of the NPW Act)	114 penalty notices 2 prosecutions	Penalties at \$300 each Fine of \$1,200 + \$500 costs, and fine \$500 + \$500 costs
Harm protected fauna (s 98(2) of the NPW Act)	4 penalty notices 1 prosecution	Penalty at \$300 Fine of \$3,000

H: OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING THE COMMERCIAL HARVEST IN 2009

The most significant factor affecting the 2009 commercial harvest was the decision by the Russian government to cease importing kangaroo meat. Some exporters were affected as early as July 2008, while others continued to sell product into the Russian market. However, from August 2009, all kangaroo meat imports into Russia were suspended, and there was an immediate and significant impact on commercial harvest activities as a result. Fauna dealers who process kangaroo carcasses for pet food or for the domestic human consumption market were not affected to the same extent, and were able to maintain their activity level.

The impact of these market difficulties can be seen in the historically low harvest as a proportion of the available quota for 2009.

Allocation of commercial quota for both grey kangaroo species in the Griffith management zone and western grey kangaroos in the Coonabarabran zone was suspended in October. Estimates derived from 2009 aerial surveys of the Western Plains of NSW indicated that these populations had fallen below their respective thresholds, and in accordance with the provisions of the amended plan, DECCW ceased issuing new licences and advised licensees accordingly. Existing licences were allowed to continue. The closure of the quota for both eastern and western grey kangaroos in Griffith zone would have had some impact on overall harvest due to the predominance of these species over red kangaroos. In contrast, western grey kangaroos form only a small proportion of the total commercial quota in the Coonabarabran zone, and suspension of the quota there would have little impact on overall harvest.

I: RESEARCH INVOLVEMENT IN 2009

The Kangaroo Management Program did not initiate any new research proposals in 2009.

Previously the Kangaroo Management Program contributed to an investigation into the field metabolic rate of kangaroos compared to sheep, which was intended to assist in

determining the relative contribution of these species to total grazing pressure in the rangelands. This study has now been completed, and the results published:

Munn AJ, Dawson TJ, McLeod SR, Croft DB, Thompson DB and Dickman CR (2008) Field metabolic rate and water turnover of red kangaroos and sheep in an arid rangeland: an empirically-derived dry-sheep-equivalent for kangaroos. *Aust J Zool.* **57**:23-28.

In 2008 The Kangaroo Management Program approved an adaptive management trial examining the potential benefits of collaborative harvesting between a group of landholders for improved management of kangaroo populations. The trial has concluded and a full report has been prepared by the proponents for the Rural Industries Research and Development Council who funded it.

Ongoing research to which the Kangaroo Management Program has contributed includes an investigation into the impact of the kangaroo harvest on biodiversity and agricultural production. The project is a collaborative effort co-ordinated by the Invasive Animals CRC. No results have yet been published.

In 2009, the Kangaroo Management Program pledged in-kind support to assist in a collaborative project looking at humane methods of euthanasing orphaned pouch young. The project will provide scientific knowledge and other information on the animal welfare impact of kangaroo harvesting methods with the aim of determining the most appropriate euthanasia methods for young kangaroos which reduce, as much as possible, unnecessary pain, distress and suffering. Field work was due to commence in early 2010 but has been delayed.

APPENDIX A: PROGRESS AGAINST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN 2009

Action	Performance Indicator	Progress in 2009
1.0 All relevant activities are licensed in accordance with the applicable NSW legislation and DEC policy	PI 1.1 – All licences across NSW are assessed, processed and issued in accordance with NSW legislation and DEC policy.	Done. Centralising licensing at two locations has resulted in consistent adherence to policy requirements.
2.0 Licence conditions are effective and reflect current NSW legislation, DEC policy and the goal and aims of the plan.	PI 2.1 – Licence conditions are reviewed at least annually and where necessary amended.	Licence conditions have been updated following the formation of DECCW, and amended to correct reporting requirements following centralisation of licensing in Dubbo and Broken Hill offices.
	PI 2.2 – Licensees are advised in writing of changes to licence conditions within one month of such changes being approved by the Manager, Kangaroo Management Program.	Licensees were advised by newsletter in November 2009 of the changes that would be in place on licences for 2010.
3.0 DEC will work with the NSW Firearms Safety and Training Council Ltd to ensure that all trappers are competent to achieve the standards set out in the Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos.	PI 3.1 – All successful applicants for trapper's licences have completed the approved accreditation and their accreditation is current.	Validation processes built into the licensing database prevent a harvester's licence being created and saved unless a valid accreditation number is entered. Applicants must provide a certified photocopy of their accreditation card with their application for a harvester's licence.
4.0 DEC staff will monitor compliance with the Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos by commercial kangaroo industry operators	PI 4.1 – All licensees who are found to have breached licence conditions relating to animal welfare are issued with Penalty Infringement Notices or are prosecuted as appropriate.	13 penalty notices issued for breach of licence conditions relating to animal welfare and one successful prosecution.
5.0 DEC will facilitate research into improving animal welfare outcomes associated with the commercial harvest of kangaroos	PI 5.1 – Issues associated with the animal welfare aspects of the commercial harvest are identified and a research prospectus is prepared and distributed to universities and other research institutions during the life of this plan.	Research priorities identified. Prospectus not yet prepared, however DECCW has committed in-kind resources to a collaborative research project led by NSW Department of Industry and Investment. Project expected to be undertaken in 2010.
6.0 DEC staff will undertake both regular and opportunistic monitoring of compliance by commercial kangaroo industry operators	PI 6.1 – On receipt of trapper's licence applications the authorised DEC officer assessing the applications will ensure that applicants have both a valid and current NSW Firearms accreditation and a current Firearms Licence.	Done. Validation rules built into licensing database prevent the issuing of a harvester's licence without this information.
	PI 6.2 – All chiller premises are inspected on average every three months during the life of this plan by Kangaroo Management staff and/or staff of the NSW Food Authority to ensure compliance with NSW legislation and licence conditions.	Done. Some chillers not inspected 4 times due to not being used – others inspected more frequently than required. Refer to Section G2.
	PI 6.3 – All kangaroo processing works in NSW are	Done in conjunction with chiller inspections. Skin

	inspected by Kangaroo Management staff and/or staff of the NSW Food Authority to ensure compliance with the NSW legislation and licence conditions.	premises located in Sydney inspected separately.
	PI 6.4 – During the life of this plan trappers' vehicles loaded with kangaroo carcasses are inspected opportunistically to ensure compliance with New South Wales legislation and licence conditions and the results of these inspections are documented.	Vehicles inspected during routine chiller inspections and joint compliance operations. Refer to Section G2.
7.0 Activities not in accordance with the plan and the NSW legislation will be investigated and where an offence has been committed and it is appropriate, prosecuted.	PI 7.1 – Reports of unlicensed activities and activities in breach of licence conditions are investigated to the fullest extent possible, and where sufficient evidence is available offenders are issued with Penalty Infringement Notices or prosecuted as appropriate.	Allegations and investigations register maintained and updated. All information investigated to fullest extent possible. Refer to Section G1.
8.0 The accuracy of industry returns will be continually monitored during the life of this plan.	PI 8.1 – During the life of this plan, all incoming industry returns are scrutinised and discrepancies are investigated and resolved.	Ongoing. Validation rules built into licensing database assist in the detection of errors. Administrative staff contact licensees to resolve discrepancies. 89 penalty notices issued for breaches of licence conditions relating to returns, and one harvester's licence cancelled for repeated administrative offences. Refer to Sections G3 and G4.
9.0 A compliance database will be maintained to support investigations, inspections and audits.	PI 9.1 – A compliance database is maintained.	Ongoing. Enforcement actions are recorded in database and also noted in the licensing database.
10.0 Population surveys will be conducted annually for the western plains and three-yearly for tableland zones and other areas that require helicopter surveys.	PI 10.1 – Kangaroo population estimates are obtained using standard survey methodology throughout the life of this plan.	Done. Aerial surveys of Western Plains conducted in June/July/August and population estimates available from KMP web page in October. Helicopter survey of SE NSW management zone conducted in September.
	PI 10.2 – Ground surveys are conducted as required to verify the ratio of eastern grey kangaroos to western grey kangaroos in areas where both species occur.	Not required in 2009.
11.0 Commercial kangaroo harvest quotas will be set in accordance with the provisions of the plan.	PI 11.1 – All commercial kangaroo harvest quotas are set in accordance with the provisions of the plan.	Done. Quotas for 2010 were calculated from 2009 population estimates at 15% for eastern and western grey kangaroos and wallaroos, and 17% for red kangaroos. No quota is set for species and zones where current population estimates are below identified thresholds – refer Introduction on p2.
	PI 11.2 – The Commonwealth Government is advised of commercial harvest quotas for the following calendar year by 30 November.	Done. 2010 Quota report submitted before 30 November. Commonwealth confirmation received 16 December 2008.
	PI 11.3 – If Commonwealth approval is required for quotas set above the rates specified in the plan as part	Not required in 2009.

	of an adaptive management experiment, such approval is obtained before the additional quota is implemented.	
	PI 11.4 – The Quota Report is made available to the public via the KMP web page.	Done.
12.0 Special kangaroo harvest quotas will be set in accordance with the provisions of the plan.	PI 12.1 – Special kangaroo harvest quotas are set and utilised in accordance with the provisions of the plan.	Done. Special quotas calculated at 1.5% of the population estimate as per Commonwealth's approval of the plan.
13.0 Kangaroo populations will continually be monitored indirectly throughout the life of this plan.	PI 13.1 – Sudden or acute changes in the average weights of harvested kangaroos, as ascertained from licence returns, are investigated to determine where practicable the cause of the change.	Done monthly as per the amended plan. No significant changes detected.
14.0 Historical data relating to the commercial kangaroo harvest in NSW will be analysed during the life of this plan to identify trends; this analysis will be considered in future kangaroo management programs.	PI 14.1 – Analysis of historical kangaroo harvest and management data is undertaken during the life of this plan.	Ongoing.
	PI 14.2 – The results of analysis and research using historical kangaroo harvest and management data are published in an appropriate forum.	Not applicable in 2009.
15.0 Where practicable experiments will be performed to test deliberate management interventions during the life of this plan.	PI 15.1 – All proposals to undertake active adaptive management experiments are reviewed and assessed by DEC in accordance with the criteria outlined in this plan.	Done. One adaptive management experiment was approved and implemented in May 2008, completed June 2009.
	PI 15.2 – All necessary approvals are obtained prior to experiments testing deliberate management interventions commence.	No approvals necessary.
	PI 15.3 – All adaptive management experiments are continuously monitored and conducted according to approval conditions.	Done. Adaptive management experiment was monitored and was conducted in accordance with conditions.
	PI 15.4 – Results of all experiments testing deliberate management interventions are published in an appropriate forum.	Proponents have prepared report for RIRDC.
16.0 DEC will facilitate research into the ecology and harvest management of kangaroos.	PI 16.1 – Issues associated with the ecology of harvested species and the management of the commercial harvest are identified and a research prospectus is prepared and distributed to universities and other research institutions during the life of this plan.	Research priorities have been identified but prospectus not yet prepared. Preliminary discussions held with individual researchers.
17.0 An annual report on the plan will be prepared and submitted to the Commonwealth.	PI 17.1 – An annual report on the operation of the plan for the previous calendar year is submitted to the Commonwealth by end of March of the following year.	Annual Report for 2008 submitted and accepted. Annual Report for 2009 submitted.
	PI 17.2 – All annual reports prepared during the life of this plan are posted on the KMP web page.	Done for 2008 Annual Report. 2009 Annual Report will be posted after acceptance by Commonwealth.

18.0 The review of the plan will commence no later than twelve months prior to the expiry of this plan.	PI 18.1 – The schedule of DEC plan review activities initiated no later than 12 months prior to the expiry of this plan will include, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning prior to a full review of the program • Compilation of reports including reviews of relevant literature • Public meetings/forums including the KMAP and invited scientists • Public exhibition of new draft program; and • KMAP review of public submissions. 	Not applicable in 2009.
	PI 18.2 – The success of the current plan in achieving its goal is assessed by measuring performance indicators.	Not applicable in 2009.
	PI 18.3 – The results of the plan review are presented to the Commonwealth and are placed on the KMP web page.	Not applicable in 2009.
19.0 Members of the KMAP will be provided with relevant information and afforded the opportunity to advise DEC on key kangaroo management issues throughout the life of this plan.	PI 19.1 – KMAP is provided with monthly updates on commercial harvest and tag issue throughout the life of this plan.	Done.
	PI 19.2 – KMAP is provided with other relevant information as required or as necessary throughout the life of this plan.	Done. During 2009 information provided included amendments to the plan following the AAT challenge, results of aerial surveys, harvest statistics and copies of information sent to licensees.
	PI 19.3 – KMAP meets at least twice per year to review progress of plan in relation to the goal and aims of the plan.	KMAP met on 3 March and 30 October 2009.
20.0 Relevant public documents will be made available on the KMP web page.	PI 20.1 – Throughout the life of this plan the KMP web page contains the following information as a minimum standard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current and previous management plans; • Monthly tag issue and commercial harvest statistics; • Historical harvest statistics; • Population survey reports; • Current population estimates; • Current commercial quotas; • Ratified minutes of recent KMAP meetings; • Contact information for the Kangaroo Management 	Done. All this information is currently available and updated as necessary.

	Section; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current forms for commercial kangaroo licences. 	
21.0 Publicly available information will be provided to interested parties on request.	PI 21.1 – Publicly available kangaroo management information is distributed to interested parties as soon as practicable after such a request.	Done.
22.0 Where appropriate relevant DEC staff will participate in media interviews and prepare media releases.	PI 22.1 – DEC staff participate in interviews with the media where appropriate.	Done. Examples include radio interviews regarding updated population estimates, quota suspensions and new zone information meetings.
	PI 22.2 – Media releases are prepared when appropriate for issues of interest to the community such as population surveys and the release of quota for the next calendar year.	Done. Examples include following successful prosecutions for offering for sale non head shot kangaroos.
23.0 Relevant information regarding licensing arrangements will be developed as required and distributed to all licensees.	PI 23.1 – A copy of the current Handbook for Kangaroo Trappers is issued with every trapper's licence throughout the life of this plan to ensure that licensees are apprised of relevant licensing requirements and responsibilities.	Done. Handbook has again been revised and updated, following centralised licensing, the creation of new harvest zones and formation of DECCW. Awaiting publication for use in 2010.
	PI 23.2 – A chiller operator's handbook is developed and published during the life of this plan and thereafter issued with every chiller registration to ensure that operators are aware of relevant licensing requirements and responsibilities.	Draft handbook prepared and expected to be published and distributed early 2010.