



NSW kangaroo management quotas

NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Program

The goal of kangaroo management in New South Wales is conservation. It is an offence to harm, buy or sell kangaroos, without a licence. Licences are issued to control the impact of overabundant populations or for commercial harvesting. Licences are issued with conditions that regulate where and how many kangaroos can be harvested.

Commercial kangaroo harvesting in New South Wales is strictly limited to 4 abundant species (red kangaroo, eastern grey kangaroo, western grey kangaroo, and common wallaroo). It can only occur on land for which a signed landholder consent form has been registered with the NSW Government. Kangaroos cannot be commercially harvested within national parks or on other reserved areas.

The number of kangaroos that can be commercially harvested is set each year and is referred to as the annual quota. The quota sets

a limit on the number of kangaroos that can be harvested (it is not a commercial harvest target). The quota is set for each species in each of 15 kangaroo management zones. The commercial harvest quota also guides the allocation of licences for the non-commercial culling of kangaroos.

Setting commercial kangaroo harvest quotas

Of the 15 kangaroo management zones, 9 are on the Western Plains and 6 are on the Tablelands. There are no commercial harvest zones to the east of the Tablelands. All 15 zones are regularly surveyed to estimate kangaroo populations and a proportion (see below) of each population in each zone is allowed to be harvested.

The harvest quotas are based on the best available science, which considers population reproduction and attrition rates. The NSW harvest quota for

Setting kangaroo harvest quotas

Only **4** species are harvested in NSW



Harvest quotas are set for each species in each zone

The red kangaroo harvest quota is typically

17% of its population

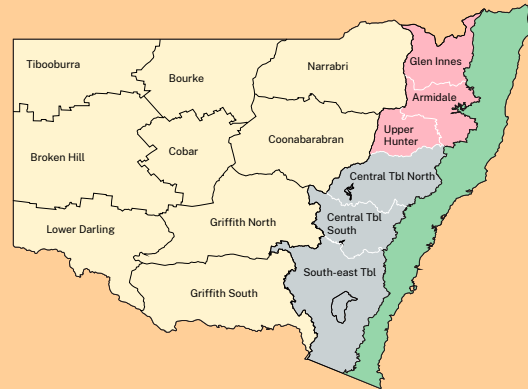
Eastern grey kangaroo, western grey kangaroo, and wallaroo harvest quotas are typically

15% of each population



Local conditions, climate and population trends are considered to ensure ecologically viable kangaroo populations

There are **15** harvesting zones in NSW



Harvesting can only occur on land with landholder consent. Kangaroos cannot be commercially harvested in national parks or other reserved areas



The harvest quotas are based on the best available science, which considers population reproduction and attrition rates



Quotas are set each year to ensure kangaroo populations are not over-harvested





red kangaroos is generally set at 17% of the estimated population. For eastern grey kangaroos, western grey kangaroos and wallaroos, the quota is generally set at 15% of the estimated population. These proportional quotas are based on the population dynamics of the species and the selectivity of kangaroo harvesters for male kangaroos. They are considered conservative with a low impact on kangaroo populations. After 45 years of regulated harvesting there has been no overall decline in populations.

Adapting quotas for changing populations

New South Wales uses a 'proportional threshold harvest strategy' to reduce the risk of overharvesting when kangaroo numbers are declining. Two thresholds are used, which are calculated each year using updated population data. When a kangaroo population falls below these two thresholds, the proportion of the population that can be harvested is reduced to 10% or zero (that is, harvesting is suspended). For example, in 2021 the red kangaroo quotas for Tibooburra and Bourke were reduced from the regular 17% of the population to 10%, due to the estimated population in these areas falling below a threshold.

In making decisions to suspend harvests, the NSW Government considers a range of factors including local conditions, climate trends, and kangaroo population trends. The goal is to ensure kangaroo populations remain ecologically viable.

Kangaroo populations have been monitored in New South Wales since 1975, providing one of the best long-term datasets of wildlife numbers in the world. This information allows recent trends and the viability of populations throughout their present ranges to be compared with historical data.

The long-term changes in all kangaroo populations shows that there has been no overall decline in kangaroo abundance in areas where kangaroos are harvested.





Population surveys support quota setting

Annual harvest quotas are set as a proportion of the kangaroo population size. This requires estimates of kangaroo abundance. The NSW Government surveys kangaroo populations, annually on the Western Plains and every 3 years on the Tablelands, to estimate numbers of each species in each commercial harvest zone. These population estimates are used to set conservative commercial kangaroo harvest quotas.

For more information on how kangaroo population numbers are estimated, see the Monitoring kangaroo populations in New South Wales factsheet.

Quota reporting

The NSW kangaroo harvest quotas are adaptable to changes in populations, such as lower populations during periods of drought. This protects kangaroos from overharvesting. The department publishes an annual quota report. Updates on the quota allocated and the number of kangaroos harvested are published on the department's website each month (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/wildlife-management/kangaroo-management/kangaroo-population-monitoring-and-reporting/reports-and-research).

How can I find out more?



Online:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/wildlife-management/kangaroo-management

Email:

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