

# VICTORIAN COMMERCIAL KANGAROO INDUSTRY

## A GRAPHIC OVERVIEW



# Background

Victorian kangaroos are killed both non-commercially ('culling') and commercially ('harvesting'). The Australia wide persecution and exploitation of kangaroos is the world's largest mammalian wildlife trade.

Victorian kangaroos have long been persecuted through Authority to Control Wildlife permits (known as 'culling') when they are perceived as inconvenient. There has been virtually no leadership from the government to encourage respectful coexistence with this keystone species.

In 2014, the Victorian Government created the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial (KPFT). Then Agriculture Minister, Peter Walsh, told Victorians commercialising kangaroo shooting "will not mean any increase in the wildlife control permits at all, it is just utilising the waste that is there from the current controls". **AVERAGE COMBINED QUOTAS HAVE SINCE MORE THAN TRIPLED.**



It was flagged in the [KPFT Evaluation Report](#) (2018) that commercialisation threatens sustainability and is rife with corruption and lawlessness, yet this warning was brazenly ignored by Victorian Labor. Victorian Labor launched the 'Kangaroo Harvesting Program', [removed the need for landholder permits](#), and opened nearly the whole state to 'harvesting'. [Commercial quotas continue to skyrocket](#) on the basis of biologically impossible population survey results.

Expert biostatistician, Clare Galea, [analysed the methodology](#) used to count kangaroos in Victoria and found it so flawed that it threatens the ongoing viability of Victorian kangaroo populations. She joins the many independent scientists who have long raised concerns about the industry.

Despite [widespread soliciting](#), commercial shooters never manage to reach the quota. Since 2019, they have filled an approx. average of just 60% of the commercial quota, whilst the percentage of females has gone from approx. one third up to 49% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2025.

## KANGAROOS 'APPROVED FOR CONTROL'

PRE-COMMERCIAL		POST-COMMERCIAL	
Year	Quota	Year	Quota
no earlier data		2015	135,887
		2016	169,544
		2017	189,086
		2018	168,992
		2019	136,502
		2020	137,800
		2021	191,200
2009	64,152	2022	185,850
2010	39,559	2023	236,350
2011	34,721	2024	236,350
2012	45,717	2025	207,800
2013	75,139	2026	207,800
<b>Average</b>	<b>51,858</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>183,597</b>

\*excludes 2014 (quota 84,100) as commercial system started in April

# 1. Soliciting

Shooters are leafleting & doorknocking, & we recorded hundreds of posts seeking kangaroos to shoot in community Facebook groups across the state between late-2020 & mid-2023. This shows their desperation to find dwindling kangaroos and proves the industry is about profit, not 'reducing waste'.

 **Myrtleford Community** · [Join](#)  
Zac · 2 Jan · 🌐

Properties wanted.  
Free pest control.  
I do this for a living so keeping propertie owners happy is my priority.  
References available if required.  
Im an accredited game meat harvester/professional shooter.  
All animals are utilised for human consumption.  
Property owners are covered by my public liability insurance.  
My services are Free of charge.  
I have my own tags so **no need for a permit.**  
My licence covers Rabbit, Hare ,Kangaroo, Deer.  
I am happy to travel.  
  
Any help would be greatly appreciated.

 **Korumburra Community Noticeboard** · [Join](#)  
Aaron · 22 Nov 2021 · 🌐

G'day guys I'm looking for shooting properties in the Gippsland region professional shooter looking for kangaroos/deer to harvest, i have tags and licences up to date so **no need for permits**, if interested inbox me please and we will go from there.

 **Loch Community Noticeboard** · [Join](#)  
Darren · 1 Jul 2021 · 🌐

Farmers, landowners or stock agents

Are kangaRoo or deer damaging your property ? Eating stock food sources, or damaging the fencing and land???

But you can't get a permit to control animals on the property?

Fully Accredited harvester, available!!  
\*Fully insured \$10M  
\*licensed and certified  
\*process and remove animals off property **\*you don't need to arrange a permit**  
\*confidential  
\*references on request  
\*20+ properties currently serviced

Pm me for details, travel all Over Vic

100% free service and everything above board.

As noted in the [KPFT report](#), Vic landholders are also being approached by shooters offering financial incentives for access to kangaroos. This is an abuse of the system.

 **Whittlesea Buy Swap And Sell** · [Join](#)  
Gerard · 7 Aug 2021 · 🌐

Professional roo harvester, if you have a property needing a cull inbox me for more details

 **Glenburn Community Group (Australia)** · [Join](#)  
Daryn · 9 Mar 2021 · 🌐

\*Admin delete if not allowed\*

-Not selling but offering help-

Roo or deer damaging property ? Eating the stocks food sources?  
**Can't get a permit to control animals on property?**

Accredited harvester, available!!  
Fully insured and licensed, **can process and removed animals off property without permit.**

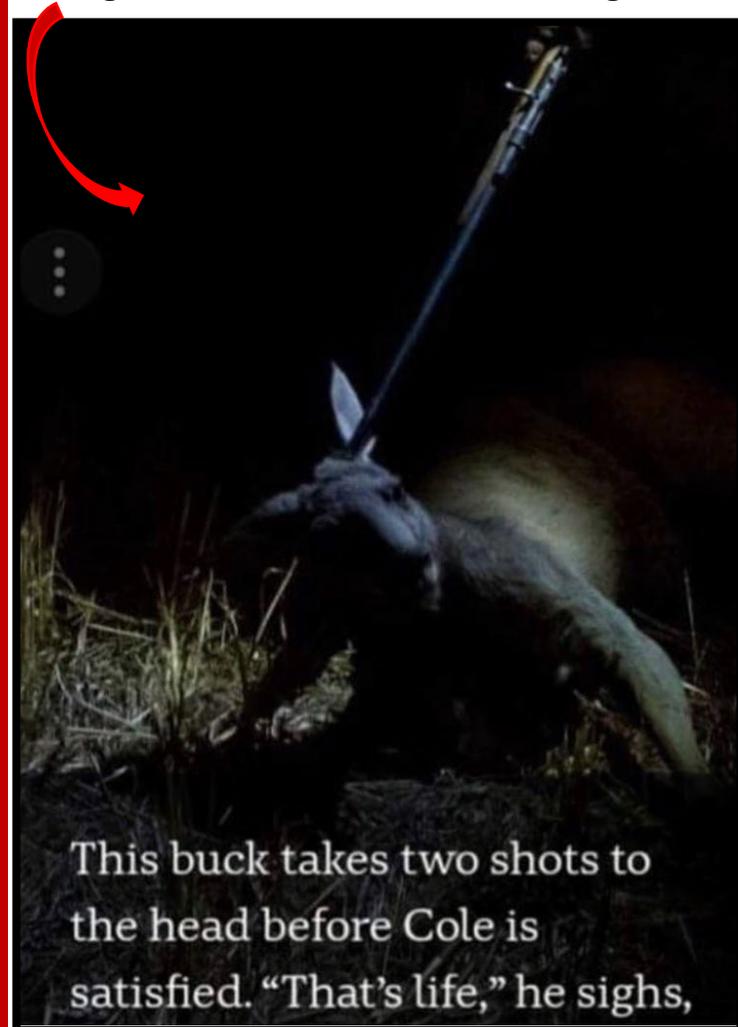
Pm me for details, travel all Over Vic but based in S.E. Melbourne

Abn set up all above board.  
Thanks in advance

## 2. Shooting

Kangaroos are shot in the wild, none are farmed. They are supposed to be shot in the head but realistically that does not always happen. In-field compliance is virtually non-existent.

This image is from a [2018 ABC article](#) by Jane Cowan where she spent the night with a Victorian kangaroo shooter. Though highly experienced, he mis-shot several kangaroos, and lost two out of eighteen.



### NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR BASHING JOEYS

"The most suitable method that is currently available for the euthanasia of partially-furred to fully-furred young is a concussive blow to the head (also called **BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA**)."

"**REMOVE THE YOUNG FROM THE POUCH...** hold the young firmly by the hindquarters... and then swing firmly and quickly in an arc so that the rear of **THE JOEY'S HEAD IS HIT AGAINST A LARGE SOLID SURFACE** that will not move or compress during the impact (e.g. the tray of a utility vehicle)"

"The efficiency and humaneness of this method **DEPENDS ON THE OPERATOR'S SKILL AND DETERMINATION**. The concussive blow must be delivered with sufficient force and be **PRECISELY ON TARGET TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE DAMAGE OCCURS** to vital structures of the brain to cause immediate and sustained unconsciousness and death."

"**IF THIS PROCEDURE IS NOT PERFORMED CORRECTLY** there will be varying degrees of consciousness and it is **LIKELY THAT THE ANIMAL WILL SUFFER** prior to death. If the first blow does not hit the skull but hits, for example, the jaw or a limb, or if the brain is not sufficiently destroyed, then the animal will **EXPERIENCE PAIN AND DISTRESS.**"

Source: National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes 2020



Pouch joeys are considered a waste product & will be decapitated or bashed to death. This dead joey was found in Dunkeld, Vic, after commercial shooters had been active.

Credit: Jane Gibb

# 3. Hanging

Kangaroos are collected from the field and hung by the leg from the back of the shooter's ute. They are stabbed in the neck to bleed out.



Young children and untrained offshoots attend and handle the bodies. Though highly unhygienic, this is legal.



# 4. Field Dressing

Kangaroo heads & limbs are chopped off and their organs removed in the wild. This is highly unhygienic & cross-contamination is rife, both between kangaroos & other species such as wild boar & deer. Shooters often wear no protective equipment.



Note the lack of gloves and protective clothing



Cavities exposed to heat, dust and insects



# 5. Transport

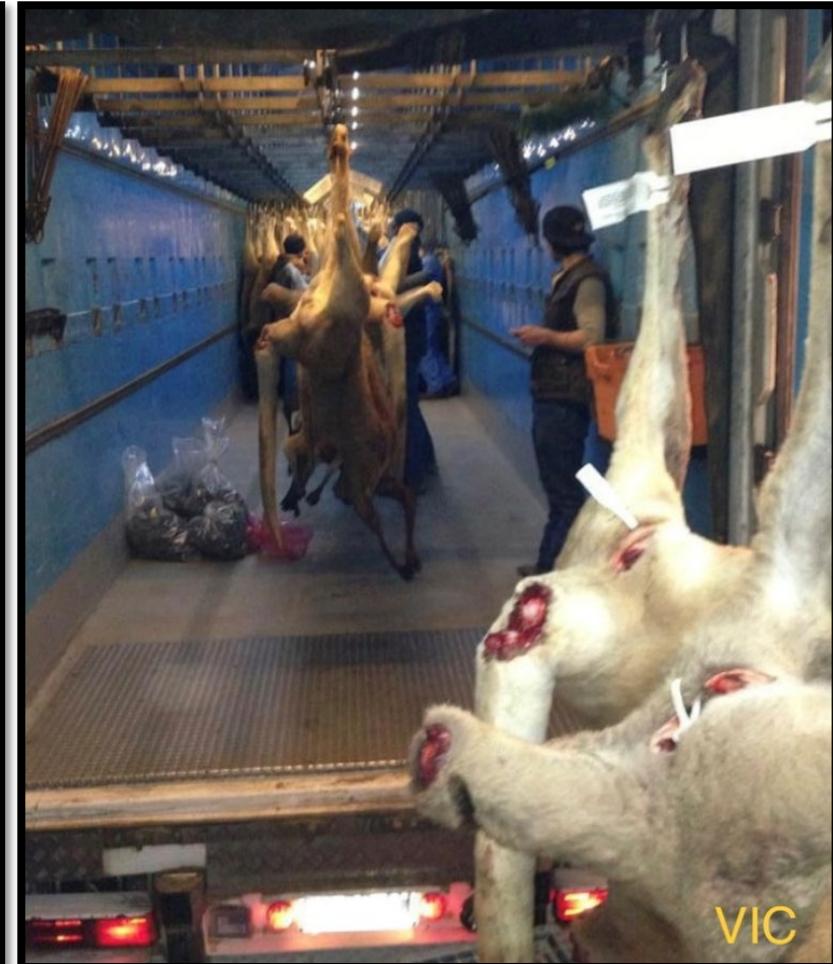
Kangaroos are packed tightly together, including with other wild species such as wild boar and deer. The open carcasses can be driven around all night with dust, mud, faeces, insects and high ambient temperatures. This is highly unhygienic and disturbing to members of the public.



Example of mixed species cross-contamination from a Victorian commercial shooter

## 6. Field Depots

Kangaroo bodies return to field depots (often filthy retrofitted shipping containers) within two hours AFTER sunrise, arriving in broad daylight regardless of temperature. Mixed wild species hang there for up to two weeks before transport to processors.



Hygiene standards are minimal. Note the lack of gloves and protective clothing.

# 7. Processing Facilities - Loading

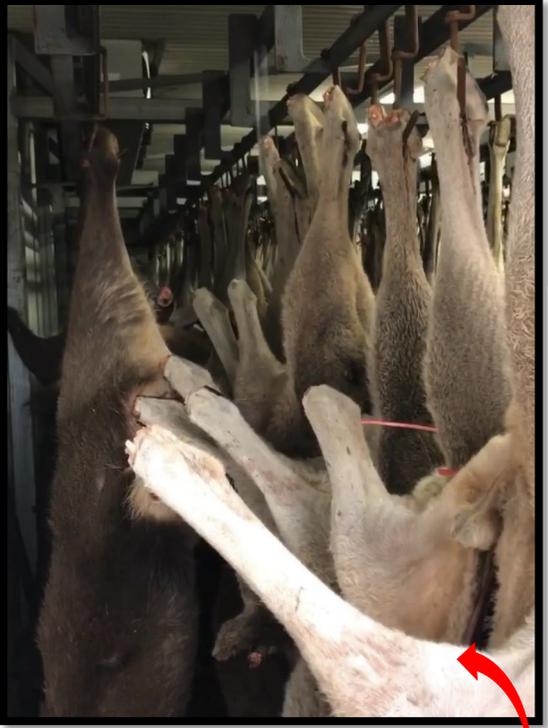
After up to a fortnight in the field depot, again the bodies are exposed to the elements, insects and cross-contamination when they are transported and unloaded at processing facilities.



There is no minimum carcass weight in Victoria. Note the many small individuals.

# 8. Processing Facilities

These images from inside Victorian processors were leaked by a whistleblower who alleged mistreated workers smoke and drink alcohol in filthy conditions.



Workers apparently smoking & allegedly under the influence



Deer and Kangaroos crammed together in onsite chillers. Video evidence shows a leaking roof.

# 9. Aftermath – Joeys

Joeys are considered a waste product and pouch joeys will be decapitated or bashed to death. At-foot joeys often escape to perish slowly without maternal care.



Wildwood Wildlife Shelter



Jane Gibb



Jane Gibb

These joeys were orphaned after commercial shoots. Despite rescue and the best care, their spirits and bodies were broken, and they did not survive.

This youngster died alone without care from its mother. Found by devastated locals.

Victorian ‘Kangaroo Harvesting Program’ reports show that approximately one third of those commercially killed were female, and when joey deaths were published, they were over 19,000 per year. This is horrific enough, but it does not include the toll of joeys left orphaned. Eastern Grey Kangaroo joeys are dependent on their mothers for 18 months for milk and care. Without their mother they will die slowly from exposure, stress, starvation, dehydration and predation.

These older joeys are highly mobile, and by the time they are weak enough to be caught by rescuers, they often cannot be saved.

# 10. Aftermath – Wounded

Volunteer rescuers are left with the trauma of euthanising horrifically wounded kangaroos. In 2023, Wildlife Victoria reported a 55% increase in gunshot wounding-related cases since commercialisation. Despite the high number of reported cases, countless other kangaroos will escape to die slowly in the bush. Animal welfare organisations globally have declared the kangaroo industry a ‘welfare crisis’.

Woodend, Vic. Sept, 2025. Found alive.  
Credit: Debbie Gwyther-Jones.



Sunday Creek, Vic. Jan, 2025. Found alive with joey.  
Credit: Krysti Severi



Dixons Creek, Vic. Sept, 2025. Found Alive.  
Credit: Vets for Compassion

*“We are the ones consistently exposed to the horrors inflicted on these animals. We see the limbs hanging ragged, the swollen infected, bloated faces and bodies from embedded bullets. We see ones with jaws and noses shot away from what's left of their faces. We witness the wounded mothers unable to tend their pouch joeys... there are many more unaccounted for, suffering and dying alone.” ~ Glenn Cottier, Victorian volunteer wildlife rescuer*

# 11. Aftermath – Community

Horrified community members witness shooting and field dressing, and find the remains of kangaroos they loved in stinking offal piles dangerously close to homes and businesses. Some people have been forced out of their homes due to the killing. As of 2025, four Victorian councils have requested exclusion from commercial shooting.



Dunkeld, Victoria. Approx. 100m from homes and businesses.

[Resident: 'My life is full of anxiety, distress, sadness'.](#)

Colonial exploitation draws criticism from First Nations people.

[Vic Aboriginal Elder: 'The indiscriminate slaughter must stop'](#)

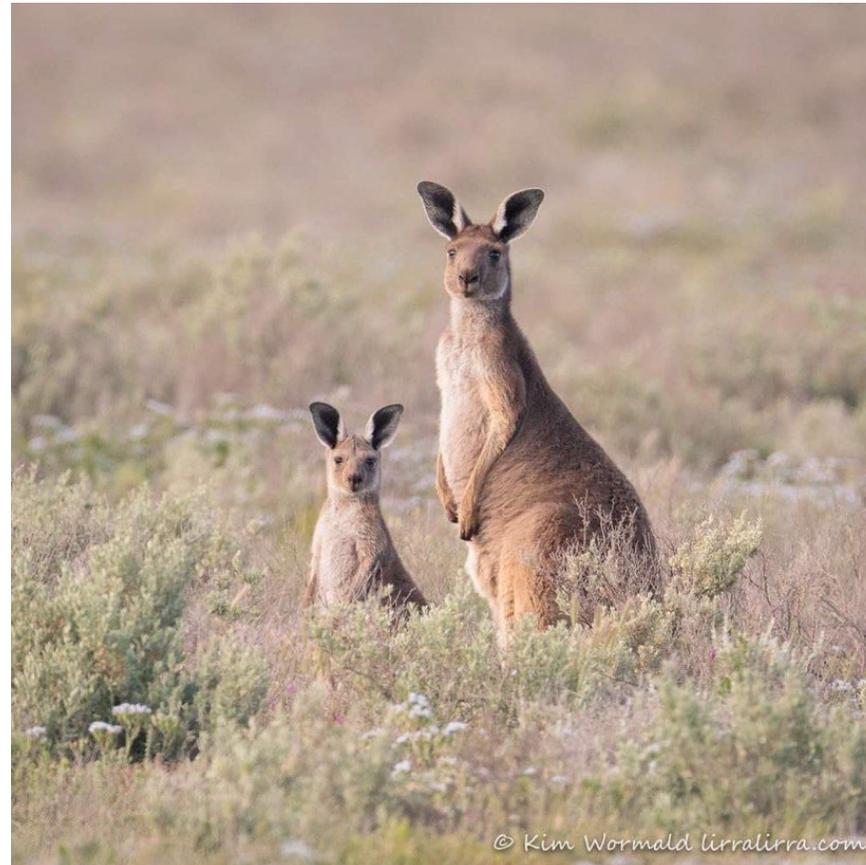


Chirnside Park, Victoria. Approx. 500m from a residential area.

[Resident: 'The scene made me physically ill, it was horrific'.](#)

# HOW TO HELP

Please see [www.vickangas.org/how-to-help](http://www.vickangas.org/how-to-help) for many ways you can help create a brighter future for kangaroos.



See the [#kangarootruth](https://www.instagram.com/kangarootruth)