

Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP) Commercial



Meeting minutes

Details

Meeting: 40th Meeting – Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel (KMAP Commercial)

Location: Cattleman's Inn Dubbo

Date/time: 24 & 25 May 2023

Chairperson: Tanya Stephens

People present

1. **Tanya Stephens**, Dr., Australian Veterinary Association
2. **Thomas Newsome**, Dr., Scientific community
3. **Steve McLeod**, Dr., Scientific community
4. **Liz Arnott**, Dr., RSPCA NSW
5. **Garry Trindall**, Aboriginal communities
6. **Fiona Garland** (proxy), Department Regional NSW
7. **Doug Jobson**, Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia
8. **James Meyers**, NSW PKH Licensee
9. **Steve Johnstone**, NSW PKH Licensee
10. **Terry Brill**, NSW Kangaroo Management Program (KMP), Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
11. **Graeme White**, Director Compliance & Licensing, DPE
12. **Sheridan Maher**, (Minutes) DPE
13. **Jackie Sawyer**, (KMP Licensing and tech support) DPE

Guests/presenters/observers

Dr Trudy Sharp, Department Primary Industries NSW (DPI)

Apologies

Jamie Woods, Aboriginal Communities

Greg Rogers, NSW Farmers

Gerard Glover, NSW Farmers

Erlina St Vincent, Dr., Department Regional NSW

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	Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility
1.	<p>Welcome and IT check</p> <p>Sheridan</p>		
2.	<p>Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Garry</p>		
3.	<p>Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr Trudy Sharp, Department Primary Industries NSW (DPI) ○ Fiona Garland (proxy), Western Local Land Services, Department Regional NSW • Outlined meeting procedure • Late agenda item added – <i>industry certification Doug Jobson</i> • Agenda adopted • Conflict of interest or Pecuniary Interest form updates 	Updated forms to Jackie	Any member this applies to
4.	<p>Chairperson's report</p> <p>Minutes of the 39th meeting (3 November 2022) were ratified out of session and are published on the DPE website. KMAP Minutes Meeting #39</p> <p>All actions from previous meeting were addressed.</p> <p>Business arising from previous Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal welfare workshop – Item 8 • Commercial zone boundaries (Item 14) • KMP access to PIC# database for verification of Landholder Consents (Item 14) • 2022 tag refund assessment (Item 5) <p>Other business arising (Item 6):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puma and Nike decisions to stop using kangaroo leather • Kangaroo industry certification 		
5.	<p>KMP Team Leader's report</p> <p>Presentation by Terry covered the following main areas:</p> <p>2022 Annual Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report was circulated prior to the meeting and is available online here 2022 Annual Report • 402,719 kangaroos commercially harvested in 2022, compared to 497,285 in 2021. • As a % of the quota, the total 2022 harvest (23.8% of quota) was lower than 2021 (31%) but similar to 2020 (22 %). 		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average weights were approx. 2kg higher in 2022 than the 20yr average. <p>2022 unused tags – refund assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the process and considerations were outlined • the decision not to refund or provide credit for unused tags was made on the basis that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the absolute number tags returned in 2022 was not significantly higher than the previous two years ○ there is an inherent business risk associated with the ordering and using (or not) of tags ○ Exceptional circumstances were acknowledged and extensions to expiry dates were granted to provide some mitigation ○ 2022 was not such a significant variant to justify the administrative and other costs that would be required to determine and process a refund • Some disappointment in the decision was expressed. Many full-time harvesters have had several poor years due to flooding and limited opportunities to get onto properties, and the recovery is still slow. <p>2023 licensing and harvest update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licenced as at May 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 479 licensed harvesters, 17 Animal Dealers, 4 Skin Dealers ○ 121 registered premises ○ 3 registered mobile chillers • Harvested as at May 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 103,500 E grey ○ 60,000 Red ○ 8,000 W grey ○ 3,300 Wallaroos ○ 174,800 (10% of Quota) total <p>Compliance update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with regionally based teams to meet inspection targets and increase surveillance in the field • Pilot intelligence project – to improve data capture and sharing among agencies • Working with NSW Police to upskill Rural Crime Prevention Team officers in KMP matters • (TAFE) knowledge refresher course completed and being implemented. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report – now lists prosecution outcomes <p>Carcass tags:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaising with other states. Looking at alternatives to overcome issues that some harvesters have had with the new Tyvek tags <p>TAFE refresher course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated on Day 2, item 14 <p>Macropod Managers meeting Feb 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated on Day 2, item 14 <p>2023 aerial survey program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated on Day 2, Item 14 		
6.	<p>Around the room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observation by a harvester of a large amount of worms in the intestines of a red buck. Reminder to voluntarily report any health matters. Contact details are on the back of the KMP Harvester Information Folder (the red folder). Take notes and photos where possible and report. Post-script – Emergency Animal Diseases Hotline Number is 1800 675 888. Reports of red kangaroos in fair to poor condition – considered surprising given all the feed around after the rain. Issue with some of the carcass tags not sticking – in wet/cold conditions. KMP is aware. The same Tyvek tags are used by Victoria and were used by Qld in 2022. While no issue with the previous product, Qld has moved to a laminated tag. NSW KMP is also looking into these laminated tags, as well as alternative adhesive/fastening options. Informed that notable US-based documentary film director, Skye Fitzgerald, is heading out to western NSW later in 2023 to do a story on kangaroos. Noted that Puma and Nike have recently announced their decisions to stop using kangaroo leather in their shoe/boot production. Accreditation or certification of commercially harvested kangaroo products. RSPCA certifies chicken products. What other independent body could establish standards and auditing process – eg AUSQUAL certifies the beef industry. Not the role of the Department or KMAP to pursue, but something for KIAA/industry to progress. Should a cap be placed on harvester licences now that some buyers (processors) are placing limits on carcasses received at chiller boxes? Role of KMP is to regulate compliance with harvest quotas not to control the number of harvesters. KMP does already 	Circulate Emergency hotline number #	Sheridan.

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	<p>discuss with new harvesters that they need to source a buyer/s for their carcasses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSPCA Policy E Wild Animals describes the RSPCA position on the commercial utilisation of wild animals and principles of wild animal management. The review of the policy is currently under way with no set date for completion. 		
7.	Break for lunch (30 mins)		
8.	<p>Workshop – achieving and demonstrating humane harvesting of kangaroos in NSW</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding what humane harvesting is Understanding the <i>National Code of Practice for the Humane Harvesting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for commercial Purposes (2020)</i> and the science behind it Identify issues and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to demonstrate humane harvesting practices How to build public trust (social licence) Public perceptions Actions and next steps <p>Presentation by Dr Trudy Sharp</p>		
9 to 12	Breaks, workshop and team dinner		
13.	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2 - Thursday 25 May</p> <hr/> <p>Workshop continued – reflections and next steps</p> <p>General reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong industry feedback that compliance with the National Code is high, but a desire to gather greater assurance of high compliance rates. Looking for opportunities to source further data to verify and quantify compliance rates. Increase surveillance Increase presence of department compliance officers Consider use of drones Consider use of body-worn cameras Potential benefits of digital tag technology (still in trial phase) <p>Actions and next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department to consider what/how field-based surveillance could be achieved while minimising potential risks to compliance officers 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPE and DPI to develop a pilot study to develop and document a field-based audit (of compliance with the National Code) trial with a subset of volunteer harvesters DPE to progress the second AgriFutures PhD Scholarship – could be a comparison of the “humaneness” of kangaroo harvesting against other animal industries. Is stress a useful measure? What other surrogate could be used? 		
14.	<p>Update on program improvements and projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital tags trial is still in the development stage. User acceptance testing of the SAPHI interface is currently being conducted. Expect in-field trials with harvesters and animal dealers to occur around August 2023. If the trial is successful digital tags will undergo enhancement functionalities during 2024 with further user acceptance testing, and rollout in 2025. KMP finalised the Kangaroo Harvester Knowledge course with TAFE in April and successfully launched in May 2023. All new harvesters will have 1 month from the date of licence issue to successfully complete the course to maintain their licence and all existing harvesters will have until 2025 to complete the course. Over 10 new harvesters have successfully completed the course since being rolled out. Inquiry – progress against the Government’s response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rec 1 – Aboriginal engagement Rec 8 - Review of survey methods is progressing Rec 12 and 15 – documenting the science and producing plain English information products is progressing. Research projects – update on PhD scholarships. One project still to be defined. A focus on animal welfare could be considered. <p>Carried over from day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macropod Managers meeting was held in February. Provided an excellent opportunity for engagement and sharing of issues/ideas across the commercial programs in the different states. 2023 aerial surveys begin with a staff training session next week. Surveying to commence the week after. Zone boundaries - will remain unchanged. Very limited enquiries have been received to extend any of the boundaries. May be further considered in the future if need arises. Landholder Consents – potential to use PIC #s (Property Identification Codes) instead of Council Rates notices to verify property ownership. Need to look into this further - is a spatial layer included? DPE/KMP to pursue 	Jackie to follow up	
15.	Break		

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16.	<p>Other business items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Election outcome - the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC announced as the new Minister for the Environment. She is also Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy and Minister for Heritage Ms Kiersten Fishburn was appointed Acting Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment – she has since been appointed permanently. 		

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

Items/actions	Responsible	Status
1. All items discussed, no items to carry forward		
2. Any updated forms to be emailed to Jackie	Any member this applies to	
3. For noting - the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline is 1800 675 888 .	If you see anything unusual in the field report it	
4. Representation by NSW Farmers – nominate proxies or alternates. Terry to raise at their meeting 17 July 2023, Sydney.	Terry	
5. DPE staff to work with DPI to explore options for assessing compliance with the National Code for humane harvesting of kangaroos and wallabies	Sheridan/Terry	
6. Provide Steve and Jim with access to the Harvester Knowledge Course (WMS/TAFE)	Jackie	
7. DPE to progress AgriFutures PhD Scholarship	Terry	
8. Check whether PIC#'s link to a spatial layer and whether they can be used for Landholder Consent approvals	Jackie	

Meeting closed at 11:30am

Next meeting

November (date to be confirmed).

Location – to be confirmed.