2024: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in New South Wales

Peter and Andrew Hopkins

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NEW COMMERCIAL QUOTA FOR KANGAROOS IN NEW SOUTH WALES
SOME RECENT HISTORY
COMMERCIALISING
HOW THE COMMERCIAL KANGAROO OPERATOR IN NEW SOUTH WALES ARE MAKING ACTUAL TARGETS EXCEEDING QUOTAS
AN AN ANALYSIS OF KANGAROO
ACTUAL COMMERCIAL KANGAROO OPERATIONS EXCEEDING QUOTAS IN NEW SOUTH WALES
SOLUTION AND CONCLUSION

"Kangaroo shooters who are killing Kangaroos for profit do not like outside fencing. This type of extensive fencing means Australian wildlife can be herded against these fences, which they cannot cross, where these animals are then shot or run down where they are trapped".

Mass culling Government of New South Wales

This is a quick summary of the situation for the commercially exploited species of Kangaroos in New South Wales. We will write this up in more detail once we understand what occurred in full year 2023. It appears that the population estimate continue to be hyper-inflated, which in turn drives up the quotas to such high levels that there is no longer any conservation gain for 'sustainable' as always claimed.

As an example of solution, the Australian Continent, with its monotremes and marsupials, is just as extraordinary as the Galapagos Islands, which so inspired Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. Kangaroos are the icon of Australia.

The population estimates and quotas for 2024 were published by the New South Wales Government on 31 December 2023. The only other state to publish quotas for 2024 so far is Queensland, information about which is also summarized in the North Section of the Nature Knowledge Channel.

- **Population estimate 9,634,000 down from 11,882,215 in the previous year.**
- **2024 Quota 1,484,231 down from 1,850,239 in 2023.**

SUMMARY OF ACTUAL TAKE

Actual total species commercial quota (note quota differs each year, sometimes difference is substantial (excludes death of pouch)

- 2023 - 486,186 or 23 per cent
- 2021 - 497,286 or 24 per cent - ma a function of a small quota for the year
- 2022 - 497,739 or 24 per cent - small rise in quota in 2022
- 2023 - 485,611 to 30/11/2023 or 25 per cent of quota

As a comparison, in 1981 in NSW the actual take was 2.5 million, in 1988 it was 940,789 animals - so in a range of roughly 900,000 to one million. So the take has fallen significantly as has percentage of take against quota.

Alternative Kangaroo facts

According to the NSW Government, Kangaroo populations increase if in rains, and they increase if it doesn't rain, and drought makes populations increase and not reduce populations decline. So governments say anything to support reported numbers going up or down, even if they have just said the opposite thing to what they had said a few weeks ago.

2024 commercial quota for Kangaroos in New South Wales

In New South Wales, four species of Kangaroo are exploited for commercial gain, these are the Red Kangaroo, the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, the Western Grey Kangaroo and the Wallaroo.

- The total quota for the commercial exploitation in New South Wales in 2024 is 1,484,012 Kangaroos (down from 1,850,239 in 2023). There is also a maximum special quota of 148,223 (down from 170,233 in 2023) that may be made available in specific circumstances.
- The commercial quotas for the four commercial species in 2023, from which the 2024 quota is derived, was 629,895 (down from 11,882,215 in the previous year).

Commercial shooting in New South Wales occurs across 16 shooting zones covering the entire state with the exception of the coastal strip.

Some recent history

- The 2022 survey gave a population estimate of commercially exploited species of 11,882,215, up from the previous year when the population estimate was 10,913,243.
- The quotas in 2023, derived from the 2022 population survey, were also up at 1,850,239 Kangaroos, with a maximum special quota of 170,233 that may be made available in specific circumstances.
- In 2022 the quota was 1,882,207 with a maximum special quota of 183,612, the actual take against quota was 452,719 or 24 per cent. Female Kangaroos (excluding their joeys) killed for commercial gain accounted for 24 per cent of the total at 96,850 animals; and
- In 2021, the quota was 1,906,701. The 2021 actual against quota for all Kangaroo species in New South Wales was 491,286 (31 per cent of heavily reduced quota), up from 469,186 in 2020, when 22 per cent of the quota was met.

2020 and 2021 compared

- The commercial quota for the four species in 2020 was 2,140,615 with a special quota of 208,000 (actual take was 1,136,196 falling to 1,906,701 with a special quota of 185,786 in 2021.
- In 2021 the quota represented 15.5 per cent of their estimated population of the four species in New South Wales and actual take was 49.8%.
- In 2020, 22 per cent of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in New South Wales were female (190,138). These numbers do not include joeys killed in the process, estimated at an additional 49,000).

Cost of surveys

Managing Kangaroos is a very expensive business, large scale public expenditures are made each year, in all states, to conduct Kangaroo population surveys to ensure a case can be made to turn Australia's precious wildlife into pet food. The only problem is that the numbers appear to be wrong and uniformly overstated.

Here is the cost profile from just three shooting zones in New South Wales (2021) which now has 16 shooting zones.

Includes public service staff costs (based on 35 hour week and $80 / hour charge rate) rent, consulting fees, charter of helicopters / aircraft and other expenses.

- Central Tablelands - $121,584
- Northern Table Lands- $113,174
- South East - $199,022
- **Total for the three zone regions - $433,780**

New South Wales as an whole zone, were surveys are used as an element in estimating Kangaroo populations. Surveys are conducted primarily on the Western Plains (free-roaming animal surveys) and Kangaroos on the Tablelands (helicopter surveys).

Currently, the New South Wales shooting zones are:

- Tweedbuine
- Broken Hill
- Lower Darling
- Cobar
- Bourke
- Narrabri
- Armidale
- Coonabarabran
- Central Tablelands
- Upper Hunter
- South East
- Griffith North
- Griffith South
- Central Tablelands North
- Central Tablelands South

Surveys are just one element of total public costs in relation to this cruel trade. As a rough estimate the gross value of the wildlife trade in Kangaroos in New South Wales in 2022 was approximately ten million dollars. Costs to the public purse are likely to be very close to that number.

Gobbledygook

There is so much silly spin and contradictory nonsense speak when it comes to trying to justify the killing of native wildlife in Australia, we are adding a new section to some stories, this one is Gobbledygook. Here is Gobbledygook in the nonsense.

In 2021 the Tibooburra Sporting Shooters Association (TSSA) sought a permit from the Inspector their special obtained as a result including licences for the South Western Buffalo Auditor General of the Kangaroo Management Plan, the introduction of extra monitoring for Kangaroo populations in the Tibooburra and surrounding in the Western Plains (free-roaming animal surveys) and Kangaroos on the Tablelands (helicopter surveys).

Tiresly sidestepping the detailed findings from the New South Wales Government's Inquiry Health and wellbeing of Kangaroos and other Macropods in New South Wales (2021) and in particular, the shocking findings relating to the Tibooburra shooting zone, according to the new quota report, in 2024 shooters will be allowed to kill more Grey Kangaroos for commercial gain in the Tibooburra zone than the government claimed existed there in 2022.

And if you thought that was silly, the New South Wales Government claims that Eastern Grey Kangaroo populations increased in the Central Tablelands Shooting Zone between 2021 and 2022, increasing from 6,487 to 7,897 or 17.5 (38%) and in the maximum increase possible were likely to be in the range of 1,389 to 1,320 (20% and 17% increase). So, that would be, if you are not good at maths, was 6,935, so, in fact, by one less than the Kangaroos moved from somewhere else and into this shooting zone.

How the commercial Kangaroo species in New South Wales are faring: Actual take against quota 2020-2022

These numbers tell a very bad story for each of the four species with actual take against quota falling as low as 11 per cent, a clear indication of the hyper-inflation of population estimates and quotas which are far too high. If the Kangaroos were there in the numbers claimed, the quotas would be met as demand for cheap meat for pet food production remains high.

2022 the actual take against quota were:

- For the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (236,073 were killed for commercial gain against a quota of 833,021, 28 per cent of the quota.
- For the Western Grey Kangaroo (1,299 were killed for commercial gain against a quota of 96,754,22 per cent of the quota.
- For the Red Kangaroo (96,850 were killed for commercial gain against a quota of 818,002, 12 per cent of the quota.
- For the Wallaroo 8,040 were killed for commercial gain against a quota of 44,484, 18 per cent of the quota.

In 2021 the actual take against quota were:

- Eastern Grey Kangaroo was 23 per cent, that is 321,050 animals instead of the intended kill of 988,660.
- Western Grey Kangaroo was 28 per cent, that is 26,792 animals instead of the intended kill of 95,785.
- Red Kangaroo was 30 per cent, that is 142,108 animals instead of the intended kill of 474,802; and
- Wallaroo was 19 per cent, that is 7,875 animals instead of the intended kill of 42,000.

In 2020 the actual take against quota were:

- Eastern Grey Kangaroo were 23 per cent, that is 328,226 animals instead of the intended kill of 1,420,000.
- Western Grey Kangaroo were 14 per cent, that is 16,947 animals instead of the intended kill of 126,000.
- Red Kangaroo were 20 per cent, that is 115,263 animals instead of the intended kill of 564,131; and
- Wallaroo were 11 / 20 per cent, that is 9,361 animals instead of the intended kill of 44,984 (revised down to 24,040).

State of confusion

For the public record, correspondence with the NSW Government in June 2023, following a letter detailing my concerns about the situation for Kangaroos in that state.

This is part of the response from the *Director Compliance and Licensing Biodiversity and Conservation Division*. Remember, this response follows after the extensive and extremely concerning findings of the NSW Kangaroo Inquiry *Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales in 2021*.

Dear Mr Hopkins

I refer to your email of 17 May 2023 and 2 June 2023 to the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage, the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, in which you raise concerns about the Kangaroo Harvest. This matter has been referred to the Department of Planning and Environment and I have been asked to reply.

Kangaroos are protected in NSW. It is an offence to harm, attempt to harm, or to buy or sell kangaroos for commercial purposes, without a National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) licence or permit. The harvest of kangaroos is managed in accordance with the 'Kangaroo Management Plan' (the Plan) and the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Program.

The NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Program is regulated in accordance with the Plan, which was approved by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment in March 2022 (the approval) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 by the Australian Minister for the Environment on 20 December 2021.

The Wildlife Trade Management Plan establishes the operational and reporting requirements to ensure the commercial harvest program is both sustainable and humane.

My response to early November follows (The Commonwealth and NSW Environment Ministers have copies of the correspondence) to which there has been no reply:

Thank you for your email of 5 July 2023 in response to my emails of 17 May and 2 June 2023 to Minister Sharpe regarding the situation for Kangaroos in New South Wales (NSW), particularly their commercial exploitation and the recent inquiry into Kangaroos. I attach a copy of your letter to me.

I apologise for the time it has taken for me to respond but you will understand that pro bono is a very time consuming and costly to respond to and unfortunately, time is limited.

I am afraid there has been a misunderstanding of the purpose of my emails which was to provide advice to the Minister in relation to what is occurring to Kangaroo species in NSW. I have a long field and deep understanding of what has and is occurring in relation to those animals in your state.

Health and wellbeing of Kangaroos and other Macropods in New South Wales

Having analysed in great detail the circumstances for Macropods Australia wide, conducting many field trips across the Australian Continent for just on half a century, we are sympathetic to the NSW Inquiry (pro bono) and wished to make many comments to assist, but which you would have done. It was very obvious from the first iteration of the Inquiry Terms of Reference that something very wrong with what you describe as Kangaroo Management in NSW.

Population estimates

It is very obvious from analysis of the data and associated field trips that the population estimates for commercially exploited species in NSW are wrong and vastly overstated. You will know from the Inquiry, the discussions around both the Tibooburra and Cobar shooting zones, there is that information. These two examples are likely typical of the current circumstances for Kangaroos in other shooting zones in New South Wales and describe the high rates of unsustainable killing in 2019 and 2021 in particular. The population estimates for two of the western / central shooting zones in the state, for the Red Kangaroo and the Western Grey Kangaroo, were significantly overstated in relation to 2019 to the species in this zone were 40.34% by 2019 the population estimates had fallen to 6,858 (this quota for that year in that zone for that species was 6,782, theoretically having cut 17 Grey Kangaroos in the whole and sizeable shooting zone by year end). For the Red Kangaroo in the Cobar shooting zone the population estimate in 2019 was 437,126, by 2020 the population estimate was 130,490.

You should also know we conducted our own population survey over six days in January 2023 in the Broken Hill and Lower Darling shooting zones. The NSW Government claims a population of around 2 million Kangaroos (commercially exploited species in total), we are sure which the commercial quotas are based on, over the period of the survey, covering extensive distances in both zones, we were able to find just one living Kangaroo and two very sadly injured by other zones and shooters, including the area around Tarcoola.

Here is more detail regarding the January survey. The 2023 New South Wales commercial Kangaroo quota report gives the population of Grey and Red Kangaroos in just two shooting zones, the Broken Hill shooting zone and the Lower Darling shooting zone, at 2,886,948 animals. This comprises in the Broken Hill shooting zone of 1,746,189 Red Kangaroos and 211,833 Grey Kangaroos, with a combined per square kilometre density of 2.13 Kangaroos. For the Lower Darling shooting zone the quota report gives a population of 887,926 Red Kangaroos and 040,999 Grey Kangaroos, with a combined per square kilometre density of 1.7 Kangaroos.

Management of wildlife data

Following the NSW Inquiry, one eventual outcome was that harm data was published, which was previously not available. This data shows that in the calendar year commencing February 2022 10,990 permits covering a maximum of Kangaroos to be harmed of 1,887,070. Shootings in 2018 permits were issued to harm 887,993 Kangaroos in just that year. These numbers are astronomical for the commercial exploitation of animals. We know the because one of our staff counted up and categorized the individual permits, not just for Kangaroos, but all native species. This information was sent to Minister Sharpe.

It is not possible for species that, despite the 'scientific' claims, are slow breeding to sustain this level of killing. That is why so many NSW landscapes are now devoid of Kangaroos.

I am giving the NSW Government the benefit of assuming that the data dump was made inadvertently and that the Government did not actually run the data mining. It is therefore impossible to suggest the situation is being managed in any sense of the word because the data is a complete mess. Here this has been allowed to occur is just extraordinary and it is shameful.

Cruelty and killing of females and joeys and the national context

The commercial killing of Kangaroos is recognised internationally for its extreme cruelty and is expressed in concerns of numerous Parliaments from including the EU, and in Legislative across the US, including Washington DC. Can we get a significant number of petitions in these countries do not believe what they are being told by Australia's Government representatives regarding the Kangaroo situation and my concern is that active or unconvincing or insufficient actions of Kangaroo killing jeopardizes a significant amount of reputational damage which is likely to shape perceptions more broadly.

As you know, joeys, despite the claims, which are false, of this being humane, are killed in the process of commercial Kangaroo killing and the cruelty is exacerbated by the process which is (deeply) cruel, deep sorrow for those who the official numbers say the percentage rates of female Kangaroos continue to increase, the numbers of joeys being killed is never any significant and has a severe impact on future populations. In Victoria in 2022 the ratio of females to joeys killed were, 1 joey was killed for every 1.2 females killed, so almost one to one.

The combined state government Kangaroo population estimates for mainland Australia in 2023 (2022 survey data) had 36,234,240 and as a result the commercial quota for Kangaroos in 2023 is 5,127,140. The increase in population over the previous year is approximately 2,000,000 animals, or approximately 5.5 per cent. The quota increase is the should remember that that the total actual commercial take in 2022 was just over one million and the increase in quota for 2023 is not half far away from the entire take in 2022.

Given that the quotas are meant to be a sustainable cap and the commercial take is running at around 20 per cent of quota, this should set alarm bells ringing for all concerned. Queensland Minister, Expect the actual take against quota in 2023 to be between 18 and 19 per cent. And that is an indicator that Kangaroos are being rare.

The analysis was updated on 6 June 2023 following the release of actual data for 2022 from Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia. Queensland has not yet released actual commercial take for those three states, and I suspect those estimates were very close to the quotas set for those states. The total actual take for Kangaroos was down on the previous estimate, for New South Wales an additional 31 Red Kangaroos were killed for commercial gain than previously forecast, bringing the total actual take in 2023 for Australia to 1,076,13. This number does not include Tasmania and Victoria Government and not accounted for in the Commonwealth Government's report.

Human rights abuses

I am particularly concerned about the human rights abuses being inflicted by commercial shooters on regional residents, this is occurring in Victoria and in the other states where the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos occurs.

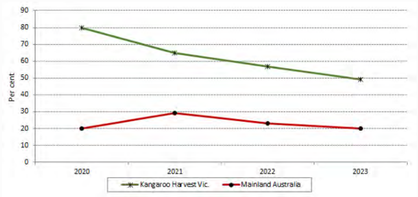
Minister Sharpe will be familiar with the detail of CCPR/ YEM/CO/5 RE: RI CAMERON, TESTIMONIES OF THE NINE YOUNG. This is one of several such examples and has changed. The attitudes of those remunerated from public funds to continue to have workers are enabling these kinds of unacceptable behaviours and the fear that they are still occurring is another aspect of the shameful conduct towards wildlife.

I hope you find this information of much use in your work which has become a shameful and reprehensible means in all its aspects demonstrating.

Evolution of commercial Kangaroo shooting zones in New South Wales 2007-2026

As the actual commercial take against quota continues to decline all across the continent, the only way to make this grim trade viable is to keep expanding these shooting zones into new areas and adding new species to the commercial list. South Australia and New South Wales have expanded shooting zones and the whole state of Victoria is now a shooting zone. Victoria is the state where there is a very significant portion of Melbourne. South Australia has recently added new species.

In the mid-1980s the actual take against quota (species have remained similar over time) was around 3.5 million, this has dropped in the recent period to hover around 1.5 million despite endless attempts at expanding zones (and species). These figures exclude joeys and as Kangaroo populations have declined more and more females have been targeted. That means more and more dead joeys, which are not included in the data.

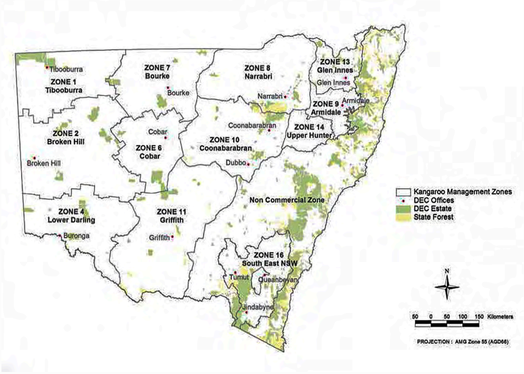


The graph shows percentage of quota achieved for all Australia (including Victoria (red line) and percentage decline in Victoria (green line). Actual take against quota has continued to decline despite adding new shooting zones, including all of Victoria, and adding new species.

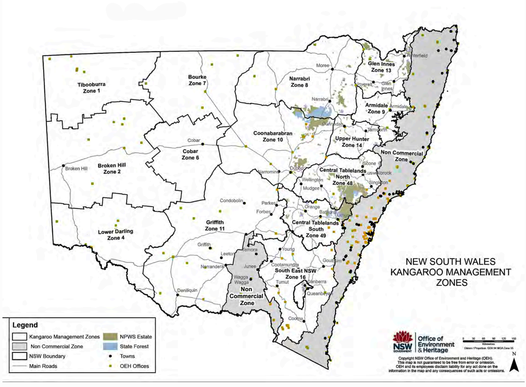
As the commercial exploitation creeps into new areas these include more densely populated (human) regions and National and State Parks and other public lands as is the plan in South Australia and Victoria.

The maps describe the evolution of shooting zones in New South Wales. By 2022 only the coastal strip of New South Wales was a non commercial shooting zone.

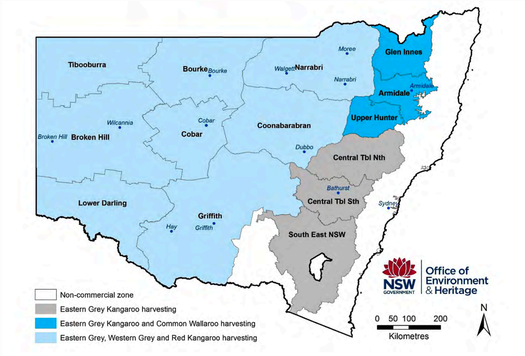
2007-2011



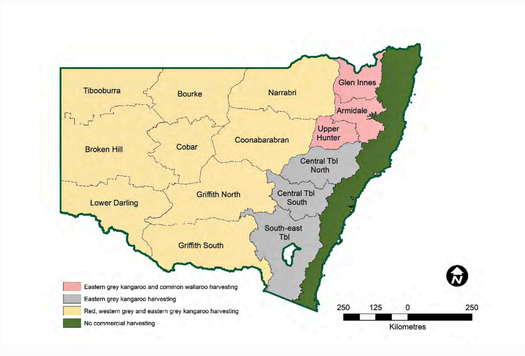
2012-2016



2017-2021



2022-2026



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2025: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria

"In Victoria the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos commenced in 2014 as a trial, full exploitation commenced in late 2019, ignoring concerns about extreme cruelty and the accuracy of population estimates for Kangaroos in Victoria".

Peter and Andrea Hajnacis

December 23, 2024

Pic Andrea Hajnacis — more nonsense

Pic Victoria Sunra, ... more nonsense.

"DEECA considers the types, scale and impact of emergency events on the environment and Victorian Government's response to the emergency when issuing Kangaroo Harvest Management plans. DEECA assessed the fire impact which includes areas of the Grampians and Beenak South West Harvest zones, to be around 3 per cent of the total Eastern Grey Kangaroo population and 1 per cent of the total Western Grey Kangaroo Harvest Program quota are being made at the Victorian Government discretion."

The 2024 population estimate for Western and Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Victoria from which the 2025 quota is derived was: 2,978,000, comprised: 2,198,000 Western Grey Kangaroos and 1,867,000 Eastern Grey Kangaroos, which represents an estimate of 2,065,000 from the previous survey in 2023.

The number of Kangaroos to be killed in Victoria in 2025 (excludes joeys) are:

- 1,112,664 commercial quot comprised 516,160 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 13,450 Western Grey Kangaroos. This compares to a commercial quota in 2024 of 199,680 Grey Kangaroos.
- 80,000 Grey Kangaroos to be shot using VFCMI permits, comprising 66,000 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 14,000 Western Grey Kangaroos. This compares to the VFCMI quota in 2024 of 80,750 shot.
- **TOTAL 2012,000 comprised 1,112,664 Western Grey Kangaroos and 188,700 Eastern Grey Kangaroos.**

The numbers describe allocations that deemed the Victorian Government's policy of shifting VFCMI permits to commercial permits. This reversal of policy also occurred in 2024. While the Victorian Government does not answer the question, we can assume that this is being done to backdoor the commercial killing of Kangaroos into National and State Parks as 'land managers' transfer their VFCMI permits to commercial. The quantum of this needs to be clarified.

We should note that the Victorian Kangaroo killing system requires that commercial kills are reported within 24 hours, but that VFCMI kills are not. The VFCMI system relies on self reporting requirement. So the VFCMI permits issued, the Victorian Government does not have a clue about what actually happened. Failure to meet commercial quotas is very telling, as shifting more permits across to VFCMI means no one knows what actually happened.

NOTE: Numbers vary depending on document, but the numbers above are taken from the actual report.

Core claims in the 2025 quota report are that the population of Grey Kangaroos in Victoria is stable, that the killing is humane and ecologically sustainable. Each claim is questionable and unlikely to be correct, given the extensive failures in 2019 in particular and horrific climate change impacts (greatest fires known and extensive flooding in the period). What we know from the Victorian Government's own reports is that the Victorian Government's Kangaroo Management Program is:

> "The abundance of Grey Kangaroos within the survey area (the non-forested parts of Victoria) has remained relatively stable since the last survey in 2020".
>
> "The KHMP outlines the standards and rules for the commercial harvesting of Kangaroos in Victoria and complies relevant State and Commonwealth legislation, which dictates that commercial harvesting of wild Kangaroos must be sustainable and humane".
>
> "As lethal control is widely used to manage the ecological and economic impacts of Kangaroos, an overarching goal of the plan is to ensure harvesting is ecologically sustainable".

Expect to see the usual claims that there is a market failure, justifying the need for a supply side problem. The facts are that the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos are moving into public lands in 2025 to top up the Kangaroo commercial take, which in 2024 and in Quarter 4, no commercial Kangaroo quotas were issued for any of the 7 shooting zones in Victoria. These two events are an indicator of a serious supply side problem, that is, a significant decline in Kangaroo populations in Victoria.

NOTE: When questioned in 2024 the Victorian Government could not supply any evidence of damage caused by Kangaroos:

> "We requested the method of damage caused by Kangaroos to property. In some areas, Kangaroos may damage fences when they become entangled in them and may cause human safety or suffer in areas where the species is over abundant. Wildlife control may be undertaken by DEECA officers or by landholders with a permit. Other types of reported damage caused by wildlife, including Kangaroos, is a property or public asset" Acting Deputy Secretary, Regional Development and Outdoor Recreation

An 18 per cent increase in the Eastern Grey Kangaroo population in Victoria?

> "Comparison of estimates of abundance for 2022 and 2024 both derived using the new methodology indicates that there has been an 18 per cent increase in the population of Eastern Grey Kangaroos from 1.58 million to 2.28 million between 2022 and 2024. This represents an increase of approximately 18 percent. In comparison, the number of Western Grey Kangaroos increased by 3 per cent. The total number of Grey Kangaroos increased by per cent. For both Grey Kangaroo species, there was a statistical overlap between the estimates of abundance for 2022 and 2024 and therefore it is difficult to determine the actual percentage changes in abundance was low" Victorian Government, December 2024

Population surveys

Since 2014, when the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos was introduced in Victoria, there have been five Victorian Government Kangaroo population surveys which set the quota for the following year.

2024 survey - shifts in methodology

> "Aerial surveys of the non-forested parts of Victoria were undertaken during September 2024. These surveys were supplemented with simultaneous ground counts of the areas occupied by both Grey Kangaroo species in order to estimate the proportion of Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos in each harvest zone" Victorian Government.

Population estimates for Western and Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Victoria was: 2,978,000, comprised: 2,198,000 Western Grey Kangaroos and 1,867,000 Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

During the Victorian Government's 2024 Kangaroo population survey, 8,840 Grey Kangaroos were counted in the Victorian Government's Kangaroo Survey. This is more than previous counts. Several surveys supplemented the survey, particularly in the Western Grey and Eastern Grey Kangaroo species overlap zone.

> "In August 2024 we predicted the following: this rain surely will have to count, again a rough estimate, around 6,000 Kangaroos in Hamilton PA (SGS population estimate, assuming 1 Kangaroo per hectare, 60 per cent of the area is suitable habitat, 10 per cent of Kangaroos there they come up with). If that does not happen, the government has the population estimates so which to make killing efforts and marketing spin are based, will fall through and they will be in trouble.
>
> "For the Red Kangaroo the population was estimated to be 39,000 in 2024, down from 64,000 in 2022.

2022 survey

- 5,941 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 1,580,000 (an over increase in population) and
- 140 Red Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 64,000.

2020 survey

- 6,336 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 1,681,000 (an over increase in population) and
- 92 Red Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 30,000.

Climate change impact in period – most serious wildfires known.

2018 survey

- 4,701 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 1,281,000; and
- 91 Red Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 44,000.

2017 survey (wharfer transects)

- 2,697 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 1,429,000; and
- 23 Red Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 13,000.

In 2017 the Victorian Government based permits to kill 2,187 more Red Kangaroos than their entire state population estimates for that year.

Moving the goal posts

For the welfare and safety of the Kangaroos themselves, the move to public lands in Victoria is the most harmful of all.

> "All Kangaroo control on public land currently occurs through Authority to Control Wildlife Permits (ATCW permits) issued by the Victorian Government. Some of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo harvest Program operating on public land at present, however public land management agencies are moving away from ATCW permits and toward commercial harvest on specified public land will be prioritised for with a separate quota, outside of the quota of the Kangaroo Harvest Program. Any separate quota issued would be a direct replacement of ATCW permits issued to Victorian Government operations" Acting Deputy Secretary, Regional Government, February 2024.

In addition to the changes to the way populations are being estimated, including from survey to the methodology and its data, the following changes occurred.

For Melbourne at least the commercial Kangaroo shooter's journey from outback to suburbs is over (with the exception of the Terra Rangers QA, that is).

Out of Melbourne:

> "It would be noted that the 2024 estimate included 226,000 Eastern Grey in the two local government areas (LGAs) which, as of 2024, are no longer included in the harvest zones, following the Victorian Government's decision. Western Grey were included in the above estimate of total abundance" Victorian Government

> "From 2024 onwards, the KHMP introduces a number of changes that underpin the Kangaroo Harvesting Program (KHP). In particular, the program takes Kangaroo harvest out of the Melbourne Metropolitan area, and ceases harvest in the Grampians and Otways zones, with different boundaries. In addition, commercial harvesting is now excluded from a number of Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Victoria. Kangaroos in these areas are of significance to a more towards setting separate harvest quotas for Eastern Grey Kangaroos (Macropus giganteus) or 'Eastern Grey' and Western Grey Kangaroos (Macropus fuliginosus) or 'Western Grey' to ensure the ecologically sustainable management of populations" Victorian Government

7 shooting zones from 2019

5 shooting zones from 2025

Shooting zone maps courtesy the Victorian Government

What did 2024 look like?

The full year commercial quota in 2024 in Victoria is 199,680. The failure Knowledge Chasers full year forecast for Victoria in 2024 is now 15,800, down from 26,000 in 2023 and down from 52,000.

The actual sales against original quota for 2024 is as follows:

- Actual first 9 months 2024 – 38,687. Kangaroos that is 22,036 in Quarter 3 and 16,651 in Quarter 2 (Quarter 1 figures unknown).
- Shortfall of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in the first 9 months of 2024 was 92,618 Kangaroos; and
- Actual for 9 months at 80 per cent of quota for the period and at 37.8 per cent against original full year quota.

Because a large number of commercial tags issued by the Victorian Government during the year in 2024 were not utilised, no tags were issued in Quarter 4 in 2024 in any of the 7 Victorian shooting zones.

"On 25 September 2024, DEECA further reduced the quota to 1,115,76 removing all Quarter 4 commercial tags. This reduction was made because the Victorian Government's quota had not fully allocated. It can not be carried over into the following quarter." Victorian Government

Note: Original quotas have been used above for comparison (rather than revised quotas) because the Victorian Government's population estimates for 2023 set the quotas for 2024. Not meaning quotas in a sign that population estimates are far too high.

Actual take against commercial quota (per cent):

- 2023 – 43 per cent;
- 2022 – 57 per cent;
- 2021 – 68 per cent;
- 2020 – 88 per cent; and
- 2019 – 58 per cent (from October 1 to year end, was now today).

Actual take against commercial quota (SHORTFALL against quota – number of Kangaroos):

- 2023 – 36,518;
- 2022 – 59,504;
- 2021 – 33,446;
- 2020 – 11,306; and
- 2019 – 6,235.

We should note that the commercial quota for 2024 was revised down to 142,800 Grey Kangaroos in Victoria. The Victorian Government's population estimate for 2024 was 1,112,576 (in Quarter 2 report the Victorian Government states 'necessary all Quarter 4 allocations'). The Victorian Government also states that 'where the quota is not fully allocated it can be carried over into the following quarter'.

- There were 113 shooters commercially exploiting Kangaroos in Victoria in the first half of 2024. In Quarter 3 the number of licensed Kangaroo shooters was 120 of which, 96 received allocations, 51 of which were shooting in the Central and Lower Wimmera shooting zones. In 2024 there are 7 shooting zones, mergers of zones planned from 2025 reduce that to 5 shooting zones.
- In Quarter 3 in 2024, 51 of 96 shooters in the Central and Wimmera shooting zones, or 54.06 Kangaroos, accounted for 80 per cent of all Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in Victoria. In Quarter 3 the Central and the Lower Wimmera shooting zones again led the way in the number of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain at 16,281 (64 per cent) of a total actual for all Victoria of 22,036. Concerningly, these two zones are being managed with zones with low levels of annual take as from January 2024 and earlier, and thus make ongoing comparisons far more difficult.
- Total number of females killed for commercial gain in the first 9 months of 2024 was 16,052 or 35 per cent of total commercial take. In the first 9 months of 2024 the number of females killed for commercial gain was 11,671 or 30.3 per cent of total commercial take.
- Total number of all joeys (dependent as young at foot) killed for commercial gain in the first 9 months of 2024 was 16,615 (based on death 30 per cent of the female Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in Quarter 3 also had an at foot joey killed. In the first 9 months of 2024 the number of at foot joeys killed in disguised was 10,606. We assume from the earlier reporting in the data reports that pouch dependent joeys are omitted from the data.

These joeys at foot Kangaroos (approximately 16 months old are killed by blunt force trauma to the head. Pouch joeys are killed by being dismembered. The number of joeys in the EGK actual kill during the first 9 months of 2024 raises the total number of Kangaroos killed to 76,153. That is, at foot joeys were 22 per cent of all the Kangaroos killed in Victoria for commercial gain in the first 9 months of 2024; these animals are the next generation of Grey Kangaroos in Victoria.

Something odd from Victoria's 2023 quota report:

> "A total of 23,615 dependent young were reported orphaned by shooters in 2023. Dependent young of 'harvested' female Kangaroos are to be euthanised humanely in the pouch. Dependent young of 'harvested' male Kangaroos are to be euthanised. *Kangaroos and Wallabies for commercial purposes Draft Future 2026*"

Apart from the claim that decapitating or bashing an animal to death is humane, which is of course nonsense, the number of dependent young reported killed, at 23,615 in the final report for the year, cannot be correct. If it, that number was the thousands of young Kangaroos in Victoria in 2023 were left to starve and to a long lingering death.

The total number of Western Grey Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in the first 9 months of 2024 was 1,266, just 2 per cent of all the adult Kangaroos killed. Western Victoria is an 'overlap zone' for Western and Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Our view is that Western Grey Kangaroos are being exterminated in Victoria, just as Eastern Grey Kangaroos are being exterminated in South Australia.

The number of Kangaroos targeted in Victoria since 2010.

> "Three of our pollsters expressed the slaughter sector that crisis an industry started, it has to open impenetrable and should of increasing numbers of Kangaroos and wallabies in Victoria, created. Even the Guardianland Government can claim full merits for be rightfulness as it was the Victorian Government that created the crisis. The Victorian Government's policy that shifts the Kangaroo industry was originally a response to the protest movement to the Kangaroo slaughter industry. Protest that was, in part, a response to the Victorian Government's resource and thus services to earn interests". Earth Kangaroos, myths and realities, AWF's 2005

- 2010 – 39,559
- 2011 – 34,721
- 2012 – 46,717
- 2013 – 76,130
- 2014 – 98,000
- 2015 – 135,687
- 2016 – 169,544
- 2017 – 166,000
- 2018 – 166,992
- 2019 – 138,032 (Red Kangaroos removed from KHP in Victoria)
- 2020 – 117,000 (Catastrophic fires destroyed wildlife populations and the worst drought in living memory)
- 2021 – 191,250 (Victorian Government claims Kangaroo population increased 41 per cent)
- 2022 – 180,850
- 2023 – 236,000 – Victorian Government claim yet another significant increase in the population of Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos in Victoria
- 2024 – 236,000 – quota based on numbers derived from 2022 population survey which claimed a 29 per cent increase, that on top of a 41 per cent increase claimed from the previous survey.
- 2025 – 201,850

Europe reacts: Recent actions in European Parliaments

Italy

The Italian Parliament is to consider a new bill that seeks to introduce a national ban on hunting and trade of Kangaroo skins and meat.

"At school in the 1950s in the region separating Austria and Italy our minds were very much focussed on the environment in that beautiful place. I want to express my personal gratitude, Andrea extends it too, to the prominent efforts from both eminent Austrians and Italians in trying to assist Kangaroos in a very distant land. Grazie, grazie, grazie – we can't say it enough." Peter Hylands (Palliardi)

Netherlands

"The Dutch Parliament wants to stop imports of Kangaroo body parts and they want a ban across the EU. The Dutch Party for the Animals and MP Inge Kostic who are fighting to protect our Kangaroos from cruelty, has passed a motion with the majority in support to stop Kangaroo imports. In the NSW Parliament we recently had debates brought on by the National Party condemning these acts of compassion by overseas politicians I told them they were too late the world is changing and wants to protect our beautiful native animals from this cruelty." The Hon. Emma Hurst MLC, Parliament of NSW, 11 November 2024

Belgium

"Brussels, 19 December – A draft ordinance proposing a ban on the sale of Kangaroo meat and leather has been submitted to the Brussels Parliament. This initiative follows a visit by a delegation of Indigenous Australians, working with GAIA, who together called out and denounced Belgium's role in the largest massacre of wild land animals in the world". Kangaroos Alive

And more……. and the US is busy too.

Kangaroo silly season

The release of the state's Kangaroo quota reports over the Christmas period is accompanied by the usual propaganda to try make this all look okay, which it is not. Same stuff each and every year.

We can expect the publicly funded broadcasters to be promoting the conduct, sustainable and humane and somehow a necessity. We can expect the usual much researched and workshopped propaganda and confiation to be churned out on TV, radio and the Internet. Pests and ferals, overabundant, causing harm, dangerous, eating grass and on it goes. My message to the ABC and SBS in particular is do your homework and be responsible, you are not the marketing arms of those individuals who wish to exploit wildlife for commercial gain. Do not allow individuals to make statements which are incorrect and which they cannot substantiate (and then worse, pretend it is all verified).

Out the window

We may well ask what happened to these Victorian Government guidelines?

Female Kangaroos with obvious young

Conditions of Authorisation under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975, to hunt, take, destroy, possess, dispose of and sell Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos in accordance with the approved Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2021-2023.

The conditions required to comply with an authorisation issued under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975, to hunt, take, destroy, possess, dispose of and sell Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos in accordance with the approved Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2021-2023.

Number 7 of 22 conditions states: Kangaroos with obvious dependent young must not be shot.

Not viable (until 2014 that is)

> "Commercial use of culled Kangaroos was undertaken in Victoria in the 1980s to test the viability of a Kangaroo industry in this state. It did not prove to be viable. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) concludes that the industry failed at that time because of the low numbers of Kangaroos available, and the distances to be travelled between properties and points of processing, which made it uneconomic for the industry to continue. Commercial utilisation of Kangaroos has not been permitted in Victoria since that time". Parliament of Victoria - Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Inquiry into the Utilisation of Victorian Native Flora and Fauna June 2000 - No 35 Session 1999/2000 VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT PRINTER 2000

No increase

Speaking about the KPFT, Peter Walsh, the former Victorian Agriculture Minister stated:

> "It 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".

Whoops, a huge increase

> "On balance, it appears that the behaviour of some KPFT shooters, who have an interest in increasing kangaroo numbers, may have had some influence on the number of Kangaroos landholders are requesting to control. As a result, numbers approved for control have increased under the trial. This may not only compromise the aim of reducing waste, but could also threaten the sustainability of Kangaroo populations in future years if an expectation of a steady supply of carcasses was created. Given that Kangaroo populations vary, a program to process carcasses within the ATOW system cannot guarantee the steady supply that is preferable to shooters and processors". Kangaroo Pet Food Trial Evaluation, DEWLP, 2017

The initially secret DELWP report Kangaroo Pet Food Trial Evaluation stated that:

> "However there has been a disproportionate increase in the number of Kangaroos approved for control in trial areas, compared to non-trial areas since the commencement of the trial. Over the period of the trial the average number of Kangaroos approved for control in trial areas was nearly 250 per cent higher than the long-term average. The deviation from the long-term average is much larger in trial areas than in non-trial areas. This is primarily due to KPFT authorisations being issued, on average for larger numbers of Kangaroos than type 1 ATOW".

Lily D'Ambrosio, a former Victorian Labor Government Environment Minister, went on to make exactly the same claim (2015), there would be no increase! In 2016 claiming:

> "The trial has received positive support from participating landowners and the pet food industry, helping to reduce waste by processing more than 30,000 Kangaroos for pet food and creating jobs for regional Victoria".

Hunting regulations and codes

Where and when you may use firearms (Firearm safety code 2011)

- Before you do any shooting, whether with a firearm or air gun, you need to know when and where it can be safely and lawfully used.
- You should take steps to ensure that your shooting does not endanger property or frighten, annoy or put neighbours at risk. Telling your neighbours about what you are doing is always a good first step.

> "The Code is a vital tool that has been developed in the interests of community safety and recreational shooting. I strongly encourage Victorian shooters to recognise the Code's importance and actively practice the ten basic rules. In this regard, shooters will be able to continue enjoying their sport safely while avoiding endangering the welfare of others". The Honourable Peter Ryan MLA, Deputy Premier of Victoria

The strange case of suppressors and silencers

Shooters arrive during the night without any notification to neighbours. As Kangaroo shooters operate very close to people's houses suppressors are now commonly used to conceal what is occurring. This is extremely dangerous. Legislation to allow this to occur, or attempt to allow this to occur, appears to have been successful.

FIREARMS AMENDMENT (SILENCERS) BILL 2018

> "Ms PENNICUIK (Southern Metropolitan) — I rise to make a contribution on the private members Firearms Amendment (Silencers) Bill 2018 introduced by Mr Bourman. The main purposes of the bill are to amend the Firearms Act 1996 to establish a system permitting the possession, use, carriage and acquisition of silencers; to establish a system of registering silencers; and to establish requirements for the secure storage of silencers. They are the technical purposes of the bill, but I suppose the real purpose of the bill is to expand the eligibility for possession of a silencer".

In the ACT the ABC reported (December 2016):

> "Gun silencer ban modified in ACT after government staff break law. The ACT Government has temporarily relaxed the rules around the use of gun silencers after some of its staff were found to be using them illegally during a kangaroo cull. Silencers, or firearm suppressors, are widely used in the US and have been used in Australia, but they are heavily regulated in Australia and until now have been completely banned in the ACT".

So we can see that when it comes to Kangaroos most things are possible.

Words of wisdom

> "We are industrialised at an early age to exempt science from criticism and treat it with a degree of reverence and are taught that, science is that which is proven and cannot be disputed. However, has the "integrity of scientific research" become corrupt as a direct result of an increasing expectation by government that scientific research is funded or at least partly funded, by the same commercial organisations that have a vested financial interest in outcomes? The influence that scientists have over public perceptions can so be easily exploited for this purpose. Consequently, it is increasingly being used as a tool by commercial organisations for the purpose of endorsing their strategies and promoting their products". Mary Lander, Kangaroos, Myths and Realities, AWPC INC, Australia 2005

The truth about Kangaroo populations

Depending on maturity of commercial trade in a particular place and shooting zone and the intensity of use of mitigation permits in that place, it is highly probable that in Victoria, relatively new to commercial exploitation, the Victorian Government's population estimate is at best double what is at the actual population. In other states it gets worse from there. It should be noted that commercial shooting in the Mallee actually exposed the fact that a place once rich in biodiversity, including lots of Kangaroos, had such low populations of Kangaroos that a commercial trade was not viable. The government's response to this was to incorporate the Mallee shooting zone into what is now the Loddon Mallee shooting zone.

Threats to Kangaroo populations also include:

- Development – No care is taken when it comes to Kangaroos and the Victorian Government goes to enormous effort to block or disrupt translocation attempts;
- Road trauma – Careless driving emitted by propaganda that says Kangaroos are in plague proportions, in turn exacerbated by poor planning that takes little account of native wildlife populations;
- Loss of traditional food sources leading to ingestion of invasive plants, which in turn leads to the deadly staggers (chronic Phalaris toxicity) caused from eating Canary Grass (Mediterranean origin);
- Poisoning with poisons such as Pindone. Kangaroos in the Adelaide Hills are now facing this poisoning threat and following the devastating Ganwend National Park fires in Victoria and large scale animal deaths and suffering, Pindone was being laid at parks edge and within meters from where commercial Kangaroo shooters have been active since at least 2018. Animals can take up to 14 days to die from this poison and suffer greatly during that period;
- Mass killing of joeys taking out the next generations;
- Exclusion from water sources includes the increase in the extent and use of deadly exclusion fencing (they pretend it is the other way around);
- Climate events, including floods and the catastrophic fires of the last five years since the introduction of the commercial trade in wildlife (bushmeat) in Victoria. Looking at the population estimates published by the government it appears, although many tens of thousands of Kangaroos have died as a result of these events, climate change has had no impact on reducing populations, estimates for which have continued to grow; and
- The significant over-egging of population estimates means that quotas are far too high (they are never met) leading to a killing rate that existing Kangaroo populations can't sustain.

So what is the outcome of the conduct described here on this family of animals in Victoria?

Status of Macropodidae species in Victoria since European settlement:

Status of Kangaroo, Wallaby, Potoroo and Bettong species and their relatives in Victoria following the catastrophic bushfires in Victoria is 2020. Even the fires and climate change have not stopped the ever growing number of animals being killed.

- Tosiacha Wallaby *Macropus grey* EXTINCT
- Eastern Hare Wallaby *Lagorchestes leporides* EXTINCT
- Brilled Nailtail Wallaby *Onychogalea frenata* EXTINCT
- Rufous-bellied Pademelon *Thylogale billardieri* EXTINCT
- Rufous Rat-kangaroo or Rufous Bettong *Aepyprymnus rufescens* EXTINCT
- Eastern Bettong *Bettongia gaimardi gaimardi* EXTINCT The mainland subspecies was extinct by the 1920s due to predation by foxes, cats, habitat loss and degradation and persecution by land holders. Remains in Tasmania and re-introduced ACT.
- The Woylie or Brush-tailed Bettong *Bettongia penicillata* EXTINCT
- Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby *Petrogale penicillata* – ENDANGERED – hunted to near extinction in Victoria, in 1908 alone 92,590 skins were marketed by a single company. LESS THAN 40 ANIMALS REMAIN in the wild in Victoria. Seriously impacted by the 2024-2025 Grampians fire
- Eastern Wallaroo *Macropus robustus robustus* ENDANGERED –extinct across 99 per cent of its former range in Eastern Victoria – remaining population impacted by wildfires
- Long-footed Potoroo *Potorous longipes* ENDANGERED –population in decline
- Long-nosed Potoroo *Potorous tridactylus* THREATENED –population in decline
- Western Grey Kangaroo *Macropus fuliginosus* – when historical distribution records are compared the species is missing from almost 50 per cent of its former range, shot commercially since 2014. Population in steep decline - at significant risk from commercial exploitation
- Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus* – former range fractured and fragmented, shot commercially since 2014 – population in steep decline despite claims that mass shooting, habitat loss (significant) and climate change have no impact on population number
- Red-necked Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus* – population seriously impacted by wildfires
- Red Kangaroo *Macropus rufus* – restricted in its declining range to far North West Victoria, the species used to occur in at least 50 per cent of Victoria. The species existence in Victoria is directly threatened by Victorian Government actions and has now been driven to the edge of EXTINCTION in the state. Removed from commercial industry list in the state
- Black Wallaby or Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor* - population seriously impacted by wildfires

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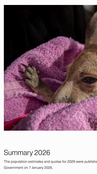
2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in South Australia

"In the period 2021 to 2025 the inflated population estimates in South Australia led to a combined and unsustainable commercial quota in South Australia of 2,876,300 Kangaroos. The actual commercial kill was 498,718 (plus 130,000 unaccounted for dependent young), just 17 per cent of the quota".

Peter and Andrea Hylands

January 3, 2026



Summary 2026

The population estimates and quotas for 2026 were published by the South Australian Government on 7 January 2026.

From data provided by the Government of South Australia (DEW).

Population

- The Red Kangaroo population estimate which sets quotas (from 2025 on-wards) is 2,034,169, down from 2,976,351 in the previous year, a fall in population of 31 per cent.
- The Western Grey Kangaroo (mainland) population estimate which sets 2026 quota (from 2025 surveys) (excluding Southern Agricultural shooting zone) is 806,396, down from 928,698 in the previous year, a fall in population of 13 per cent. For the Southern Agricultural shooting zone is 382,846, up from 351,144 in the previous year. Only the Hills and Flinders sub region were surveyed in 2025.
- Eastern Grey Kangaroo - The population estimate from 2022 (17,135 described in 2024/25 quota report were used to set quota for non-pastoral South East shooting zone) is 20,000.
- The Euro population estimate which sets 2026 quota (from 2025 surveys) is 401,586, down from 467,279 in the previous year, a fall in population of 14 per cent.
- The Tammar Wallaby (Kangaroo Island) population estimate which sets 2026 quota (from 2022 surveys) is 384,671. So this suggests that there are 87 Tammar Wallabies in every square kilometer of the island. Total nonsense.

Quota

The combines commercial quota for 2026 is 600,400, down from 805,500 in the previous year.

The 2026 quota is composed:

- Red Kangaroo – 373,300, down 34 per cent from 565,600 in the previous year (actual from 10 months 2025 was 61,040).
- Western Grey Kangaroo – 162,500, down from 190,200 in the previous year (actual from 10 months 2025 was 29,000).
- Eastern Grey Kangaroo – 12,100, same as previous year (actual from 10 months of 2025 was 10,216).
- Euro – 42,900, down from 46,400 in the previous year (actual first 10 months of 2025 was 4,206) and
- Tammar Wallaby – 10,200, same as previous year (actual first 10 months of 2025 was 0).

If the 2026 quota was achieved in full, we estimate that 160,000 joeys would be killed by decapitation or be bludgeoned to death (and for those who escape, death by starvation).

The unaffected cull of all

"No I write this the temperature in many parts of South Australia reached 46 degrees Celsius (115 degrees F). The Murray River, the lifeblood of the South Eastern corner of South Australia is cut off water period because farming and irrigation has extracted by wildlife Charms of booming populations of Kangaroos in the state are not reflected in the commercial quotas set by the South Australian Government. Commercial quotas set for population for the Red Kangaroo of 62,100 and which is from 10 months to the end of December 2025 is 61,040 and actual kill is 29,000 Western Grey Kangaroos. Actual kill is 29,000. And now they want to kill another 373,300 Red Kangaroos the year. Bill of course they can't set that around probably 4% of them." Peter Hylands

Tammar Wallaby on Kangaroo Island. Photo: Thorsten Milse

Update of recent history

Latest actual for 2025 (Other Processor data) is 136,003, 17 per cent of that year's quota of 805,400. Previously we had reported 135,849 from shooters returns. There was no Special Land Management Quota issued for 2025.

Latest actual for 2026 (January to end October 2026), which includes the impact of the commercial component of the serious business interruption, is 498,718. So, 130,000 that is 13 per cent of the 2026 quota of 600,400. This number does not include the Special Land Management Quota. The full year projection (EARL) is 15,000. 15 per cent of the full year quota. Our view is that the full year forecast will be difficult to achieve.

Gobbledegook: Dispelling the myths

Year in year out, Australian state governments roll out the same nonsense, and year in year out, Australian media outlets and journalists, fail to adequately challenge the nonsense, and a vast historical archive is say it not correct. Does the claims as: science and experience between them without a single question being asked.

At great expense, the South Australian Government attempts to convince Australia the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in the state by allowing shooting zone extensions, moving to commercially exploit Kangaroos on public land, shooting large numbers of female Kangaroos and adding new species to the list of those animals that can be commercially exploited.

Despite all these significant additions to what is possible, the actual commercial kill continues to decline. If you take out the recently added species, the actual kill against quota falls to just 14 per cent. Subtracting the impact of shooting zone extensions reduces this figure even further. A clear indication that population estimates for these species are vastly inflated. To put it in simple terms, they are just plain wrong.

So what's Nick? So here are four topline myths

- That Kangaroo populations have increased since colonisation because of pastoral activity and the water it brings.
- That Kangaroo populations have increased since colonisation because of improved pastoral (never mind the west coast clearing of native).
- That Kangaroos populations have increased since colonisation because Aboriginal people are not hunting them (never mind that indicator species hunting with powerful guns and vehicles and shelters and the opening of large national and international markets for Kangaroo skins and meat have replaced the small scale seasonal hunts of Australia's original human inhabitants) and
- That Kangaroo populations have increased since colonisation because their range has increased and they now exist in places where, once they did not. Odd that the historical evidence points in exactly the opposite direction.

We should note that, as well areas of land have been cleared, many available water sources have been destroyed. We should also note that Macropod species have vanished across the Australian landscape at scale, including total extinctions and regional extinctions. When I asked the South Australian Government how it could be possible, in a state with a large number of post-colonial extinctions and a very long list of species that are in very deep trouble, that the population of Kangaroos in the state's pastoral zone had increased since colonisation, the response was "Kangaroos have come back to kind when all other species have experienced previous the opposite trend?" You won't be surprised to hear that they could not answer the question. So, Kangaroo boom bust cycle NO, and it's all humans, that is another very big NO.

While this cruel trade in wildlife should not occur at all, the following species should be removed from the commercial list with immediate effect because of significant damage to actual populations:

- Euro
- Then the recent 2025 additions:
- Kangaroo Island Grey Kangaroo (Western Grey from Kangaroo Island).
- Tammar Wallaby and
- Eastern Grey Kangaroo.

History of actual kill against quota for South Australia from 1975 by species and population estimates since 1978

The South Australian Government population estimates for Kangaroos being exploited commercially in the state since 2021 are:

- 2021 – 2,813,647
- 2022 – 2,776,066
- 2023 – 3,653,600 (biologically impossible increase)
- 2024 – 3,012,711
- 2025 – 4,922,215 (biologically impossible increase)

For reference, government population estimates in the 1980s ranged from 2,631,395 (1983) to 872,390 (1984). The wildest fluctuations in populations with completely unexplained and impossible increases in the last five years, coincide with the years there were shooting zone extensions and additional species added, but not enough to account for the population increases. All this going on while the 'industry' running low on actual take country wide, was desperately trying to demonstrate to farmers in Victoria. A period where the marketing propaganda describing Kangaroos as pests and worse, took off around the world.

In the period 2021 to 2025 the inflated population estimates in South Australia led to a combined and unsustainable commercial quota in South Australia of 2,876,300 Kangaroos. The actual commercial kill was 498,718 (plus 130,000 unaccounted for dependent young), excluding young-at-foot killed in the commercial operations and pouches. This was just 17 per cent of the quota. Adding in the non-commercial kill, the total kill was 628,718 (plus 130,000) **additional** Kangaroos that otherwise would not have been killed, not the 60,000 to 100,000 claimed by the state's Agriculture Minister.

Because none of these species can sustain the killing rate, a detailed investigation needs to occur in relation to the future prospects of both the Red Kangaroo and Western Grey Kangaroo in South Australia.

2025: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in South Australia

The total Kangaroo population estimate for South Australia in 2026, which sets 2025 quotas, was 4,922,215 (includes the Eastern Grey Kangaroo) giving a quota for 2025 of 805,400, up from 677,000 in the previous year. If the quota was met in 2026, this would mean 250,000 (also not included in the data) would also die by decapitation, beaten to death or starvation if they escape.

South Australia: Commercial and destruction permits issued and actual number of animals killed in the period 28 November 2024 to 25 January 2025

The data described is from permits issues and 'harvesting' returns for the period. The following species are included in the data: Red Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Euro, Tammar Wallaby and Red-necked Wallaby (latter NOT on commercial species list in South Australia). These numbers do not include the death of (majority of) joeys.

Number of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in the period 28 November 2024 to 25 January 2025 was 136,233 (our estimate calendar year 2025, 130,000). For the full period shown, species comprise Red Kangaroo 80.9%, Western Grey Kangaroo 36.06%, Eastern Grey Kangaroo 1,128 and Euro 5,335. That means just 19 per cent of the commercial quota of 805,400 was achieved in 2025.

Destruction permits issued in the period covering all species except Tammar Wallaby (Kangaroo Island) and Red-necked Wallaby (mainland) was 1,611,000. Actual kill was 627,1 were reported killed. For Tammar Wallabies (Kangaroo Island), 384,671 destruction permits issued, the number of Tammars was 16,750 and just 680 were reported Killed.

While claiming rare abundant populations of Kangaroos, the NRC needs media claiming "The desperation for food is so great, their numbers so large, that Kangaroos are even destroying the native landscape in which they evolved (!)" the reality is very different, the hype leading to killing Kangaroos species in parts of South Australia were the data shows that they are functionally EXTINCT.

So of the 1,994,714 animals targeted in the period described, just 145,014 were actually killed (just 14.5 per cent), and that is despite the propaganda, the demand for meat and more permits and killing and subsidies and bounties to kill more animals in 2025.

2025: January to July actual

The actuals for the period 1 January to 1 July 2025 as reported by the Government of South Australia are:

- Red Kangaroo – 37,980;
- Western Grey Kangaroo – 20,197;
- Eastern Grey Kangaroo – 9,816;
- Euro – 4,206 and
- Tammar Wallaby (Kangaroo Island) – 0.

TOTAL ACTUAL KILL – 68,201 (8.5 per cent of full year quota).

While the actual kill is very low when compared to quota, the kill is still higher than the Government's Environmental Impact Assessed Green Eric (sales to Germany) of South Australia the following numbers:

The numbers are interesting, particularly as as the numbers are higher than our forecast for 5th and the period:

Was this because?

- Public lands are being accessed more actively by commercial shooters? Or
- Are joeys included in the data – at least the older at foot joeys? Or
- Is the bounty having an impact, particularly in remote regions where it is not usually viable when it comes to commercial exploitation.

It will be interesting to know which of these is the main driver of the increase in kill.

In response to these questions the Government of South Australia report the following:

> "At this stage, there does appear to be an increase in the number of Kangaroos harvested in the pastoral zone. However, it is too early to know if this is the result of the recent bounty or not."
>
> I can confirm that the data provided to you in my previous email did not include joeys. The harvest data we receive from the Other Processor (the Kangaroo Meat Processing Industry) does not include joeys. However, it is too early to tell if the PIRSA pouch program has had an impact on the number of Kangaroos harvested given PIRSA has only received late months of pouch data from the Other Processor in 2025. The Other Processor has advised that the use of chopped commercial harvest of joeys, this is a very small proportion of the overall harvest, and that it is not expected that this would change in the future.
>
> Further analysis of the harvest data will be conducted when the 2025 harvest report is developed early next year."

The impact of the Kangaroo bounty

A letter (July 2025) to Peter Hylands from South Australia's Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development / Minister for Forest Industries, contains the following paragraph:

> "The data provided in relation to the impact of Kangaroos on farmers' pastures and crops, as well as mitigating the poor animal welfare outcomes due to lack of food and water available for Kangaroos. Consequence good seasons has meant Kangaroo numbers have bounced back and are now at high levels. Coupled with the fact that Kangaroo harvesters have not been able to work, and the science to estimate kangaroo population numbers has been interrupted, the impact of the bounty program will be difficult to measure. The bounty program has had an impact on the number of Kangaroos harvested given 2024 has only received late months of harvesting data from the Other Processor. The Other Processor has advised that the use of chopped commercial harvest of joeys, this is a very small proportion of the overall harvest, and that it is not expected that this would change in the future."

Prior to the bounty being announced, the Nature Knowledge Channel's forecast for actual kill against quota in 2025 at 186,000 was just 17.1 per cent, revised upwards to 136,000. When the bounty was announced we said the bounty might increase this number given high levels of access to pretty well everywhere Kangaroos exist. Given what has happened since the bounty was introduced and what we know about the numbers to date, our estimate in terms of the additional number of Kangaroos killed as a result of the bounty and other incentives to kill more of these animals, will be an additional 100,000 Kangaroos killed in the period. This would take the total kill to 236,000 to 150,000 additional animals claimed by Claire Scriven. In May, $500,000 of the state government's $15 million drought support package was made available to support the killing of South Australian Kangaroos in "drought-impacted regions". Half of the money allocated was expected in bounties and other incentives, the government was effectively paying a bounty / subsidy for every Kangaroo killed in South Australia from mid-May 2025, when the bounty was introduced, to year end, so the entire budget may well be expended.

Body of evidence, requirement for collecting bounty image (FRSA)

This begged the question, now answered above, are pays now to be counted as part of the commercial kill as the has never occurred before as they are considered not to be viable for processing? The images of pays killed as part of the Drought Support Package and supplied by PIRSA suggest that at least some pays may be being processed.

We should remember this: In South Australia there is no achievable ceiling to the killing because populations are overstated and as a result, quotas are so high, and this results in the lowest actual kill against quota in percentage terms in Australia at just 17 per cent in both 2023 and 2024. In addition to this, Kangaroos can now be killed in almost every place in South Australia where they exist. So there are no achievable and regulated upper limits to the killing to deter shooters or farmers from obliterating Kangaroo populations. They are already killing everything they want to kill. We should also note that year on year the claiming of a booming population increase, population increasing from 3,912,111 in 2023 to 4,182,215 in 2024(5), were biologically impossible. That means NPC0356.E.

This in turn means that the bounty will act as a proxy subsidy to enable an unsustainable industry, based on dubious claims and an even more dubious 'science', to continue until there are very few, if any, Kangaroos in South Australia. Just look at the state's track record when it comes to wiping out native species.

End game

Apparently Kangaroo populations in South Australia are so high, after, I quote the South Australian Government, 'successes good seasons' and that " the subsequent drought conditions mean high numbers of Kangaroos can cause severe damage to crops, pasture, and said for it, 'native vegetation'.

Our experience of the South Australian landscape is one of total absence. The myths of booming populations and mass starvation, are precisely that, myths. Remember that prior to the announcement of the initial bounty earlier in the year, the Nature Knowledge Channel's forecast of a kill against a quota based on that inflated population estimates (biologically impossible) was that actual kill would be just 11.7 per cent of the 2025 quota. The reason for this, the Kangaroos do not exist in the numbers being claimed.

Plan upon plan to exterminate Macropods from South Australia, the latest iteration of which, popped up at the end of October 2025, with support primary producers, again I quote the South Australian Government, "to remove Western Grey Kangaroos, Red Kangaroos, Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Euros and Tammar Wallabies."

While the now incomplete, South Australian Government Inquiry into Kangaroo and Wallaby populations in South Australia, was in progress, the government has been forced to ensure, across a whole range of mechanisms, that as many Kangaroos and Wallabies are removed from South Australia's already empty landscapes, prior to the handing down of any findings from that inquiry.

So the latest addition to the 2025 bounty program:

> "A total of $300,000 is available for this initiative to provide incentives for primary producers, to remove starving Kangaroos. These incentives are the subject of these discussions, ...under this incentive, PIRSA is paying primary producers".

We should remember that when I contacted the ABC regarding its claims about the very high populations of Kangaroos in South Australia and the Anti Landscape Board which had contributed to the mass item, claiming large populations of Kangaroos were starving, there was no reply. The ABC journalist, Luke Radford, stating:

> "The expectation for food is so great, that numbers so high, that Kangaroos are even destroying the native landscape in which they evolved in".

Not the kind of person who gives up, I followed up the ABC, and more than once, no reply. So I rang the Anti Landscape Board, no reply from them either to my emails, saying we would like to send a film crew over to South Australia to film the said numbers of Kangaroos and the damage they were doing. I was told that there was nothing to see as the Kangaroos had been dispersed, where to see not clear.

So the latest round of funding of an additional $300,000, adds to the already available $900,000 announced during the inquiry period provided for 'sealing and new field harvesters to assist with operating costs'.

Perhaps it is time for the Federal Government to have its own inquiry into what is occurring here, after all, apart from the extreme cruelty and the hurt and spaces that are so uniquely Australian and which have existed in harmony with other Australian species in those landscapes for millions of years, these are public funds that are being expended.

We barely await the actual kill figures for 2026. That will reveal what has actually occurred here.

Bounty and dependent young animals

Given the vast scale algal bloom impacting South Australia, the coastline, and doing so for months, it is beyond comprehension that South Australian Government public servants are tied up in a complex and pointless Kangaroo bounty scheme to kill the remaining and rapidly declining populations. Here are answer two questions.

- Will the financial incentives be paid for young Kangaroos?
- Financial incentives will be paid for Kangaroos that are fully furred and destroyed under a permit to destroy wildlife. The notification states 'Every Kangaroo needs to be humanely shot in line with existing standards. The problem is that existing standards are a very long way from being humane.

So what are they going after? – Which species of Kangaroos can be shot under a Permit to Destroy Wildlife? Permits will be issued for the following species:

- Western Grey Kangaroos;
- Red Kangaroos;
- Eastern Grey Kangaroos;
- Euros; and
- Tamar Wallabies (Kangaroo Island).

And all this during a period when the South Australian Government's own Inquiry into Kangaroo and Wallaby populations in the state drags on without conclusion.

Disgraceful.

South Australia: Reported actual kill in 2024

In South Australia in 2024 a total of 135,841 Kangaroos were shot for commercial gain (excluding pays). That was just 17 per cent of quota which was set at 835,400. The quota, a number which included the five species of Macropod currently killed for commercial gain in the state.

- The Red Kangaroo suffered the most of the five species commercially exploited in the state and 65,664 Red Kangaroos were killed in 2024. The South Australian Government data shows that the number of Red Kangaroos killed for commercial gain was largest in the eastern pastoral shooting zone, where 29,184 Red Kangaroos were killed.
- Western Grey Kangaroos came second on this disgraceful league table at 25,518 animals kill for commercial gain. The highest number of Western Grey Kangaroos killed were in the eastern agricultural shooting zone, where 10,988 Western Grey Kangaroos were killed.
- For the Euro, the highest kill was 2,529 in the eastern agricultural shooting zone.
- Eastern grey Kangaroos were killed in the lower south east sub region within the southern agricultural shooting zone and 2,314 Eastern Grey Kangaroos were killed in that zone.
- No Tammar Wallabies were killed for commercial gain in 2024. The 2024 quota was 19,200.

The share of females killed for commercial gain was as follows:

- Red Kangaroos – 21 per cent females;
- Western Grey Kangaroos – 32 per cent females;
- Euro – 2 per cent females;
- Eastern Grey Kangaroos – 42 per cent females; and
- Number of joeys killed by decapitation or bashing to death (estimate) – 25,960 (additional to government published data).

South Australia: Reported actual kill in 2023

As a share of the commercial kill, this is what happened in 2023, fairly typical of the recent period:

- 56,664 – Red Kangaroo;
- 26,403 – Western Grey Kangaroo and Kangaroo Island Sooty Kangaroo;
- 6,494 – Euro;
- 53 – Tammar Wallaby; and
- 7,445 – Eastern Grey Kangaroo.

Of the total of 100,594 animals killed in South Australia, Red Kangaroos were 58 per cent of the commercial kill. The quota for 2023 for all species in South Australia was 516,300 animals, just 17.4 per cent of the quota was met.

Red Kangaroo actual commercial kill (from South Australian Government data)

- 1975 – 35,710
- 1976 – 51,997
- 1980 – 111,247
- 1981 – 140,000
- 1982 – 172,100
- 1984 – 82,965

The 1980s were a period of very large scale killing of Red Kangaroos in South Australia for commercial gain and reflected the growth of commercial exploitation for financial gain. Essentially Kangaroos are something for nothing, unless that is, you happen to be a government underwriting the activity in its many dimensions.

- 1985 – 172,783
- 1987 – 213,628
- 1984 – 278,348
- 1989 – 279,492
- 2001 – 193,400
- 2009 – 103,229
- 2010 – 65,192
- 2016 – 68,246
- 2019 – 88,711
- 2020 – 48,184 (Covid halt little impact as commercial Kangaroo shooters continued their work, classified as an essential service).
- 2022 – 48,211
- 2023 – 56,664
- 2024 – 65,664

Non-commercial 'destruction permits' to kill Kangaroos in South Australia in 2024

1,584 permits were issued to kill 109,497 Kangaroos in South Australia in 2024, the outcome of which is unknown.

Comprised:

- Red Kangaroos – 15,102;
- Western Grey Kangaroos – 73,910;
- Euro – 6,876;
- Eastern Grey Kangaroos – 1,989; and
- Tammar Wallaby –11,620.

As a reference point as to trends, in 2022, 1,123 permits were issued to kill Kangaroos for purposes other than exploitation. The total number of Kangaroos on these permits was 61,499. This consisted of 9,882 Red Kangaroos, 46,161 Western Grey Kangaroos, 2,766 Euros, 1,083 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 5,609 Tammar Wallabies.

Killing Kangaroos on public land in South Australia in 2024, National Parks and Wildlife Reserves

This activity is particularly shameful and means there are no safe places for Kangaroos or Wallabies in South Australia.

Non-commercial killing was undertaken in 9 parks where the following were killed:

- Red Kangaroo – 48;
- Western Grey Kangaroo – 1,888 (this includes the Sooty Kangaroo, the Western Grey from Kangaroo Island); and
- Euro – 406.

A total of 2,140 Kangaroos were killed using destruction permits, of this number 92 per cent or 1,977 Kangaroos were killed in the Gawler Ranges National Park.

Killing for commercial gain was undertaken in 8 parks where the following were killed:

- Red Kangaroo – 1,240;
- Western Grey Kangaroo– 709; and
- Euro – 25.

In 2024, a total of 1,988 Kangaroos were killed for commercial gain in nature parks, that is 889 more than in the previous year.

We assume joeys are additional and not accounted for?

Lexicon: The myth of Kangaroo plagues and pests

> "Highlighting concerns that even with quotas, commercial harvesting is "not making a dent" in the exploding Kangaroo populations in some areas in South Australia".

Be suspicious if you see these words used in material about Kangaroos: Overabundance, booming, abundance, exploding, surging, eruptions, irruption, weeds, compost (yes compost), pest, plagues, over-grazing, all starving, kinder to kill them, dangerous, control, manage, management, controlling, harvest, harvesting, destroying infrastructure, diseased-in the field, humane (perhaps the sweatiest word of all), sustainable, hygienic, nibbling, grazing pressure, it is all about sustainability, conservation culls, ecological grazing (when they shoot the Kangaroos and put cattle in these places), biodiversity conservation, chomping, disease, diseased, descending, invading. All of it carefully created especially for you.

> "Upping the ante, here is a term that cropped up recently: an 'academic' paper on Kangaroos – 'Hyperabundant, overabundant was clearly not enough!'.

August 2021 – The war on Australia's natural world is set to continue until the very end.

And lots of money is being spent to accelerate this killing and exploitation. Probably as counter to the fallout from the NSW Kangaroo inquiry we get ever more nonsense and propaganda from other states. And we even get some more weasel words.

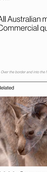
From Tasmania - we seek to get the balance right in supporting farmers, foresters and land managers in managing the impact of browsing wildlife on agricultural and forestry sectors while ensuring sustainability of wildlife species is maintained.

And from South Australia - Kangaroos over-abundance and over-grazing presents a threat to the condition and resilience of South Australia's landscapes, to Aboriginal cultural values, to the sustainability of the livestock grazing industry, and to conservation values.

All Australian mainland since 1980: Commercial quota compared to actual take

Over the border and into the Northern Territory and still no Kangaroos

Related



2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in New South Wales

The population estimate for Kangaroos in New South Wales has fallen to 9,586,000 from 13,910,000, resulting in a decline in commercial quota for 2026 of 733,927 Kangaroos.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Queensland

The Queensland Government's population estimates for the 3 commercially exploited species in Queensland's commercial shooting zones is 19,306,148 giving a commercial quota in 2026 of 2,850,900 with a DNP quota of 385,194.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria

An increase in the population estimate for Grey Kangaroos in Victoria, leading to a 2026 quota of 207,800, a decrease of the commercial quota when compared to 2025 of 22,192 (the commercial component now being 89,400).

Review of Kangaroo data for commercially exploited species 1980-2025 (all government sources)

This analysis is a rebuild of annual Kangaroo population estimates, commercial quotas and actual take from 1980, including the population estimate data removed from the public gaze.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Western Australia

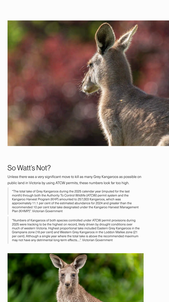
While we wait for the 2026 population estimates and commercial quotas (from 2025 surveys) here is the history of exploitation of Kangaroos in Western Australia.

2026: Kangaroo population estimates and quotas mainland Australia (commercially exploited species)

As of 10 January 2026 all state governments, except Western Australia, had provided their data. Here is the summary so far giving a population decline of 5,788,589.

© Creative cowboy films

"In the case of Victoria the population estimates look ever stranger as do the numbers of Kangaroos being targeted for destruction. No matter how many they kill the population remains stable or increases, the probability for which is zero" Peter Hylands



Peter and Annette Hylands

December 20, 2020.

So Watt's Not?

Unless there was a very significant move to kill as many Grey Kangaroos as possible on private land, the Victorian Government, DELWP, seemed to have lost the plot.

"The population in Victoria's Kangaroo across the 2020 calendar year (included for the last month) through both the Authority To Control Wildlife (ATCW) permit system and the Kangaroo Harvest Program (KHP) amounted to 281,000 Kangaroos, which was approximately 20,000 less than the population estimate for the same period and the recommended 10 per cent total take designated under the Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan (KHMP)". Victorian Government

Total number of Kangaroos that were commodified under ATCW permit processes during 2020 was 261,000 Kangaroos, which was approximately 20,000 Kangaroos less than the much of western Victoria. Highest proportional take included Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the Central and Lower Wimmera zones, where 24,638 Kangaroos were killed, representing 14 per cent. Although a single year where the total take exceeded the recommended maximum may not have any detrimental long-term effects..." Victorian Government

Following the slaughtering in the Wimmera in 2020 – 21 it was important to make adjustments to the shooting of Kangaroos in the Grampians and surrounds. Here is the response.

"DEECA considers the types, scale and impact of emergency events on the environment and Grey Kangaroo populations before making decisions on changes to the Kangaroo management plan. In the Grampians and surrounds, Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the Grampians, Gramplans and Benson South West 'kernels' zones, to take around 5 per cent of the total population, will be allowed to be taken by shooting in 2021 under the Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Program quota and being made at this time". Victorian Government

Whoops

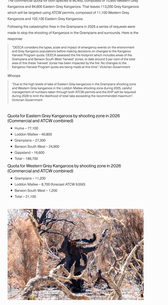
"Due to the high levels of take of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the Grampians shooting zone in the last two consecutive years (2020 and 2021), DELWP, PVA and the KHP will be reviewing management of Kangaroos taken through both ATCW permits and the KHP will be required to provide a report on the commercial shooter data accounting for recommended mapping". Victorian Government

Quota for Eastern Grey Kangaroo by shooting zone in 2026 (Commercial and ATCW combined)

- Hume – 77,100
- Loddon Mallee – 40,800
- Gippsland – 27,300
- Central – 24,600
- Gippsland – 18,600
- Total – 188,700

Quota for Western Grey Kangaroos by shooting zone in 2026 (Commercial and ATCW combined)

- Grampians – 11,200
- Loddon Mallee – 8,700 (forecast ATCW 5,000)
- Benson South West – 1,200
- Total – 21,100



What happened in 2025?

The 2024 population estimates for Western and Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Victoria from which the 2025 quota was derived was: 2,078,000, compared 21,000 Western Grey Kangaroos and 1,887,000 Eastern Grey Kangaroos. This compares with a population estimate of 2,083,000 from the previous survey in 2023.

At 18 per cent increase in the Eastern Grey Kangaroo population in Victoria!

"Comparison of estimates of abundance for 2023 and 2024 both derived using the new, improved, Bayesian method, show a 18 per cent increase in the Victorian population of Eastern Grey Kangaroos from 1.78 million to 2.08 million between 2023 and 2024. This increase in abundance was observed across all Bioregions in which Eastern Grey Kangaroos occupied. Highest increase (Highlands-Ovens) 27% to 31,000, a decline of approximately 2 per cent. For both Grey Kangaroo species, there was substantial overlap between the confidence intervals for 2023 and 2024 estimates, indicating no statistically robust evidence of actual percentage changes in abundance over time". Victorian Government, December 2024

The number of Kangaroos to be killed in Victoria in 2025 (excludes pouch) was:

- 17,1 688 for commercial gain (compared 194,100 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 13,492 Western Grey Kangaroos. This compares to a commercial quota in 2024 of 195,600 Grey Kangaroos.
- 80,200 Grey Kangaroos to be shot using ATCW permits, comprising 64,600 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 7,900 Western Grey Kangaroos. This compares to the ATCW quota in 2024 of 90,100, and
- 1,000 Grey Kangaroos compared 21,100 Western Grey Kangaroos and 188,700 Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

The Victorian Government now estimates (last month impacted that the total commercial take of Grey Kangaroos in Victoria in 2025 were 77,880, compared 194 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 2,188 Western Grey Kangaroos, that is 68.3 per cent of original quota for 2025. This is slightly higher than the Natural Knowledge (Charles forecast and it maybe that the reported numbers are corrected.

- The original year take to exploit 17,1688 Kangaroos for commercial gain, compared 194,100 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 13,492 Western Grey Kangaroos. This compares to a commercial quota in 2024 of 195,600 Grey Kangaroos.
- 80,200 Grey Kangaroos were to be shot using ATCW permits, comprising 64,600 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 7,900 Western Grey Kangaroos. This compares to the ATCW quota in 2024 of 90,100, and
- The plan was to kill a total commercial and ATCW permits combined of 207,860 Grey Kangaroos, comprised 21,100 Western Grey Kangaroos and 188,700 Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

Here is the detail for 2025 as we know it so far:

The commercial quotas for Kangaroos in Victoria for Q3 – 2025 was 30,380. The actual take reported for the period was 13,086 (only carcass tags issued) which was 13,686, that is just 43 per cent of the quota for the period. The Q1 actual was 18,011 out of a quota of 37,880.

So for the first three quarters of 2025, the actual take was 46,182 (according to government reported which was 43 per cent of the original full year quota (against a total monthly consumption figure (legal) of 56,148 for the first three quarters of 2025 against an original full year commercial quota of 195,700.

We are very concerned about the status of the Western Grey Kangaroo in Victoria which is listed as Endangered under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. The Western Grey Kangaroo was once the commercial game of QDF60.

Of the Grey Kangaroos shot in Q3, 7,061 were female meaning that 6,042 young Kangaroos were beaten to death or decapitated (the young are not accounted for in the commercial data). What is extremely concerning for the viability of future Kangaroo populations, given that 52.0 per cent of the commercial take in Q3 were female. This follows a similar pattern in Q2 2025 and is an indicator that Kangaroo populations in the state have plummeted.

We should note the following (when the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos was introduced to Victoria in late 2019 (see a trial in 2014) we were promised that the conditions stated below would not change.

Female Kangaroos with obvious young: Victorian Government conditions

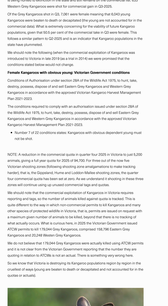
Conditions of Authorisation under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975, to hunt, take, destroy, possess, dispose of and sell Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos in accordance with the approved Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2021-2025.

The conditions required to comply with an authorisation issued under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975 to hunt, take, destroy, possess, dispose of and sell Kangaroos (the harvesting) that is, the Gippsland, Hume and Loddon Mallee shooting zones, the quarter four commercial quotas has been set at zero. As we understand it shooting in these three zones will continue seeing up unused commercial kill quotas.

We should note that the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria requires reporting and tags as the number of animals killed against quotas is tracked. This is quite different to the way in which non-commercial killing is kill Kangaroos and many other species in Victoria is undertaken. Under the ATCW permit system, shooters are given a maximum given number of animals to be killed, Reports that there is no tracking of what actually occurs. What is curious here, in 2020 the Victorian Government issued ATCW permits to kill 179,044 Grey Kangaroos, compared 188,700 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 20,248 Western Grey Kangaroos.

We do not believe that 179,044 Grey Kangaroos were actually killed using ATCW permits and it is not clear from the Victorian Government reporting that the number they are quoting in relation to ATCW is not an actual. There is something very wrong here.

So we know that Victoria is developing its Kangaroo populations region by region in the cruelest of ways (young are beaten to death or decapitated and not accounted for in the quotas or actuals).



What did 2024 look like?

The full year commercial quota in 2024 in Victoria was 195,600. The future Knowledge (Charles) latest full year forecast for Victoria in 2024 was 13,800 (originally was 80,800) (the 2023 actual was 13,250)

Full year actual commercial take was higher than expected given numbers provided previously at 81,180 (which 27,214 were females. An additional 23,498 pouch were killed (not accounted). Therefore, these animals are not included in the annual commercial data.

Because a large number of commercial tags issued by the Victorian Government during the year in 2024 were not utilised, no tags were issued in Quarter 4 in 2024 in any of the 7 Victorian shooting zones.

"On 30 December 2025, DEECA Vicnet received quotas for 111,170 kangaroos for Kangaroo. Quotas is released in four tranches, at the start of every quarter. Where quarter 4 tags are not released, it can be carried over into the following quarter". Victorian Government

We should note that the commercial quota for 2024 was revised down to 195,260 Grey Kangaroos in July 2024, a further downward revision occurred in December to 111,170 (from Quarter 3 report the Victorian Government states 'removing all Quarter 4 tags from the 2024 commercial harvest quotas, meaning no tags will be allocated to be carried over into the following quarter.

There were 113 prosecutions (commercially exploiting Kangaroos in Victoria in the first half of 2025. In Quarter 3 the number of licensed Kangaroo shooters was 123 and there were 36, received allocations, 81 of which were shooting in the Central and Lower Wimmera shooting zones. In 2024 there were 27 shooting zones, meaning of shooters participated 2025 reduced that to 6 shooting zones.

In the first 6 months of 2025, the Central and the Lower Wimmera shooting zones, at 24,638 Kangaroos, accounted for 68 per cent of all Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in Victoria. In Quarter 3 the Central and the Lower Wimmera shooting zones again led the way in the number of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain at 15,391 (68 per cent) of the total killed for commercial gain in Victoria. Interestingly, these two zones are the regions with zones with low levels of actual take in 2021, January 2025 and earlier, and that makes ongoing comparisons far more difficult.

- Total number of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in the first 6 months of 2025 was 19,032 or 33 per cent of their commercial take. In the first 6 months of 2024 the number of female Kangaroos killed for commercial gain was 11,677 or 32.5 per cent of total commercial take.
- Total number of all joeys (pouch (described as young at foot) killed for commercial gain in the first 9 months of 2024 was 12,000 (Charles's death). 88 per cent of the female Kangaroos killed for commercial gain in 2024 had an active joey at foot and in the first 6 months of 2025 this number of at foot joeys killed and discarded was 10,005. We assume from the wording in the data reporting that the male Kangaroo joeys are omitted from the data.

These young at foot Kangaroos (approximately to 15 months old are killed by blunt force trauma (hit with the back of an axe and to unit and bodies are discarded. Adding joeys to the 2024 actual kill during the first 9 months of 2024 leaves the total number of Kangaroos killed to 75,133. That is, at full joeys were 33 per cent of all the Kangaroos killed in Victoria for commercial gain in the first 9 months of 2024, these animals are the next generation of Grey Kangaroos in Victoria.

The number of Kangaroos targeted in Victoria since 2010.

"Three of an only surposed the slaughter warned that since an industry started, it has its own momentum and it is difficult to control it. Kangaroo Shooters, who have been created, from the Government Government can claim full liability for the slaughterhouse or the score, despite its questionable reasoning. It said in 1984, it is important to recognise that the Kangaroo Industry is a commercial one, and that Government involvement should in these scenes it has now come to exist in its own right as the core of a renewable natural resource, which survives its own interests". Julian Cribbidge, Kangaroos, myths and realities, AAPS, 2009.

- 2010 – 39,000
- 2011 – 34,721
- 2012 – 43,111
- 2013 – 75,139
- 2014 – 84,100
- 2015 – 126,667
- 2016 – 150,000
- 2017 – 189,088
- 2018 – 168,992
- 2019 – 138,032 (Red Kangaroos removed from KHP in Victoria)
- 2020 – 117,300 (Catastrophic fires destroyed wildlife populations and the world dictates to help save them)
- 2021 – 191,200 (Victorian Government claims Kangaroo population increase of 41 per cent)
- 2022 – 195,600
- 2023 – 236,350 - Victorian Government claim yet another significant increase in the population of Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos. (this time 24 per cent)
- 2024 – 236,350 – quota based on numbers derived from 2022 population survey which claimed a 24 per cent increase. Actual take was 81,180 or 41 per cent increase (derived from the previous survey.
- 2025 – Plan 207,860, which they actually targeted – 261,204
- 2026 – 207,860

Note: Original quotas have been adjusted down for comparison (when new revised quotas). Red meaning quotas is a sign that population estimates are far too high.

Actual take against commercial quota (per cent)

- 2025 – 68 per cent
- 2024 – 52 per cent
- 2023 – 63 per cent
- 2022 – 67 per cent
- 2021 – 65 per cent
- 2020 – 59 per cent
- 2019 – 58 per cent (from October 1 in year and, was now below).

We should note that actual take against quota series year to year as results are driven by the population estimate and the resulting quota. So a high population estimate which inflates the population, results in a low percentage take against quota. The population estimates, and hence the quotas, are always for high and Victoria has mastered the art of exaggerating the population estimates.

Actual take against commercial quota (SHORTFALL against quota – number of Kangaroos)

- 2025 – 30,840
- 2024 – 74,882
- 2023 – 84,016
- 2022 – 69,004
- 2021 – 33,446
- 2020 – 11,456, and
- 2019 – 6,256.

Kangaroo population surveys in Victoria

Since 2014, when the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos was introduced in Victoria, there have been four Victorian Government Kangaroo population surveys which set the quota for the following year. The 2024 population estimates and quotas have been questioned by Peter and Annette Hylands who have been the Victorian Government peak body on Grey Kangaroos. The survey of Kangaroo populations in Victoria is scheduled for last quarter of 2026.

2024 survey - shifts in methodology

"Annual surveys of non-forested parts of Victoria were undertaken during September 2024. These surveys were supplemented with aerial surveys around a range of the sites occupied by both Grey Kangaroo species in order to estimate the proportions of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos in each survey site.

2,078,000, comprised 211,000 Western Grey Kangaroos and 1,867,000 Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

- During the Victorian Government's 2024 Kangaroo population survey, 8,948 Grey Kangaroos were counted over 3,090 kilometers of helicopter transects. This is far more than previous counts. Ground surveys supplemented the aerial surveys, particularly in the Western Grey and Eastern Grey Kangaroo species overlap zone.

"In August 2024 we predicted (prior to the survey) the following, the next survey will have to be adjusted to account for the increase in the population. We will do the population estimate, assuming other model parameters remain the same. So it will be very interesting to see what numbers they come up with. If that does not happen, the government will find it very difficult to justify the increase in mass killing efforts and numbers quotas are based, will fall through the floor" Peter Harrison.

For the Red Kangaroo the population was estimated to be 39,000 in 2024, down from 54,000 in 2022.

2022 survey

- 5,847 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 2,363,850 (24 per cent increase in population); and
- 140 Red Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 54,000.
- Climate change impact in period – serious flooding.

2020 survey

- 6,268 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 1,912,000 (41 per cent increase in population); and
- 102 Red Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 30,000.
- Climate change impact in period – most serious wildfires known.

2018 survey

- 4,707 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 1,381,000; and
- 91 Red Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 44,000.

2017 survey (shorter transects)

- 2,607 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 1,429,000; and
- 23 Red Kangaroos resulting in a population estimate of 13,000.
- In 2017 the Victorian Government issued permits to kill 2,187 more Red Kangaroos than their entire state population estimate for that year.

Moving the goal posts and more

For the welfare and safety of the Kangaroos themselves, the move to public lands in Victoria is the most harmful of all.

> "*All Kangaroo control on public land currently occurs through Authority to Control Wildlife ATCW authorisations and are issued to the relevant public land manager. There is no Kangaroo Harvest Program operating on public land at present, however public land managers may request ATCW authorisations to undertake Kangaroo control activity conducts on specified public land and will be provided for with a separate quota, outside of the quota for the Kangaroo Harvest Program. Any separate quota issued would be a direct replacement to control, that would have otherwise been undertaken under the ATCW system*" Victorian Government, February 2025

In addition to the changes to the way populations are being estimated, including from survey to the methodology and its data, the following changes have occurred.

For Melbourne at least the commercial Kangaroo shooter's journey from outback to suburbs is over (with the exception of the Yarra Ranges LGA, that is).

The numbers describe allocations that reverse the Victorian Government's policy of shifting ATCW permits to commercial permits. This reversal of policy also occurred in 2024. While the Victorian Government does not answer the question, we can assume that this is being done to backdoor the commercial killing of Kangaroos into National and State Parks as 'land management' transfer their ATCW permits to commercial. The quantum of this needs to be clarified.

We should note that the Victorian Kangaroo killing system requires that commercial kills are accounted for and reported, ATCW kills, once the ATCW permits are issued, have no reporting requirement. So for ATCW permits issued, the Victorian Government does not have a clue about what actually happened. Failure to meet commercial quotas is very telling, so shifting more permits across to ATCWs means no one knows what actually happened.

> "*No lethal control is widely used to manage the ecological and economic impacts of Kangaroos, an overarching goal of the plan is to ensure harvesting is ecologically sustainable*" Victorian Government

When asked to provide evidence of the damage that Kangaroos were doing in 2024 the Victorian Government could not supply any evidence of damage caused by Kangaroos:

> "You requested the metrics of damage caused by Kangaroos to property in some areas, wildlife can damage property, farmland or the environment. Wildlife can also pose a threat to human safety or suffer in areas where the species is over-abundant. Wildlife control may be required to protect human health, safety and property. Unfortunately, information on damage caused by wildlife, including Kangaroos, to property on private or public land". Acting Deputy Secretary, Regional Development and Production

In 2026

> "*Harvesters can apply for a quota allocation in any zone. The allocation will specify how many and what species of Kangaroos they can harvest, and in which zones. Tags (with quotas) will be issued to harvesters based on the zone, species, and sex of Kangaroos. Changes have been made to the process for allocating quotas in 2026. These changes have been made to help improve the utilisation of tags throughout the year and prevent high-grading of tags. Harvesters will be allocated a quota for the first half of the year, which is to decrease the maximum bag allowance for non-active harvesters from 50 to 25 while the second change is to provide for the cancellation of unused tags after three months. Where unused tags are cancelled after three months, tags will be transferred back into the quota for further allocation to active harvesters*" Victorian Government

Correction factors appear to have vanished! Well perhaps not, methodologies may differ in application but raw counts of Kangaroos are corrected by applying the detection probability principle, thus correcting the raw count from around one-half to what is called distance sampling. That is, for distances further from the aircraft within certain parameters, additional and unseen Kangaroos are added. These adjusted numbers are the ones that drive the modelling of the population estimate. These corrected survey numbers are then extrapolated across similar habitat and landscape types. As a general comment, a compounding factor that makes the population estimates more and more inaccurate is when transects between different survey periods are changed or deleted. If this does occur (and changes have occurred between surveys) there is a danger of these changes becoming a fishing expedition to find Kangaroos away from the original transect where Kangaroos have vanished. Hence zero has been replaced by a number from the new transect or deleted entirely and one problem here is that applying a correction factor or detection probability to zero gives an answer of zero, not *helpful* if you are trying to demonstrate sustainability. The bottom line here is survey methods need to be constant between surveys to ensure scientific integrity.

So Watt's Watt?

Cooking up the population numbers, so they tell you there are plenty of these animals left in Victoria and they won't become extinct. Well think again.

Status of Kangaroo species and their relatives in Victoria

- *Tasdanka Wallaby, Macropus greyi* EXTINCT.
- Eastern Hare Wallaby, *Lagorchestes leporides* EXTINCT.
- Bridled Nailtail Wallaby, *Onychogalea frenata* EXTINCT.
- Rufous-bellied Pademelon, *Thylogale billardierii* EXTINCT.
- Rufous Rat-kangaroo or Rufous Bettong, *Aepyprymnus rufescens* EXTINCT.
- Eastern Bettong *Bettongia gaimardi gaimardi* EXTINCT.
- The Woylie or Brush-tailed Bettong *Bettongia penicillata* EXTINCT.
- Long-nosed Potoroo *Potorous tridactylus* THREATENED – population in decline.
- Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, *Petrogale penicillata* - ENDANGERED – hunted to near extinction in Victoria, in 1968 alone 82,580 skins were marketed by a single company. LESS THAN 80 ANIMALS REMAINED in the wild in Victoria in 2018.
- Long-footed Potoroo *Potorous longipes* ENDANGERED – population in decline.
- Eastern Wallaroo *Macropus robustus robustus* ENDANGERED – extinct across 99 per cent of its former range in Eastern Victoria – REMAINING POPULATION IMPACTED BY WILDFIRES.
- Western Grey Kangaroo *Macropus fuliginosus* – when historical distribution records are compared the species is missing from almost 50 per cent of its former range, shot commercially since 2014. POPULATION IN STEEP DECLINE - AT SIGNIFICANT RISK.
- Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus* – former range fractured and fragmented, shot commercially since 2014 - POPULATION IN STEEP DECLINE.
- Red-necked Wallaby *Macropus rufogenus* – POPULATION IMPACTED BY WILDFIRES.
- Red Kangaroo *Macropus rufus* – restricted in its declining range to far North West Victoria, the species used to occur in at least 50 per cent of Victoria. The species existence in Victoria is directly threatened by Victorian Government actions and will be driven to the edge of EXTINCTION in the state because of mass extermination programs. Removed from threat of commercial exploitation in the state 2019 (confirmed by Environment Minister at that time). The risk is that following the serial decline in Grey Kangaroo populations in the state, Australia's largest remaining Marsupial will find itself on the commercial list in Victoria, and that will be that.
- Black Wallaby or Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor* - POPULATION IMPACTED BY 2020 WILDFIRES.

Sadly, since British settlement, 7 species in this family have become extinct in Victoria. And even more sadly, attitudes and conduct have not changed and more species will follow.

The existential problem the Victorian Government has in spruiking its inflated Kangaroo population numbers year on year is that Kangaroos are actually disappearing from Victoria, region by region. So sooner, rather than later, the truth is revealed as the South Australian Government is about to find out. In the interim, creativity is required to prop up the numbers, including by what state governments in Australia describe as science. There are a number of unanswered questions in Victoria relating to surveys, the steep increase in the number of Kangaroos counted in the 2024 survey for example aligned with yet another change in methodology, amalgamating shooting zones, moving to include public land, and serious claims and resulting shifts in policy, the move back to unaccounted for ATCWs is one example here. Recent bushfires in South Australia and Victoria are an indicator of trying to prop something up and not of abundance and represent misconduct in relation to government expenditures.

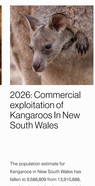
> "*I can confirm that ATCW numbers reported always represent the maximum number of animals lethally authorised for control by ATCWs that have been issued within a specified period. The actual number of animals that are controlled under each authorisation may be less than the number authorised. Unfortunately, we do not have the actual kill numbers controlled under each ATCW*" Victorian Government 23 October 2025

One of the remarkable things here is that the 257,004 Kangaroos the Victorian Government is claiming that were killed under its behest and promotion, including additional funding, are part of the 1.1 million protected Australian wild animals (around 70 species) killed in Victoria in 2025. This is going on at the same time as the Victorian Government's long delayed report on its Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria was published and the Australian Government's long delayed action in updating its Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, both of which we spent a great deal of time on. Neither of these Inquiries and the subsequent actions from each of these governments will ease a single one of the 1.1 million native animals (around 5 million Australia wide) and the many more to come protected Australian native animals killed this year and in future years under government programs.

Related

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Queensland

The Queensland Government's population estimate for the 3 commercially exploited species in Queensland's 5 commercial shooting zones is 19,308,148 giving a commercial quota in 2026 of 2,850,900 with a DMP quota of 386,164.



2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos In New South Wales

The population estimate for Kangaroos in New South Wales has fallen to 8,936,000 from 13,910,688, resulting in a decline in commercial quota for 2026 of 733,927 Kangaroos.

Review of Kangaroo data for commercially exploited species 1980-2025 (all government sources)

This analysis is a rebuttal of annual Kangaroo population estimates, commercial quotas and actual take from 1980, including the population estimate data removed from the public gaze.

After the Gariwerd Grampians fire

Evacuated and glad to be returning home to Wonagatura, Christine Corbidge talks about her life with her horses and the wildlife she loves.

Repeat performance: The 2024-2025 fires in Western Victoria

As fires in Victoria rage, how many native animals are being rescued from public lands? This is the timeline of the Grampians Gariwerd fires.

If it moves, shoot it: Kangaroos in the education state

In February 2024 I found myself in the footsteps of *Dr Iain Cairns (former deputy PM)* in precisely the same venue, the Melbourne Town Hall, and talking about precisely the same topic, Kangaroos.

Unpleasant histories: Mass killing of Kangaroos in Victoria's National Parks

This story attempts to piece together the history of mass killing of native Australian species in State and National Parks in Victoria. Over 100,000 Kangaroos have been targeted since 1984, when the killing began.

The accidental Kangaroo

So we tell stories about Kangaroos around the world as we work to bring some justice and peace and the right for these beautiful animals to live their lives, free of the cruelties they now endure.

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2026: Kangaroo population estimates and quotas mainland Australia (commercially exploited species)

Earth

Life on land

"Although the latest Australian Kangaroo population estimates show significant decline they remain significantly overstated and this means that the resulting commercial quotas are unsustainable, leading to actual long-term declines". Peter Hylands

Peter and Andrea Hylands

January 10, 2026

Australia mainland government population estimates and quotas

- 2026: Population estimate – 35,330,176 (excludes Western Australia)
- 2025: Population estimate – 41,129,765 (excludes Western Australia)
- Difference = decline of 5,799,589

- 2026: Quota – 4,999,775 (excludes Western Australia) (excludes 1,280,000 joeys that would be killed but not accounted for)
- 2025 : Quota – 6,051,652 (excludes Western Australia) (excludes 1,545,00 joeys that would be killed but not accounted for)
- Difference = decline of 1,051,877

Nature Knowledge Channel estimates for population and actual kill against commercial quota Australian mainland

- 2026: Population estimate (excludes Western Australia) – 11,306,000
- 2025: Population estimate (excludes Western Australia) – 13,161,000

- 2026: Estimate of actual kill against quota (excludes Western Australia) – 1,290,000 (26 per cent of government proposed quota)
- 2025: Estimate of actual kill against quota (excludes Western Australia) – 1,320,000 (22 per cent of government proposed quota)

State Government Kangaroo population estimates and quotas provided to the Australian Government

Queensland

- 2026: Population estimate – 19,308,148
- 2025: Population estimate – 19,948,800

- 2026: Quota - 2,850,900
- 2025 : Quota - 2,941,550

New South Wales

- 2026: Population estimate – 9,586,809
- 2025: Population estimate – 13,910,688

- 2026: Commercial quota – 1,453,025
- 2025 : Commercial quota – 2,196,952

South Australia

- 2026: Population estimate – 4,129,219
- 2025: Population estimate – 5,192,277

- 2026: Commercial quota – 600,400
- 2025 : Commercial quota – 805,500

Victoria

- 2026: Population estimate – 2,306,000
- 2025: Population estimate – 2,078,000

- 2026: Commercial quota – 95,450
- 2025 : Commercial quota – 117,600

Western Australia

- 2026: Population estimate – not known
- 2025: Population estimate – 1,304,090

- 2026: Commercial quota - not known
- 2025 : Commercial quota - 182,390

NOTES

- Western Australia will provide its population estimates and quotas following their KMAC meeting, for which, as at time of writing, no date has been set. As a result Western Australia is not included in the comparisons at the Australian mainland level.
- (Excluding Western Australia) The Queensland population estimates in 2026 accounts for 54.7 per cent of the Australian mainland population estimate. The Queensland commercial quota in 2026 accounts for 57 per cent of the Australian mainland quota. The questionable Queensland estimates play a significant role (they do this every year) in distorting Kangaroo estimates and resulting quotas.
- In 2026, Victoria is the only state to report an overall population increase over the previous year. Total nonsense of course.
- Tasmania is not required to report its commercial exploitation of Kangaroos and Wallabies in the same way that all other states do and hence is not included in the Australian Governments reporting on the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos. There should be no exception to the rules.
- The ACT and Northern Territory do not have a commercial wildlife trade in Kangaroo species.
- The 2026 population estimate on which the 2026 quota is derived and calculated, are from surveys conducted in 2025. Thus the 2025 population estimate that informed that year's quota was calculated from surveys in 2024.
- The number of species and species being exploited commercially differ across the states. South Australia commercially exploits the most species, while Western Australia and Victoria exploit the least number of species, in the case of Western Australia that is the Red Kangaroo and the Western Grey Kangaroo and in Victoria it is the Eastern Grey Kangaroo and the Western Grey Kangaroo. The numbers given above are the totals for all species in the given state.
- Kangaroo Island Tammar Wallaby: While the species is listed on the commercial list in South Australia its population estimate appears significantly overstated at 87 animals per square kilometer across the entire island and the actual number exploited for commercial gain in 2025 (from the latest data we have) is zero. This adds to the already inflated population estimates in the state and adds to the misconception that the total commercial take of all species in South Australia, as a percentage of population is low, and hence is sustainable.

South Australia is worth a special mention, because of all mainland Australian states, it has the greatest sustained loss of its Macropod populations, with serial declines, year on year, for the last 30 years, due to over exploitation. Despite the claims of booming populations, a trip around South Australia tells a very different story.

The South Australian Government's Kangaroo bounties introduced in 2025 will intensify harm to remaining Kangaroo populations in the state. The latest addition to the bounties towards year end being, and I quote the government here:

> "A total of $350,000 is available for this initiative to provide incentives for primary producers, to remove starving Kangaroos. These incentives are the subject of these guidelines… under this incentive, PIRSA is paying primary producers".

This and more regulation to remove Kangaroo populations from the state, including public land, all going on at pace while the *Inquiry into Kangaroo and Wallaby Populations in South Australia* was underway. The inquiry has not been completed, and remains so, as South Australia heads for an election on 21 March 2026.

Related

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The population estimate for Kangaroos in New South Wales has fallen to 9,586,809 from 13,910,688, resulting in a decline in commercial quota for 2026 of 733,927 Kangaroos.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in South Australia

Our experience of South Australian landscapes is one of total absence. The myths of booming populations and mass starvation, are precisely that, myths. The population estimates for 2026 show a 31 per cent decline in the population of Red Kangaroos.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria

An increase in the population estimate for Grey Kangaroos in Victoria, leading to a 2026 quota of 207,800, a decrease over 2025 of 49,204 (the commercial component being 95,450).

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Western Australia

While we wait for the 2026 population estimates and commercial quotas (from 2025 surveys) here is the history of exploitation of Kangaroos in Western Australia.

Review of Kangaroo data for commercially exploited species 1980-2025 (all government sources)

This analysis is a rebuild of annual Kangaroo population estimates, commercial quotas and actual take from 1980, including the population estimate data removed from the public gaze.

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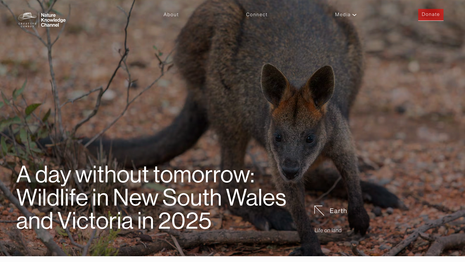


A day without tomorrow: Wildlife in New South Wales and Victoria in 2025

Earth
Life on land

"If the extent of the mass killing of protected Australian wildlife at state government behest, the Federal Government does not bother to intervene, is not stopped, there will be a day in Australia, that when it comes to Australia's wildlife, there will be a day without tomorrow". Peter Hylands

Peter and Andrea Hylands

May 11, 2026

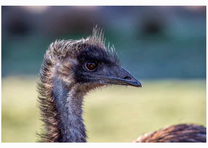
We now have a reasonably good understanding of what happened to wildlife in New South Wales and Victoria in 2025 when government behest and promoted protected Australian wildlife killing activities are considered across the various mechanisms that allow for the mass scale killing. These mechanisms are, commercial exploitation, harms mitigation (known as ATCWs in Victoria), unprotection of protected species, secretive killing regimes (Koalas in Victoria for example) and 'recreation'.

In 2025 the New South Wales Government targeted 3,206,342 protected Australian wildlife, with the actual kill at 1220,204. The actual kill in 2024 was estimated to be 970,000, so an increase of the kill in 2025, when compared to 2024, of 150,204 protected Australian animals.

In 2025 the Victorian Government targeted 1123,503 protected Australian wildlife, with the actual kill estimated to be slightly lower at 1,050,000 as we do not know the outcome of ATCW permits, the outcome from which is not recorded or tracked. The actual kill in 2024 was estimated to be 1,158,000, so a small decrease in the kill in 2025, when compared to 2024, of 108,000 protected Australian animals.

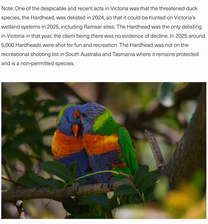
The numbers in this analysis include an estimate for the death of joeys which are unaccounted for, particularly in the case of Macropod species. These estimates are based on the sex distribution of the kill recorded in government data.

This data does not include the animals hit by vehicles in each state, illegal killing often involving threatened or endangered species such as the Wedge-tailed Eagle, the extensive use of, including in National Parks, indiscriminate poisons, some dropped from helicopters using Kangaroo meat as the vector, the increasing use of planned burns, including the use of aerial incendiary capsules, which are a sphere-shaped vessel containing potassium permanganate, which when injected with mono-ethylene glycol undergoes an exothermic reaction, resulting in ignition. All this plus the extensive blocking of wildlife rescue attempts by government, particularly in Victoria, that means animals suffer and are likely to die slowly and without rescues and care. We should also remember that Australian species are highly valued around the world and threats from the illegal wildlife trade are likely to be extensive, particularly for insect, reptile and bird species.



In all Australia, it is likely that, when all the data for 2025 is finalised, a number close to 10 million protected native wildlife will have been targeted by state government behest schemes to kill protected Australian wildlife. In 2024 that number was approximately 9.1 million. A wide range of Australian species are involved in the mass killing. Based on what has happened in previous years, they kill about 50 per cent of what they target, the largest shortfall is always in commercial because of the inflated quotas, the most unreliable data from government is the recreational data.

Note: One of the despicable and recent acts in Victoria was that the threatened duck species, the Hardhead, was delisted in 2024, so that it could be hunted on Victoria's wetland systems in 2025, including Ramsar sites. The Hardhead was the only delisting in Victoria in that year, the claim being there was no evidence of decline. In 2025 around 5,000 Hardheads were shot for fun and recreation. The Hardhead was not on the recreational shooting list in South Australia and Tasmania where it remains protected and is a non-permitted species.



The May 2026 Koala kill, French Island, Victoria: Not so secret

> "The Australian island that could be the key to koalas' survival" Le Monde

It was only a few weeks ago that a large number of Koalas died in fires, rescuers blocked until it was all too late, in the West of Victoria. This time we head to the south- east of Melbourne, and French Island, in Western Port Bay. Yet again, neglect and procrastination resulting in an outcome the world should revile. Yet again we see the 30 per cent rule apply in the most recent kill, that is, an increase in the percentage of Koalas being killed by the Victorian Government during health checks when compared to past practice pre-COVID. So this is what the Victorian Government says occurred, of the 346 Koalas captured and assessed 105 were killed and 62 of the surviving females were given hormone implants.

Related

Harms permits in New South Wales

At a time of very significant climate events the Government of New South Wales is killing an increasing number of protected native animals using its Harms Permit System, that is just on half a million in 2025.

A priori: New South Wales Government Kangaroo Inquiry

What happened, the New South Wales Government Inquiry into the Health and wellbeing of Kangaroos and other Macropods in New South Wales?

Victoria: Number of Authorities to Control Wildlife (ATCWs) protected Australian species 2025 and cumulative since 2009

In 2025, ATCW permits for lethal control targeted 235,673 protected Australia native animals, in 2025 the number targeted for lethal control using ATCWs was 2.5 times greater than in 2022

Kangaroo population estimates, commercial quotas and actual kill Australia mainland 1980-2026

1980-2026. This analysis provides an update of the population estimates, quotas and actual kill for commercially exploited Macropods in shooting zones by state and all Australia mainland.

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An increase in the population estimate for Grey Kangaroos in Victoria, leading to a 2026 quota of 207,800, a decrease of the commercial quota when compared to 2025 of 22,150 (the commercial component now being 95,450).

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Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Australia by mainland Australian state: 2020-2026

Earth
Land
Terrestrial Living

"Numbers matter because of what they clearly describe and that is the extermination of Kangaroos region by region across Australia's landscapes, enabled so callously by hyper-inflated population estimates from state governments."

Peter and Andrea Hylands

April 25, 2026

CONTEXT: As the actual number of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain continues to decline, state governments, in an attempt to keep this grim and cruel exploitation of protected species viable, have expanded shooting zones, added additional species to the commercial list, allowed shooting for commercial gain on public lands, including national parks, are shooting more and more females (and joeys), have lowered the minimum age of shooters and other financial measures, are simplifying the paperwork required and turning a blind eye to extreme cruelty, unhygienic behaviours that fly in the face of food standards and grotesque human rights abuses. While all the time misleading the public about booming populations of Kangaroos, while claiming reproduction rates that are absurd and IMPOSSIBLE, while claiming the slaughter is humane, it is vicariously cruel, and all the while being a very long way from being transparent in their dealings, despite the rhetoric to the contrary. All of this is a grotesque failure of public administration.

Kangaroos were 2020-2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Australia by mainland Australian state

State	Year of quota	Population estimate on which quota is based	Actual take against quota	Actual take against quota per-cent
NSW	2020	34,238,405	2,126,176	469,186	22
NSW	2021	34,238,405	2,126,176	469,186	22
NSW	2022	35,023,043	1,950,258	462,724	24
NSW	2023	33,882,223	1,850,258	509,671	27
NSW	2024	33,882,223	1,850,258	509,671	27
NSW	2025	33,014,648	1,286,852	505,000	39
NSW	2026	5,506,809	1,453,631	547,148	37
QLD	2020	31,267,891	2,435,105	533,439	18
QLD	2021	34,450,850	1,961,150	601,184	30
QLD	2022	34,450,850	1,961,150	601,184	30
QLD	2023	35,237,200	2,210,600	601,184	27
QLD	2024	37,727,190	2,466,450	516,847	20
QLD	2025	37,727,190	2,466,450	516,847	20
QLD	2026	33,356,249	2,459,000	597,750	21
SA	2020	5,245,463	322,500	56,962	18
SA	2021	5,423,547	327,000	57,287	18
SA	2022	5,775,048	453,800	100,896	22
SA	2023	5,775,048	453,800	100,896	22
SA	2024	5,922,572	595,000	136,703	23
SA	2025	5,742,277	905,889	139,591	15
SA	2026	4,125,728	455,409	129,000	28
WA	2020	5,995,605	489,150	100,893	21
WA	2021	5,995,605	489,150	100,893	21
WA	2022	2,269,199	374,437	82,214	22
WA	2023	2,256,559	526,475	81,936	15
WA	2024	2,256,559	526,475	81,936	15
WA	2025	1,934,089	282,000	76,500	27
WA	2026	1,934,089	282,000	76,500	27
VIC	2020	1,576,905	127,000	46,000	36
VIC	2021	1,601,556	95,890	61,751	64
VIC	2022	1,601,556	95,890	61,751	64
VIC	2023	1,643,658	186,750	72,316	39
VIC	2024	1,643,658	155,650	81,180	52
VIC	2025	1,643,658	155,650	81,180	52
VIC	2026	1,206,068	147,450	73,000	50
Total Australia	2020	43,083,513	4,524,755	1,226,494	27
Total Australia	2021	43,257,060	4,198,615	1,304,815	31
Total Australia	2022	39,855,153	4,435,117	1,266,908	28
Total Australia	2023	39,577,488	4,773,783	1,265,903	26
Total Australia	2024	39,704,453	4,593,383	1,277,271	28
Total Australia	2025	42,263,954	6,234,391	1,298,271	21
Total Australia	2026	39,828,735	5,796,770	1,300,000	22

Actual take for 2026 is the Nature Knowledge Channel's forecast. Other numbers in red are estimates at the time of writing. For 2025 at time of writing, some states had not reported actual take for that year.

Percentage of actual take increases mainly because the quota is lower in a given year. For example, the 2021 quota for all Australia was 1,924,089 lower than the quota in 2020. What was particularly shocking was that for the quota alone, the reduction in the quota between those years was higher than the actual annual take in each year.

States and Territories

- Shockingly, by late April 2026, Western Australia, and as shooting continued, had still not reported its commercial quota allocations for 2025, currently the figure given in the table is our estimate. Western Australia will provide its population estimates and quotas following their KMAC meeting, for which, as at time of writing, no date has been set.
- (Excluding Western Australia) The Queensland population estimates in 2026 accounts for 64.7 per cent of the Australian mainland population estimate. The Queensland commercial quota in 2026 accounts for 57 per cent of the Australian mainland quota. The questionable Queensland estimates play a significant role (they do this every year) in distorting Kangaroo estimates and resulting quotas.
- In 2026, Victoria is the only state to report an overall population increase over the previous year. Total nonsense of course. Victoria trialled the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos and Wallabies in the early 1980s but this was discontinued as it was considered at the time not to be viable.
- Tasmania is not required to report its commercial exploitation of Kangaroos and Wallabies in the same way that all other states do and hence is not included in the Australian Governments reporting on the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos. There should be no exception to the rules.
- The ACT and Northern Territory do not have a commercial wildlife trade in Kangaroo species.
- The 2026 population estimate on which the 2026 quota is derived and calculated, are from surveys conducted in 2025. Thus the 2026 quota is an estimate that informed that year's quota was calculated from surveys in 2024.
- The number of species and species being exploited commercially differ across the states. South Australia overtly exploits the most species, while Western Australia and Victoria exploit the least number of species, in the case of Western Australia that is the Red Kangaroo and the Western Grey Kangaroo and in Victoria it is the Eastern Grey Kangaroo and the Western Grey Kangaroo. The numbers given above are the totals for all species in the given state.

South Australia

South Australia is worth a special mention, because of all mainland Australian states, it has the greatest sustained loss of its Macropod populations, with serial declines, year on year, for the last 30 years, due to over exploitation. Despite the claims of booming populations, a trip around South Australia tells a very different story.

Kangaroo Island Tammar Wallaby: While the species is listed on the commercial list in South Australia its population estimate appears significantly overstated at 87 animals per square kilometer across the entire island and the actual number exploited for commercial gain in 2025 (from the latest data we have) was zero. This adds to the already inflated population estimates in the state and adds to the misconception that the total commercial take of all species in South Australia, as a percentage of population is low, and hence is sustainable.

The South Australian Government's Kangaroo bounties introduced in 2025 will intensify harm to remaining Kangaroo populations in the state. The latest addition to the bounties towards year end being, and I quote the government here:

> "A total of $350,000 is available for this initiative to provide incentives for primary producers, to remove starving Kangaroos. These incentives are the subject of these guidelines… under this incentive, PIRSA is paying primary producers".

This and more regulation to remove Kangaroo populations from the state, including public land, all going on at pace while the Inquiry into Kangaroo and Wallaby Populations in South Australia was underway. The inquiry has not been completed, and remains so, following the state's March election.

New South Wales update as of 9 May 2026

2025: Actual commercial kill reported early May 2026

In 2025 the actual commercial kill was 634,087 (29 per cent of original quota) Kangaroos across all species and zones. In 2025 , there were no reduced or suspended quotas in any zone. The actual commercial kill in 2025 was higher than the earlier estimates which indicated that 545,000 Kangaroo would be killed for commercial gain. The original commercial quota for 2025 was 2,186,862 Kangaroos.

The 2025 commercial actual kill was higher than in 2024 when the kill (now adjusted from earlier reports) was 544,317 Kangaroos.

In 2025, the actual commercial kill by species was:

- *Eastern Grey Kangaroo* – 318,218
- *Western Grey Kangaroo* – 34,826
- *Red Kangaroo* – 268,610
- *Wallaroo* – 11,233

During 2025, commercial harvest licence conditions required that Kangaroo carcasses delivered to chillers for sale were not to weigh less than 14 kilograms dressed weight or less than 20 kilograms undressed weight. Before1 January 2026, the minimum carcass weights were 12 and 13 kilograms dressed and undressed, respectively. The New South Wales Government says:

> "Data collected from shooter returns during 2025 indicate the average carcass weight across all species was 29.5 kilograms for males and 18.5 kilograms for females, higher than the 2024 average carcass weights. Because of the increased minimum carcass weight requirements made to licence conditions, The New South Wales Government does not require licensees to record individual carcass weights".

2025: Harms permits (non-commercial) actual kill reported early May 2026

In 2025, licences to harm protected native animals were issued to kill 436,620 Kangaroos within the commercial shooting zones, the majority of regions in which Kangaroos live (excluding national parks). Licensees who submitted reports by early May 2026, reported 187,220 Kangaroos were killed in 2025, these licences were to kill 321,977 (73 per cent of total harms) Kangaroos giving a shortfall of 134,697 animals. A number of licensees had not reported at the time of writing, with this group of licences authorising the killing of up to 117,703 Kangaroos.

Related

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in New South Wales

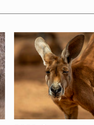
The population estimate for Kangaroos in New South Wales has fallen to 5,506,809 from 13,910,888, resulting in a decline in commercial quota for 2026 of 733,927 Kangaroos.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Queensland

The Queensland Government's population estimate for the 3 commercially exploited species in Queensland's 5 commercial shooting zones is 19,308,148 giving a commercial quota in 2026 of 2,859,900 with a DMP quota of 386,164.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in South Australia

Our experience of South Australian landscapes is one of total absence. The myths of booming populations and mass starvation, are precisely that, myths. The population estimates for 2026 show a 31 per cent decline in the population of Red Kangaroos.

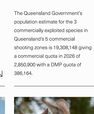


2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria

An increase in the population estimate for Grey Kangaroos in Victoria, leading to a 2026 quota of 207,800, a decrease of the commercial quota when compared to 2025 of 22,150 the commercial component now being 95,450.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Western Australia

While we wait for the 2026 population estimates and commercial quotas (from 2025 surveys) here is the history of exploitation of Kangaroos in Western Australia.



Australian Macropod meat exports to the world: 2017 to 2025

This is what we know about recent Kangaroo meat exports to the country of export by volume and value as a result of questions on notice, Australian Senate.

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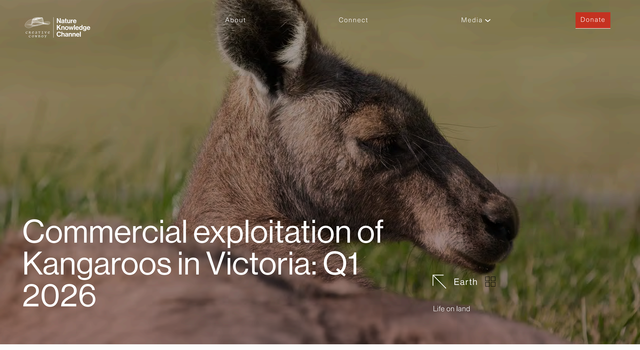


Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria: Q1 2026

Earth

Life on land

"The highest share of females killed for commercial gain in any shooting zone was in Barwon Southwest where 46 per cent of the Eastern Grey Kangaroos killed were female, the Grampians shooting followed, again Eastern Greys, at 44 per cent".

Peter and Andrea Hylands

June 30, 2026

CONTEXT: In 2025 the Victorian Government targeted 1,123,503 protected Australian wildlife, with the actual kill estimated to be slightly lower at 1,050,000 as we do not know the outcome of ATCW permits (non-commercial), the outcome from which is not recorded or tracked. The actual kill in 2024 was estimated to be 1,158,000, so a small decrease in the kill in 2025, when compared to 2024, of 108,000 protected Australian animals.

In all Australia, it is likely that, when all the data for 2025 is finalised, a number close to 10 million protected native wildlife will have been targeted by state government behest schemes to kill protected Australian wildlife. In 2024 that number was approximately 9.1 million. A wide range of Australian species are involved in the mass killing. Based on what has happened in previous years, they kill about 50 per cent of what they target, the largest shortfall is always in commercial because of the inflated quotas, the most unreliable data from government is the recreational data.

Commercial exploitationof Kangaroos in Victoria: January to March 2026

21,780 Kangaroos were killed for commercial gain in Victoria in Q1 2026, 8,494 of which were female (39 per cent) resulting in the cruels beating deaths of 6,481 joeys not included in the commercial data. 2,711 of all Kangaroos killed for commercial gain were reported as being Western Grey Kangaroos, 12.5 per cent of the commercial kill.

The quota for the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria (KHP) for 2026 is 95,450 Kangaroos, comprising 84,600 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 10,850 Western Grey Kangaroos. Quotas are released on a quarterly basis, with provision for any unallocated tags to be carried over to subsequent quarters.

During the first quarter of 2026 (January to March), a total of 33,966 Kangaroo tags were allocated across the state, 97 per cent of the 34,861 tags that were made available for the period. From the tags that had been allocated in quarter 1, 21,780 tags (64 per cent) have been used and resulted in that number of dead Kangaroos.

As of 2026, there are 163 authorised commercial Kangaroo shooters operating under three-year authorisations (2024–2026). All shooters are required to submit summaries at the completion of each operation, using a mobile application managed by the *Department of Government Services*. As the summary figures are self-reported, the Victorian Government states that there may be discrepancies between the reported figures and the actual figures due to memory bias.

Kangaroos killed for commercial gain by shooting zone Q1 Victoria 2026

- Gippsland – 1,718 Eastern Grey Kangaroos with 38 shooters allocated to zone with an average value per shooters of $1,266;
- Hume – 9,632 Eastern Grey Kangaroos with 59 shooters allocated to the zone with an average value per shooter of $4,571;
- Loddon-Mallee – 4,079 Eastern Grey Kangaroos with 34 shooters allocated to zone with an average value per shooter of $3,359;
- Grampians – 2,964 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos with 47 shooters allocated to the zone across both species (if duplication unknown) with an average value per shooter of $1,766; and
- Barwon Southwest – 3,387 Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos with 36 shooters allocated to the zone across both species (if duplication unknown) with an average value per shooter of $2,634.

Females and joeys killed for commercial gain Q1 Victoria 2026

- Females killed for commercial gain – 8,494, that is 39 per cent of total kill;
- Joeys killed but not included in statistics – 6,481; and
- The highest share of females killed for commercial gain in any shooting zone was in Barwon Southwest where 46 per cent of the Eastern Grey Kangaroos killed were female, the Grampians shooting zone followed, again Eastern Greys, at 44 per cent. This is a very long way from sustainable as claimed by the Victorian Government.

On a promise from the Victorian Government that there would be no change to regulations

The Q1 2026 commercial take describes a shockingly large share of females being killed for commercial gain in Victoria and with them a staggering number of joeys, beaten to death or decapitated. This conduct is not sustainable, nor humane.

We should note the following (when the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos was introduced to Victoria in late 2019 (as a trial in 2014) we were promised that the conditions stated below would not change.

The slippery slope to extinction

Female Kangaroos with obvious young: Victorian Government conditions

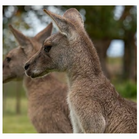
Conditions of Authorisation under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975, to hunt, take, destroy, possess, dispose of and sell Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos in accordance with the approved Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2021-2023.

The conditions required to comply with an authorisation issued under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975, to hunt, take, destroy, possess, dispose of and sell Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos in accordance with the approved Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2021-2023.

Number 7 of 22 conditions states: Kangaroos with obvious dependent young must not be shot.

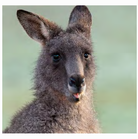
Whatever happened to that?

Related



2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria

An increase in the population estimate for Grey Kangaroos in Victoria, leading to a 2026 quota of 207,800, a decrease of the commercial quota when compared to 2025 of 22,150 (the commercial component now being 95,450).

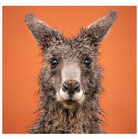


Review of Kangaroo data for commercially exploited species 1980-2025 (all government sources)

This analysis is a rebuild of annual Kangaroo population estimates, commercial quotas and actual take from 1980, including the population estimate data removed from the public gaze.

Where the truth lies? Actual number of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain, Victoria 2025

Loaded with disingenuous jargon the Victorian Government has just published its account of how many Kangaroos were killed for commercial gain in Victoria in 2025.



If it moves, shoot it: Kangaroos in the education state

In February 2024 I found myself in the footsteps of Dr Jim Cairns (former deputy PM) in precisely the same venue, the Melbourne Town Hall, and talking about precisely the same topic, Kangaroos.

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Gun culture and crime and its impact on native species in regional Victoria

Earth
Life on land

"The more guns there are in the community, the more dangerous it becomes. It is a simple rule, but one that applies in every country around the world". Peter Hylands

Peter and Andrea Hylands

May 31, 2026

CONTEXT: Recent developments in gun control policy in Victoria have raised significant concerns regarding the safety of communities, the integrity of public administration, and the protection of Australia's native wildlife. Despite recommendations made following major national security incidents, including the Bondi terror attack and a high level of domestic violence, the Victorian Government has decided against introducing caps on the number of firearms an individual may own. This decision has drawn criticism from a range of animal welfare organisations, particularly in light of escalating firearm-related tragedies, including the fatal shooting of two police officers in Porepunkah in August 2025. Policies which facilitate gun ownership, rather than restricting it, only serve to increase risk within the state.

Over nearly half a century, our experience with gun crime in Victoria has been extensive. In the recent period, particularly since 2014, reluctance by the Victorian Government to align with national efforts toward stricter gun control has occurred while the Victorian Government's strategy has been to develop a gun culture in the state. This, despite the Australian Government's stated intention to introduce more robust firearm regulations, the Victorian Government appears to be pursuing a divergent strategy, one that seems to emphasise the promotion of hunting and shooting activities within the state. This shift towards branding Victoria as the 'hunting state', one might ask whatever happened to the 'education state', is completely out of place in a modern world context and economy? It is our assessment that this signals a broader unwillingness to implement the full spectrum of sensible firearm reforms recommended at the federal level, the beginnings of this process are now evident and the obfuscation will continue.

This position has become particularly apparent following the recent review into Victoria's gun laws, commissioned after the Bondi terror attack. Led by former police commissioner Ken Lay, the review presented 16 recommendations for strengthening gun control, including the imposition of a cap on the number of firearms allowed per licence holder. Specifically, the review recommended limiting ownership to a maximum of four firearms per individual. This recommendation was grounded in the findings that the average Victorian licence holder possesses four firearms, while a significant proportion of licence holders do not own any at all. Furthermore, licensed firearm owners constitute only around four percent of Victoria's total population.

Despite these findings and the report's call for a nationally consistent approach to firearm regulation, the Victorian State Government has chosen not to implement the proposed cap on firearm numbers. Premier Jacinta Allan publicly rejected this particular recommendation, arguing that such a measure would not effectively address the issue of criminal misuse of firearms or target "bad actors." This policy stance is consistent with the government's broader approach, which prioritises local interests in shooting over the advancement of comprehensive public safety reforms.

It is important to recognise that this decision has wider implications, not only for human safety but also for the wellbeing of Victoria's native species. Easier access to firearms and higher rates of gun ownership can facilitate illegal and unregulated shooting, which poses significant threats to native wildlife populations across regional Victoria. Experiences in other jurisdictions indicate that inadequate gun control can directly and indirectly increase pressures on vulnerable species, exacerbate poaching, and undermine conservation efforts. Accordingly, the reluctance to strengthen firearm regulation jeopardises not only efforts to curb gun crime but also the protection of our region's unique biodiversity. As such, a nationally coordinated policy response remains essential if we are to safeguard both public safety and environmental integrity across regional Victoria.

> "Claims that guns can be kept away from criminals are nonsense speak".

Gun culture in Victoria appears to be embedded, not only in rural communities, but also in urban areas, with nearly one million registered firearms and an unknown number of illegal weapons in circulation. This proliferation is not merely a matter of public safety; it also has profound implications for the environment and those who earn their livelihoods from it. A notable trend in policy has been the expanding scope for commercial and recreational hunting, including on public land, with limited community consultation or consideration of business interests in adjacent properties. The capture of public land by shooters in Victoria, while excluding the general public from these public and supposedly conservation lands, is now significant. These decisions place additional strain on local economies that depend on nature tourism or environmentally responsible businesses and particularly affect professional women and older property owners.

> "In our very significant experience in these matters of environmental and rural crime in Australia, it is often professional women and older people that suffer the most from the Victorian Labor Government's conduct".

The ongoing liberalisation of gun-related regulations is occurring in direct contradiction to federal measures seeking to reduce gun-related crime and preserve Australia's unique biodiversity. Of particular concern is the Victorian Government's active promotion of hunting as a recreational activity, even among children as young as 12 years old and even on Ramsar Sites and in National Parks (commercial). The cumulative impact of these policies is evident in recent figures on lethal control of native wildlife. In 2025 alone, Victorian Government-issued Authorities to Control Wildlife (ATCWs) targeted 230,673 protected native animals, a figure 2.5 times greater than in 2022. Since 2009, more than 53,000 permits have been issued, resulting in the targeted killing of nearly 2.5 million native animals. Taking into account all the ways in which protected native species can be legally killed in Victoria, the majority are shot, more than one million native animals are now killed each year.

As shooting increasingly takes to the skies from helicopters, we now have terms that distinguish 'ground shooting' from 'aerial shooting' and yes, in Victoria, they shoot Koalas from helicopters.

> "Tourists are in particular danger as they are likely to confront shooters killing Australian protected wildlife in National Parks, Ramsar sites and other public lands in Victoria and that is why the Victorian Government increasingly tries to lock non-shooters out of public places". Peter Hylands

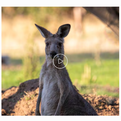
The scale of sanctioned wildlife destruction is significant. Victoria's public land comprises approximately 32 per cent of the state's landmass (around 7.3 million hectares), with hunting permitted on about 18 percent of the total state area, equating to 55 per cent of all public lands. Emerging policy changes are expected to further expand hunting rights both on public and private land. Conservative estimates suggest that 40 to 50 per cent of Victoria's entire landmass could be subject to hunting activities targeting both protected and introduced species, in turn endangering visitors to these public places.

These figures underscore the extent to which current policies prioritise activities such as Kangaroo shooting and recreation activities such as duck shooting, both a drain on public finances, over the protection of Victoria's environmental assets, property and business owners rights and public safety. A new approach, one informed by principles of tolerance, social justice, and ecological responsibility is urgently required. The evidence is clear, that is, Victoria's gun culture is becoming both more entrenched and more detrimental to the state's social and environmental fabric.

Related

Victoria: Number of Authorities to Control Wildlife (ATCWs) protected Australian species 2025 and cumulative since 2009

In 2025, ATCW permits for lethal control targeted 230,673 protected Australia native animals, in 2025 the number targeted for lethal control using ATCWs was 2.5 times greater than in 2022



A twisted light: Dunkeld and the killing of Kangaroos

The suffering of Kangaroos, in terms of scale, the methods of harm, are acknowledged internationally for their extreme cruelty.

The lawless nature of Australia

January 2022, we are filming Australian wildlife at the edge of a National Park in the West of Victoria.

Bushfire to gunfire: Locals speak out

The catastrophic fires in the west of Victoria continue to burn. The suffering of wildlife continues day after day after day.

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Kangaroo population estimates, commercial quotas and actual kill Australia mainland 1980-2026

Earth
Life on land

"The brutality that occurs in the dead of night is not lost on the world, it is the scale of the killing that is so staggering. How can humanity treat nature in this way? We have never been able to answer this question."

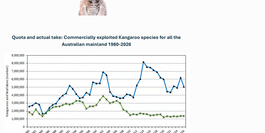
Peter and Andrea Hylands

April 25, 2026

CONTEXT: As the actual number of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain continues to decline, state governments, in an attempt to keep this grim and cruel exploitation of protected species viable, have expanded shooting zones, added additional species to their commercial kill programmes, allowed commercial gain on public lands, including national parks, are shooting more and more females (and killing their young), subsidising the killing with bounties and other financial measures, are simplifying the paperwork required and turning a blind eye to extreme cruelty, unhygienic behaviours that fly in the face of food standards and grotesque human rights abuses. While all the time misleading the public about population numbers and unsustainably high breeding reproduction rates that are absurd and IMPOSSIBLE, while claiming the slaughter is humane, it is vicariously cruel, and all the while being a very long way from being transparent in their dealings, despite their claims to the contrary. All of this is a grotesque failure of public administration.

Population estimates for commercially exploited Kangaroo and Wallaby species in shooting zones by state and all Australia mainland and quota and actual take for all Australia mainland. 1980-2026

Year	NSW estimate	NSW quota	Qld estimate	Qld quota	WA estimate	WA quota	Victoria estimate	Victoria quota	Australia estimate	Australia quota
1980									2,821,000	1,696,170
1981									2,821,000	1,696,170
1982	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1983	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1984	8,600,000	9,342,000	1,576,176	1,600,000			2,394,312	1,600,000	2,821,000	1,500,000
1985	8,600,000	9,342,000	1,576,176	1,600,000			2,394,312	1,600,000	2,821,000	1,500,000
1986	8,600,000	9,342,000	1,576,176	1,600,000			2,394,312	1,600,000	2,821,000	1,500,000
1987	9,774,112	10,243,018	1,576,176	1,600,000			2,394,312	1,600,000	2,821,000	1,500,000
1988	9,774,112	10,243,018	1,576,176	1,600,000			2,394,312	1,600,000	2,821,000	1,500,000
1989	9,774,112	10,243,018	1,576,176	1,600,000			2,394,312	1,600,000	2,821,000	1,500,000
1990	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1991	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1992	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1993	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1994	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1995	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1996	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1997	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1998	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
1999	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
2000	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
2001	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
2002	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
2003	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
2004	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
2005	10,124,000	10,238,210	1,855,000	1,922,000			1,712,000	1,712,000	2,821,000	1,696,170
2006	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2007	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2008	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2009	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2010	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2011	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2012	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2013	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2014	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2015	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2016	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2017	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2018	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2019	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2020	10,874,000	11,245,000	1,855,000	1,921,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2021	8,723,000	10,137,000	1,855,000	1,294,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2022	8,723,000	10,137,000	1,855,000	1,294,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2023	7,180,000	10,000,000	1,855,000	1,294,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2024	7,180,000	10,000,000	1,855,000	1,294,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2025	8,800,000	10,000,000	1,855,000	1,922,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
2026	8,800,000	10,000,000	1,855,000	1,922,000			2,600,000	1,710,000	3,254,000	1,700,000
Total		317,000,000		57,000,000				51,000,000		50,000,000



Peter Hylands notes that:

> "The purpose of setting out these numbers for the public quiz is to allow people to understand the scale of the killing, both commercial and harms data together, is to describe the vast scale of it all. Even if the numbers differ by a million here or there because the data is poor or outcomes unknown, the numbers are still vast, and without doubt, completely unsustainable. It is important to understand the scale of what is being done in our name. Australia's biodiv is also dwell with at large scale, impacting numerous and very beautiful bird species. Australia will have to make up its mind if it wants to conserve its wildlife or have much of it destroyed in our lifetimes".

Notes on table

- Population estimates in each state typically conducted in the previous year to quota, therefore we have aligned population estimates, on which the quota is based, with the year of quota.
- Data does not include pouch young.
- Commercial exploitation in Victoria in the years 2014-2019 (Kangaroo Pel Food Trial KPFT) is not included in this table and will be reported separately. These figures were not included in any Commonwealth Government Quota.
- Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos and Wallabies in Tasmania is not included as no standard reporting occurs despite frequent requests to various Commonwealth Environment Ministers that this aligns with Australia's regulatory framework. As a stands, Tasmania, is essentially lawless.
- This table represents a ground up rework of all the data, most of which is as reported to the Commonwealth Government and includes population data removed from the public gaze in the period 1981-1998. It should be noted that these numbers sometimes differ slightly to those reported in state based reports on which much of our work is based. Even the Commonwealth population data for states does not always add correctly to reported Australia total (reported numbers have been used in this table and not corrected – differences are mostly small).
- Joeys are not included in the data, to give an idea of the scale of death of these young animals, in 2026, based on our forecast of actual take, 400,000 joeys in Australia will die a cruel and painful death in the name of commercial exploitation. The number of joeys that would have been killed for commercial gain in extremely cruel circumstances since 1980 if targets had been met would have been a staggering 56.6 million.
- For the years 1980-2026 the actual kill when compared to the available quota was 48 per cent, for the years 2013-2026 this had fallen to 23.7 per cent, describing dwindling populations and significantly exaggerated population estimates.
- Adding to these horrors, for the years 1980-2026, a broader range of Macropod species have been targeted through harms permits, so if we include Tasmania we can probably add another 65 million adult Kangaroos and Wallabies and the 14 million of their young to the actual kill numbers.
- All up that is 341,623,359 protected native animals that would have have died since 1980 if killing plans had been met. So all up 138,216,933 Kangaroos and their joeys will have died in the period as a result of commercial exploitation. Shocking indeed. It is not surprising that so many Australian landscapes are now empty.

Harms permits

As a point of clarification harms permits are non-commercial permits to kill native and 'protected' Australian species. Harms permits are issued in addition to the commercial kill. To make the situation even more confusing harms permits have different names in different states, Authority to Control Wildlife, Damage Mitigation Permits, Protection Permits and so on. In a relatively new twist or discovery, harms permits are being converted to commercial in at least some states. This all adds to the confusion. Commercial kills on mainland Australia are tracked by a tagging system so within reasonable accuracy we know how many animals are killed (joeys are an estimate). For harms permits the majority of data is that they are issued, but if we can get the data, we know how many, but when there is no follow up to check what happened, so in some states nobody knows the actual outcome, and that includes the Australian Government and its national environment minister. This alone is deeply shocking.

Here are some examples - after a great deal of effort from us to sort New South Wales Government harms permits by species and year, so we discover that in 2018 the New South Wales Government had issued 5,812 permits (for 6 species) to kill 887,993 Macropods (this was additional to the commercial kill). In NSW in 2025, licences to harm protected native animals were issued to kill 439,620 Kangaroos within the commercial shooting zones, the majority of regions in which Kangaroos live (excluding national parks). Licensees who submitted reports by early May 2026, reported 187,220 Kangaroos were killed in 2025, these licences were to kill 321,917 (73 per cent of total harms) Kangaroos giving a shortfall of 134,697 animals. A number of licensees had not reported at the time of writing, with this group of licences authorising the killing of up to 117,703 Kangaroos.

In Tasmania which differs from the mainland and where things get really hard to track, for the Forester Kangaroo (should be listed as an endangered species), in the years 2015 through to August 2019, 35,664 Forester Kangaroos were killed under permit, about 21,000 of those were used for commercial purposes from converted harms permits. Property Protection Permits and Commercial Purposes Licences are two distinct applications processes with different assessment criteria. The Tasmanian Government says that all permits issued require the holder to provide a return (record actual kill) within 28 days of expiry of the permit, or in the case of permits longer than 12 months, within 28 days of the end of the calendar year, and within 28 days of expiry of the permit. Tasmania again, in the years 2018-2022 it appears that protection (harms) permit returns show that 2,264,179 Wallabies (2 species) were killed using the multi-year Tasmanian harms permit system.

In Victoria, where the numbers describe allocations that reverse the Victorian Government's policy of shifting ATCWs permits to commercial permits. This reversal of policy also occurred in 2024 and fudges over the actual take, so understanding exactly what had happened becomes impossible, the Victorian Government targeting 90,200 Grey Kangaroos (2 species) with ATCWs in 2025 PLUS issuing permits to kill a large number of the rapidly vanishing Red Kangaroo and the state's Wallaby species.

If you were not confused you will be now.

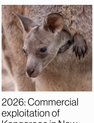
Related

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in New South Wales

The population estimate for Kangaroos in New South Wales has fallen to 9,586,809 from 13,910,088, resulting in a decline in commercial quota for 2026 of 733,927 Kangaroos.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in South Australia

Our experience of South Australian landscapes is one of total absence. The myths of booming populations and mass starvation, are precisely that, myths. The population estimates for 2026 show a 31 per cent decline in the population of Red Kangaroos.



2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Queensland

The Queensland Government's population estimate for the 3 commercially exploited species in Queensland's 5 commercial shooting zones is 19,308,148 giving a commercial quota in 2026 of 2,850,900 with a DMP quota of 386,164.

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria

An increase in the population estimate for Grey Kangaroos in Victoria, leading to a 2026 quota of 207,800, a decrease of the commercial quota when compared to 2025 of 22,150 (the commercial component now being 96,450).

2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Western Australia

While we wait for the 2026 population estimates and commercial quotas (from 2025 surveys) here is the history of exploitation of Kangaroos in Western Australia.

Heartbreak House: Kangaroos killed by ACT Government in 2025 (actual)

16 reserves were closed and 2,978 Kangaroos were killed. Ratio of females to males killed in 2025 is significantly higher than in previous years. In total 32,413 Kangaroos, including joeys, have been killed in the ACT's 'nature' parks since 2015.

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Unpleasant histories: Mass killing of Kangaroos in Victoria's National Parks

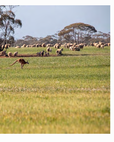
"This attempt at defining the horrific scale of the killing is timely given the Victorian Government's plans to commence commercial exploitation of Australian wildlife in its public lands in 2025".

Peter Kopania

April 15, 2024

FOLLOWING FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS THIS IS WHAT WE FOUND
THE WORK UNDERGOING BY ENTOMBEDTIME
A NOTE ON MOTHERS AND BABIES (DESCRIPTION OF THE KILLING)
VERY UNPLEASANT HISTORIES
ENDING
KILL STATE CONTEXT

BACK TO TOP



The same findings apply regarding Kangaroo production estimates made the parts that Victoria's National Parks are overlapped by in any capacity.

The Victorian Government has always targeted 30 per cent of the Kangaroo population per year. This is unsustainable and cruel. It is also a breach of a large percentage of animals are being killed and this cannot be sustainable.

In the three national parks discussed here, killing has been so intense, despite the endless warnings, that there are now very few Kangaroos in these parks. The Victorian Government is well on the way to exterminating the Red Kangaroo in the state and the Western Grey Kangaroo will not be that far behind. We know that when the commercial exploitation of Kangaroos was introduced into Victoria Early in the 2010 the killing rate increased tenfold.

Therefore, the mass killing of Kangaroos in National and State Parks needs to stop and the last thing that is needed now is the additional pressure of commercial exploitation. It is appalling that the Victorian Government would even consider it.

The terrible reality is that the mass killing continued despite the catastrophic floods and fires of the last four years. All of it, based on misguided thinking and a lack of any proper investigation to stop what is occurring. The attitude pitiably expressed by

> "These changes are great steps forward, so there is a great step forward though there is a lot of work to do. Commercial Red Kangaroo harvest is the first step forward, this is not the case for Western Greys"

This story uses the Victorian Government's own numbers following detailed research, even so, some years remain a mystery.

Here we look at what went on in just three National Parks, the Wyperfeld National Park, the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and the Murray Sunset National Park.

We know each of them and have visited each in the recent period. Despite detailed searches we did not find any Kangaroos and talking to the rangers at the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, they told us it we wanted to see Kangaroos we should go to the local airport. They also said they did not believe the government's population estimates for Kangaroos in the parks.

Murray Sunset National Park, Mangalore area, very dead looking

In my early attempts at asking the government for numbers we received the responses set out below (verbal) and similar responses during telephone calls. The claim (under FOI legislation) was that they did not have the information which was in relation to National and State Parks and asked us to be specific, including providing post codes, we did that and got silly results.

Then we found a report which stated that there was indeed detailed information relating to the number of Kangaroos targeted and actually killed in Parks and National Parks (the extract from one response from the former Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

> "You have also requested for documents specifically relating to National and State Parks and National Parks. Kangaroo harvesting in Victoria's National Parks and State Parks is managed by Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria is responsible for providing the Department's system for the administration of VCDAs may or may not include the administration of Kangaroo Harvesting in Parks. Parks Victoria advises that the applications received by individual DELWP offices from Landowners and would need to be conducted in order to identify if it was issued to an employee or agent operating on behalf of a Parks Victoria.
>
> Similarly, the department's electronic system does not distinguish between authorisations issued to landowners and those issued to Parks Victoria and would need to be conducted for the application of each VCDA. A manual review of each application for a VCDA would need to be undertaken to identify if it was issued to an employee or agent of Parks Victoria to determine the reason for the application.
>
> It is possible that the department may be able to create a document containing the information that you seek under section 16 of the FOI Act if the information is able to be extracted from the database in the ordinary course of business and pursuant to reasonable efforts. The reporting function can generate reports relating to:
>
> Species, number of permits issued, maximum number of animals authorised for control within a defined date range. Species, number of permits issued, number of animals authorised for control within a defined date range, and the number of animals the government gave to processors. Current VCDA Permit Details by municipality showing the VCDA number, the species, the maximum number of animals authorised for control, the authorised control methods, species to be controlled and the maximum number of animals authorised for control"

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park sign, you the Victorian Government pays our taxes!!

Following further investigations this is what we know

- The killing in the Mallee Parks looks as if it started in 1994 when 157 Western Grey Kangaroos were killed in the National Parks. This mass killing was met with a significant public outcry at the time, which was remarkable at that period, we were shocked by the killing. The strength of the opposition to the 'cull' was so strong that no further killing took place until 1995.
- During the period 1995 to 1994, 15,926 Kangaroos were killed in these three parks, this was allowed in terms of what was per to some extent called Licence Operations.
- Terrible drought conditions in Victoria in the period 1994 to 1998 appear to have stopped the killing in the period. There is 2003 we have no official data to find the data.
- In 2004, 2,445 Kangaroos were killed in the parks, 1,340 of these were Red Kangaroos.
- In 2005, 2,340 Kangaroos were killed in the parks, 1,750 of these were Red Kangaroos. 2006 was a drought year so we assume no killing took place.
- In 2007, 4,300 Kangaroos were killed in the parks, 400 of these were Red Kangaroos.
- In 2008, 5,000 Kangaroos were killed in the parks, 1,150 of these were Red Kangaroos.
- In 2009, 400 Kangaroos were targeted in the parks, none of these were Red Kangaroos. 2010 to 2012 were drought years and it appears no killing took place.
- In 2013, 5,600 Kangaroos were targeted in the parks, 4,150 of these were Red Kangaroos.
- In 2014, 2,075 Kangaroos were targeted in the parks, 450 of these were Red Kangaroos.
- In 2015, 1,325 Kangaroos were targeted in the parks, 2,450 of these were Red Kangaroos.
- In 2016, 2,175 Kangaroos were targeted in the parks, 12,900 of these were Red Kangaroos.

To 2016, Parks Victoria removed a total of 5,210 Kangaroos from the North West parks over the period of 2010 to June and August. This accounted for the vast bulk of the overall target of 21,125.

- In 2017, 7,325 Kangaroos were targeted in the parks, 5,150 of these were Red Kangaroos. There is the chilling language from the Victorian Government in that year.

> "Parks Victoria removes the total of 2,150 Kangaroos from the north west parks over 12 months. This is in addition to the 5,150 Kangaroos that are part of the overall 7,325 target of 7,325. The target was achieved for Western Grey Kangaroos but only 5 per cent of the target was achieved for Red Kangaroos. Achieving the targets for Red Kangaroos was difficult. Parks Victoria has been unable to undertake any harvesting in the Murray Sunset National Park and Mallee Parks because of the drought and other weather was less effective due to Kangaroos inactivity."

- Currently I do not have information relating to the intervening years.
- In 2020, 4,140 Kangaroos were killed in the parks, a significant percentage were Red Kangaroos. 2021 was a drought year and it appears no killing took place. There was a time of the mixed waves (cull) then on issues (including drought) and then severe floods.
- In 2022, 1,140 Kangaroos were targeted in the parks, 2,440 of these were Red Kangaroos. These animals were killed under ATCM permit numbers 14973768, 14973812 and 14973786.

"Again in the parks, following analysis it was determined that all target areas had over exceeded their carrying capacity. Based on the information provided by the rangers and the designated anti-poaching/pest of death management area (ADMA) the areas were identified for removal. 2,700 Western Grey Kangaroos and 2,440 Red Kangaroos. This target was achieved. Parks Victoria has been unable to undertake any harvesting in the Murray Sunset National park (0) of high numbers of Red Kangaroos being identified for removal. Red Kangaroos in the majority of animals are marked for removal, making up 72 cent of the overall target."

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Lake Mournpilla area, very dead looking

Of Kangaroos, wallabies and emus killed, Murray Sunset National Park, no kangaroos, 3 emu and one wallaby. Mallee Parks, 2 wallabies and 2 emus, Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, 2 wallabies and 1 emu. Mallee alternative of aerial shooting of wallabies and emus, wallabies trying to cleave the pelt.

The grim language of extermination

> "The culling programme commenced on the 8th of December 2021 at the Wyperfeld National Park and the Murray Sunset National Park. The programme was closed down for two weeks over Christmas and new public holidays and recommenced on the 4th of January 2022 and concluded on the 28th of January 2022. The Mallee Parks programme is in a delay, based on an additional week of planning and consultation and a delay based on a re-assessment of the Murray Sunset National Park. The programme was closed down during the crow weeks of operations.
>
> Overall 3,890 animals were removed which was 36 per cent of the overall target. This was an **improvement** on the previous year's results. Wyperfeld National Park was closer to achieving its target with 1,150 Kangaroos and 1,000 Wallabies. Mallee Parks and the Murray Sunset National Park at 35 per cent. **All years well below the target and this continues the recent trend of a significant gap between target and actual numbers.**
>
> Pest Management Area Kangaroo target was almost achieved at 90 per cent and Red Kangaroos were well below the target with only 14 per cent achieved.
>
> The programme cost $148,000 (GST excluded). Parks Victoria staff and 10 contract dogs (WG hound supporting contractors) to deliver the on ground shooting program.
>
> The COVID-19 pandemic continued to present challenges with the monitoring and control programme was adapted to meet COVID-19 requirements. Job safety analysis were reviewed and updated to ensure safe practices were in place. Parks Victoria continued to seek better restrictions the same survey was again based in South Australia engaging South Australian aerial."

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Lake Mournpilla area, very dead looking

A note on mothers and babies (description of the killing)

> "Where adult female Kangaroos were seen, any pouch young (independent) were to be euthanized immediately as per the EOT (euthanasia procedures) and were performed with a .22 calibre rifle and a head shot. Pouch young (PY) were to be euthanized by the Parks Victoria Formal pouch young euthanasia by a blunt trauma and unconscious bleeding. A small knife was provided to each shooter to cut the throat of pouch young. A pouch young is defined as Kangaroos that are not independent and still in pouch young. If they animals, **do** pen and have a large pouch young present"

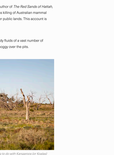
Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Lake Mournpilla area, very dead looking

Very unpleasant histories

This section, based on writings by Peter Pecqua, the author of 'The Red Smoke of Hades' from direct experience at the time, describes the mass killing of Australian mammal species in Victoria's state and national parks and other public lands. This account is from the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park in 1981.

"Warming up not shear on this surface!"

The pits caused a safety hazard as the with oozing body fluids of a wet number of Kangaroos caused the surface of the site to be very boggy near the pits.



Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Deep trench and a rotting or so with Kangaroos all mixed

This is one of the death pits containing the carcasses of thousands of Kangaroos killed in the 1980-1981 mass killing of Kangaroos. This park's management have dug a death pit and have placed the carcasses of the Kangaroos into the trench and have stabilisation in the park. Red Gum, Black Box and Cypress Pine Bush were all actively regenerating at and near this site prior to the killings. This destroyed the natural regeneration that was occurring over the site. The pit caused further land damage from which this area will take many years to recover (the 1984 Kangaroo disposal pits are still compacted from the earthmoving equipment so no effort has been made to restore this area).

Digging these terrible disposal pits resulted in significant invasive threats including weeds, introduced by the earthmoving equipment that dug the pits and compacted the land and from the shooters vehicles.

These gruesome Kangaroo pits caused a Health hazard, warning signs are here killing Kangaroos and the smell of the pits was very, very, very bad. Thousands of thousands of dead Kangaroos have put meters if through the earth into the pits.

> "The entry fund oozing to the surface allusion the pit is being washed into Lake Lockie. In times of flood those Kangaroos death pits will be under Lake Lockie and connected to Lake Mournpilla and Lake Hattah, where people seem and sometimes drink the water. The Kangaroo pits are upstream and upstream from the Hattah-Kulkyne water supply" Peter Pecqua

Ending

Confession propaganda in the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park visitor centre

> "If we can just keep the rabbits and the roos down, it's quite possible that the recovery process could really take going"
>
> There are three things I dislike intensely, bushfires, cruelty to animals and vacancy. What goes on, or at least some of Australia's public parks and reserves, is a large portion of each.
>
> These are the things that are not to be tolerated in a civil society or a democracy. And the biggest for all of us that wildlife in Victoria is protected.
>
> One question that has never been answered was what happened to all the carcasses of the animals killed in the years since 2017? It needs to be answered.

Burning Kangaroo carcasses at the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

Kill state context

In Australia's vast of Victoria, if the mass killing of Kangaroos, the secretive killing of Koalas, the mass killing of Wallabies, the mass killing of Wombats, the secretive killing of total slaughter, the targeting of around 100 native species with ATCM permits, the 'unprotection' of other native species, the blocking of wildlife rescues on public land, shocking standards of conduct when it comes to native forests in the state, the capture of Ramsar sites and other wetlands are shocking and game reserves, the refusal to support conservation measures on the belting River Murray was not enough, here are some more revelations.

> "Victoria across the state care deeply about our precious threatened species but Labor is ignoring the science and has failed to take the action required to halt the decline and it means we have 1,000 threatened species with no action plans for their survival. Ellen Sandell MP for Melbourne
>
> The PMC inquiry into the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial and Performance Outcomes of the Victorian Government has revealed a series of deeply troubling issues regarding the future of Australian wildlife in the state.
>
> Victoria's environment department (now DECCW) has revealed that 1,000 threatened species are still waiting on action plans being developed, after the department's funding was cut in half in 2014. Despite the Victorian Government promising the Federal Government back in the last few years, after a scathing Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) report in 2021 found the Department was not developing plans as required under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act laws.
>
> It was also revealed that Victoria's environment department is still developing the 2021 and 2022 annual reports for its Biodiversity 2037 program which has revised, overdue

reports (these are both reports to which we have spent a great deal of time on (pro bono) assisting the government in both meetings and submissions). These are:

- The Government Response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline (due 2 June 2022); and
- The Independent Review of Victoria's Wildlife Act 1975 (delivered December 2021) and the Government Response

Freedom of information

Here is an example of lack of transparency and lack of management (it is not possible to manage a situation if you don't know), FOI request initially rejected and again on appeal as below:

> "Application forms and permits issued to kill Kangaroos and Wallabies on land managed by Parks Victoria from January 2014 to present (when final decision is made on this FOI). Documents detailing number of Kangaroos and Wallabies killed on land managed by Parks Victoria (including gender and joeys) from Jan 2014 to present (when final decision is made on this FOI)".

> "In relation to the first category of documents, I have determined to refuse to grant access to the documents in accordance with the request under section 25A(1) on grounds I am satisfied the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Agency from its other operations".

> "In relation to the second category of documents, I am satisfied no discrete document exists and it is not possible for the Agency to produce a document in accordance with section 19. In these circumstances, the FOI Act does not require the Agency to create a relevant document".

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Victoria: Number of Authorities to Control Wildlife (ATCWs) protected Australian species 2025 and cumulative since 2009

"Since 2009, including 2025, the Victorian Government has issued 53,472 ATCWs for the lethal control of protected Australian wildlife, targeting 2,456,094 animals. In 2025 ATCW permits for lethal control targeted 230,673 protected Australia native animals".

Peter and Andrea Hylands

May 7, 2026

CONTEXT: Kangaroos

For Western and Eastern Grey Kangaroos, the numbers here describe allocations that reserve the Victorian Government's policy of shifting ATCW permits to commercial permits. This reserve of policy is unknown to most.

We should note that the Victorian Kangaroo killing system requires that commercial kills are accounted for and reported, ATCW kills, since the ATCW permits are issued, have no reporting requirement. So for ATCW permits, the Victorian Government authorities not have a clue about what actually happened. Failure to meet commercial quotas is very telling and describes hyper-inflated Victorian Government Kangaroo population estimates, so shifting more permits access to ATCWs means no one knows what happened to them.

The large number of ATCWs now being issued in Victoria for the Red Kangaroo and Western Grey Kangaroo further endanger the state's populations of these species, driving them ever closer to extinction in the state.

Killer State: Authority to Control Wildlife Permits (ATCWs)

The Victorian Government does not track what occurs after ATCW permits are issued and therefore does not know how many animals were actually killed, either more or less. Nor does the Victorian Government track animal welfare standards in relation to ATCW permits.

We should understand that ATCWs are not the only mechanism by which protected Australian species can be killed in Victoria, other enabled Victorian Government killing mechanisms include unprotection, secretive killing by Ministerial order, commercial and recreation, in total government data shows that 1,168,000 protected Australian animals were killed (or targeted) in Victoria in 2024, more than in any other Australian state in that year.

As the number of protected Australian species and the number of animals being targeted year on year grows rapidly, absolutely no account has been taken of a series of government inquiries regarding the natural world and biodiversity at both Victorian Government State and Commonwealth Government level, and worse still, no account of the major and catastrophic climate related disasters in the state accounting for the death of several million native animals. The situation in Victoria regarding the mass killing of wildlife is now completely out of control.

Recent direct threats to biodiversity in the state, since 2018 the Victorian Government has been and attempting to block wildlife rescues from climate events (floods and fires), including when large numbers of protected Australian species were in extreme risk or suffering very badly from their injuries. Added to this a very significant increase in 'burning off' in Victoria's forests, methods include burns ignited from helicopters, no care is taken to check if animals are present. Indiscriminate poisoning at scale also has a major impact well beyond target animals, and despite claims from government to the contrary, all of these threats continue at scale and are likely to intensify.

Lethal permits to kill protected Australian species

In 2025 the Victorian Government issued 4,806 Authority to Control Wildlife Permits (ATCWs) for the lethal control of protected Australian species, this compares with 3,558 permits issued in 2024, 2,482 permits in 2023 and 2,428 permits in 2022. The number of permits issued for lethal control of protected Australian species in 2025 was double the number issued in 2022.

Since 2009, including 2025, the Victorian Government has issued 53,472 ATCWs for the lethal control of protected Australian wildlife.

Lethal permits to kill protected Australian species: Number of animals targeted

In 2025 ATCW permits for lethal control targeted 230,673 protected Australia native animals, in 2024, 177,573 protected Australia native animals were targeted, in 2023, 119,367 protected Australia native animals were targeted and in 2022, 90,301 protected Australia native animals were targeted. In 2025 the number of protected Australian animals targeted for lethal control was 2.5 times greater than in 2022.

Since 2009, including 2025, the Victorian Government has issued ATCWs for the lethal control of protected Australian wildlife targeting 2,456,094 animals. Since 2009, the average annual target is 144,476, in 2025 the protected Australian animals targeted for lethal control was 1.6 times the 17 year average since 2009.

Since 2009, 80 protected Australian species have been targeted for control, including numerous bird species. The table below provides the data for 2025 and 2024 and the cumulative data for 2009 to 2024 inclusive by protected Australian species.

Endangerment

Victoria, because of past behaviours, now has over 270 endangered and threatened Vertebrate species, many hundreds more, when invertebrate species, plant species and other classes of life are considered. As of March 2025, over 2,000 conservation of plants, animals, and fungi were listed as threatened or endangered in Victoria, under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act). This means that almost one third of all of Victoria's species are now in danger of extinction and the Victorian Government's current conduct is only hastening their demise.

Interpretation of ATCW data

We have removed some species from the list as it is uncertain whether or not ATCW permits were issued for 'lethal or non-lethal control. If there is any non-lethal control data remaining in the stats below these would be very small in number and have no effect on the overall findings. We should note that, while claiming that every effort was made to ensure ATCW permits were issued as non-lethal permits, this turned out to be a very long way from the truth when the Victorian Government was made to publish the data, which showed for the first time, in 2021, that out of all the permits issued in that year by the Victorian Government, just 2.8 per cent of these permits were issued for non-lethal control. Flying Fox species in Victoria are impacted by large scale efforts to move them on, resulting in loss of young etc. This would be one example of what are now non-lethal ATCW permits which are being issued for large numbers of Flying Foxes. As a general comment, the death of young animals, joeys etc, is unlikely to be recorded or accounted for in any data.

	Common Name	2025 ATCW Permits	2025 Target Animals	2024 ATCW Permits	2024 Target Animals	Cumulative ATCW Permits 2009 to 2024 inclusive	Cumulative Target Animals 2009 to 2024 inclusive
1	Australian Magpie					123	123
2	Australian Magpie-lark	1	30	1,000	1	1,000	1,031
3	Australian Pelican				1	30	31
4	Australian Raven	1	30	1,000	1	1,000	1,030
5	Australian Reed-Warbler	1	30	1,000	1	30	1,060
6	Australian Wood Duck			30	1	30	60
7	Bassian Thrush	1	30	30	1	1,000	1,060
8	Black Swan	16	1,000	1,000	1	1,000	3,016
9	Brown Quail	20	1,000	1,000	3	180	2,180
10	Common Bronzewing	20	1,000	1,000	1	30	1,030
11	Crested Pigeon	1	30	30	1	30	60
12	Dusky Woodswallow				1	30	30
13	Eastern Rosella				1	30	30
14	Eastern Spinebill				1	30	30
15	Eastern Yellow Robin				1	30	30
16	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	30	30	1	30	60
17	Flame Robin				1	30	30
18	Gang-gang Cockatoo				1	30	30
19	Grey Fantail				1	30	30
20	Grey Shrike-thrush				1	30	30
21	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo				1	30	30
22	Little Raven	1	30	30	1	30	60
23	Little Wattlebird				1	30	30
24	Pacific Black Duck	20	1,000	1,000	1	30	2,030
25	Pacific Gull	1	30	30	1	30	60
26	Pied Currawong				1	30	30
27	Red-browed Finch				1	30	30
28	Red-capped Robin				1	30	30
29	Red-rumped Parrot				1	30	30
30	Rufous Whistler				1	30	30
31	Sacred Kingfisher				1	30	30
32	Silvereye	1	30	30	1	30	60
33	Superb Fairy-wren				1	30	30
34	Superb Lyrebird	1	30	30	1	30	60
35	Tasmanian Native-hen				1	30	30
36	Tawny Frogmouth				1	30	30
37	Wedge-tailed Eagle				1	30	30
38	Wonga Pigeon				1	30	30
39	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater				1	30	30
40	Yellow-winged Honeyeater				1	30	30
41	Yellow-wattled Honeyeater				1	30	30
42	Yellow-throated Scrubwren				1	30	30
43	Yellow-rumped Thornbill				1	30	30
44	Yellow-faced Honeyeater				1	30	30
45	Yellow-footed Antechinus				1	30	30
46	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby				1	30	30
47	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Grampians)				1	30	30
48	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Mallee)				1	30	30
49	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Murray)				1	30	30
50	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Stony Rises)				1	30	30
51	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Wimmera)				1	30	30
52	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Wyrrabee)				1	30	30
53	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Yarrowee)				1	30	30
54	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
55	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
56	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
57	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
58	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
59	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
60	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
61	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
62	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
63	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
64	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
65	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
66	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
67	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
68	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
69	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
70	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
71	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
72	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
73	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
74	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
75	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
76	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
77	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
78	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
79	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
80	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Zumsteins)				1	30	30
	Total	4,806	230,673	3,558	177,573	53,472	2,456,094

Bad books

In its 2028 Budget, the Victorian Labor Government did not add any new funding for Biodiversity 2037, which remains largely unfunded. Regarding the transition from Native Forest Logging in Victoria, the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO), found that there had been a complete lack of oversight for previous Budget items relating to the transition, including for example, the $1.35 million spent on 'late rehabilitation' grants that required no evidence of works completed or even attempted.

Nature Knowledge Channel: Top 12 active user countries 11 April to 8 May 2026

1. United States
2. Germany
3. Italy
4. Netherlands
5. United Kingdom
6. Singapore
7. Spain
8. France
9. Sweden
10. Poland
11. India
12. Japan

(Australia at 17 for the period at about 10 per cent of United States active users)

Related

We are starting to notice a silence

In 2024 and at the behest of state and territory governments in Australia, 4.8 million animals from around 70 'protected' Australian species of mammals and birds were killed.

Nowhere near good enough: Victoria's Independent Review of the Wildlife Act 1975

Despite the panel delivering its final report in December 2021, the Victorian Labor Government had not responded to the report until it published its response, Victorian Government response to the Wildlife Act Review, on 17 October 2025.

Unpleasant histories: Mass killing of Kangaroos in Victoria's National Parks

This story attempts to piece together the history of mass killing of native Australian species in State and National Parks in Victoria. Over 100,000 Kangaroos have been targeted since 1984, when the killing began.

2024: Victoria, Authorities to Control Wildlife permits (ATCWs)

This analysis details the number of ATCWs issued in Victoria in 2024 by species and number of animals targeted. It shows a significant increase in the number of protected wildlife being killed using this permit.

Back burn

We visit the home of Australian explorers, Susan and Ion Mum. Susan Mum describes the terrible impact of fire on the property and its wildlife that Susan and Ion love so much.

Koalas to burn: Winter and wildlife in Victoria

This report contains reflections on a trip in Western Victoria in June 2022.

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Where the truth lies? Actual number of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain, Victoria 2025

Earth
Decarbon

"26,646 female Kangaroos were shot for commercial gain, that is 35 per cent of the total commercial kill in Victoria in 2025. The share of females killed in Victoria is increasing and in the year 22/136 dependant young were killed by blunt force or decapitation".

Peter and Andrew Hylands

April 14, 2026

The commercial kill in Victoria in 2025

In 2025, 73,613 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 2,750 Western Grey Kangaroos were killed for commercial gain in Victoria. The Nature Knowledge Channel's estimate for actual take in the year was 76,363.

The 2024 population estimate for Western and Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Victoria from which the original 2025 quota was derived was: 2,076,000, comprised of 211,000 Western Grey Kangaroos and 1,867,000 Eastern Grey Kangaroos. This compares with a population estimate of 2,363,661 from the previous survey in 2022.

All population estimates are overstated and hence quotas were far too large to be sustainable.

The number of Kangaroos in three original quotas from 2025 in Victoria (excludes zones) were (derived from Kangaroo harvest quotas for Victoria reports 2025, Victorian Government):

- 17,688 for commercial gain comprised 104,150 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 13,540 Western Grey Kangaroos. This compares to a commercial quota in 2024 of 159,689 Grey Kangaroos, a 36% reduction.
- 90,250 Grey Kangaroos to be shot using Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) permits, comprising 76,710 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 13,540 Western Grey Kangaroos. This compares to the ATCW quota in 2024 of 90,250, and
- **Total of 107,938 Grey Kangaroos: 87,860 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and 180,700 Eastern Grey Kangaroos.**

In July 2025, the Victorian Government announced a $1.8 million 12-term Kangaroo Action Market program to help drought-affected farmers and landholders in Victoria thus acting as a subsidy to increase commercial Kangaroo killing. The program, which continues during the first half of 2026, paid $480 per claim with a maximum of 30 claims per farm. As is the case in South Australia, bounties and subsidies appear to have had little impact on the numbers of Kangaroos killed for commercial gain.

In late 2025 a further reduction of commercial quotas occurred from 106,750 to 94,700.

Victoria Shooting zones in 2025

This is what happened in the zones Fee shooting zones (both species combined, that is in Victoria, the Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Western Grey Kangaroo):

- Barwon South West – 7,429 Kangaroos killed for commercial gain
- Gippsland – 8,961 Kangaroos killed for commercial gain.
- Grampians – 11,389 Kangaroos killed for commercial gain of which 2,883 were Western Grey Kangaroos.
- Hume – 20,851 Kangaroos killed for commercial gain; and
- Loddon Mallee – 18,924 Kangaroos killed for commercial gain.

We can conclude from this data that Kangaroos are spending from southern parts of Victoria and mapping up of populations continues at pace in the northern regions of the state.

Cooking the books

The numbers describe allocations that reserve the Victorian Government's policy of shifting ATCW permits to commercial permits. This reversal of policy also occurred in 2024.

We should note that the Victorian Kangaroo killing system requires that commercial kills be recorded in the Game Management Authority's Game Management Tags and reporting requirement. But ATCW permits issued the Victorian Government does not have a due above what actually happened. Failure to meet commercial quotas is very killing, so shifting more permits across to ATCWs means no one knows what actually happened.

Females and joeys in the kill

26,646 female Kangaroos were shot for commercial, that is 35 per cent of the total commercial kill in Victoria in 2025. The share of females killed in Victoria is increasing and that means that the number of joeys killed is also likely to increase. Another key indicator of population decline.

As shooting as it seems the Victorian Government claims that there is minimal ecological risk to Kangaroo populations caused by the mass killing of females and their young.

In 2025, 22,136 dependant joeys were killed by blunt force or decapitation. The Victorian Government claims again and again that the dependant young of female Kangaroos killed for commercial gain must be euthanised humanely. In line with Australian Code for the Humane Killing of Kangaroos and Wallaby for Commercial Purposes.

We may well ask what happened to these Victorian Government guidelines?

Female Kangaroos with obvious young: Conditions of Authorisation under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975, in hunt, take, destroy, possess, dispose of and sell Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos in accordance with the approved Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2021-2023.

The conditions required to comply with an authorisation issued under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975, in hunt, take, destroy, possess, dispose of and sell Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos in accordance with the approved Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2021-2023.

Number 7 of 22 conditions states: Kangaroos with obvious dependant young must not be shot.

History of commercial kill in Victoria

Here is the short history of commercial kill in Victoria, never meeting quotas, describes the assist back to the unmotivated outcome of ATCW permits.

The full year commercial quota in 2024 in Victoria was 195,693. The Nature Knowledge Channel's full year forecast for actual commercial kill in Victoria in 2024 was 72,855 (was 69,993 (the 2023 actual was 72,720).

Full year actual commercial kill was higher than expected, given numbers provided previously at 81,180 of which 21,214 were females. An additional 22,458 joeys were beaten to death or decapitated, these animals are not included in the annual commercial data.

Because a large number of commercial tags issued by the Victorian Government during the year in 2024 were not utilised, no tags were issued in Quarter 4 in 2024 in any of the 7 Victorian shooting zones.

"On 26 September 2024, NSW recorded its quota for 11,115 remaining all Quarter 4 tags to be issued, and Victoria's quota for 2,883 remaining Western Grey tags to be issued. I will fully allocated. It can be carried over into the following year." Victorian Government

Note: Original quotas have been used for comparison (rather than revised quotas and downward revisions may occur during the year). Never meeting quotas is an indicator that population estimates are far too high.

Actual take against commercial quota (per cent)

- 2025 – 86 per cent – the impact of switching back to ATCW permits and reducing the share of commercial quotas begins.
- 2024 – 52 per cent – the impact of switching back to ATCW permits and reducing the share of commercial quotas begins.
- 2023 – 42 per cent – inability to meet commercial quotas becomes evident.
- 2022 – 57 per cent – declining take against commercial quotas.
- 2021 – 88 per cent.
- 2020 – 89 per cent; and
- 2019 – 94 per cent (from October 1 to year end, see note below).

Actual take against commercial quota (EASTERN GREY, kangaroo species – number of Kangaroos). The impact of switching back larger share of kill to ATCW zones the impression that the killing is sustainable

- 2025 – 71,613
- 2024 – 72,720
- 2023 – 84,516
- 2022 – 59,504.
- 2021 – 33,445.
- 2020 – 11,306; and
- 2019 – 6,255.

We should note that the commercial quota for 2024 was revised down to 142,250 Grey Kangaroos in July 2024, a further downward revision occurred in September 2024 to 111,515 in that Quarter 3 report the Victorian Government stated "Kangaroo harvest quotas in Victoria". The Victorian Government also stated that "where the quota is not fully allocated it can be carried over into the following quarter".

Going, going, gone: The number of Kangaroos targeted in Victoria since 2010

"Three of us who opposed the slaughter learned that once an industry started, it has to keep killing to justify the investment in the infrastructure, the jobs and the profits created. Even the Queensland Government can claim it's hard to for its rightsholders to cope with a reduction in the quota. Victoria's Kangaroo industry is small, but it shows that while the Kangaroo industry was originally a response to the past problem caused by farmers, it can easily become a problem itself. It's time for the Victorian Government to disassociate and thus survive its own interest". Lyn Gallway, Kangaroos: myths and realities, JAWS, 2026

- 2010 – 39,659
- 2011 – 34,721
- 2012 – 46,717
- 2013 – 79,136
- 2014 – 84,130 – commercial trial starts
- 2015 – 128,647
- 2016 – 136,841
- 2017 – 166,588
- 2018 – 166,992
- 2019 – 136,622 – full commercial trade commences
- 2020 – 17,800 (Catastrophic fires destroyed wildlife populations and the world decides to help save them)
- 2021 – 191,200 (Victorian Government claims Kangaroo population increases of 41 per cent)
- 2022 – 196,800
- 2023 – 157,260 – Victorian Government claim yet another significant increase in the population of Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroos, this time 24 per cent.
- 2024 – 236,250 – quota based on numbers derived from 2022 population survey which claimed a 24 per cent increase, that on top of a 41 per cent increase claimed from the previous survey.
- 2025 – 207,800
- 2026 – 207,800

Okarapark Rd, January 2025

By early February 2025, it just one fire in the Grampians, the Yarram Gap Road fire, our data shows that 1,884 native and protected mammals killed shock, trauma and Kangaroos. In the latest report the government states that it had destroyed more than 1,000 Kangaroos in the Grampians National Park, Wyperfeld National Park, Murray Sunset Park and Little Desert National Park. The latest figure applies to animals killed in these events by government action, while blocking traditional wildlife rescue practices, from 1 January 2025.

Given the vast scale devastation of habitat and animal life, large numbers of Kangaroos not accounted for were killed in the actual fires on which we reported in detail from the region while the fires were burning, commercial shooting continued, even as animals fled from the fires and were trying to assist injured animals. Animals were also being killed in large numbers as the ATCW permit system.

To, based up, of the killing of Kangaroos in 2025 the Victorian Government went on to issue subsidies to shooters in an attempt to kill more animals, while "streamlining the paperwork".

Not to be delivered, the Victorian Government makes this shocking claim:

"DEECA considers the quota scales and impact of ecological events on the environment and Grey Kangaroo populations, before making decisions on changes to the commercial harvest quotas. Changes to ATCW permit numbers are made based on the Western Barwon South West Harvest Zones. Following assessment, no changes to the commercial quotas were deemed necessary".

Allanmouth, Grampians fire. The sound of silence

ATCWs outside of the commercial shooting zones

Another revelation which we did not know about, the government stating that the data on ATCWs issued for Grey Kangaroos outside of the five Victorian Government's now five commercial shooting zones, were not included in the data it released regarding the actual take in 2025.

ATCWs and Kangaroos in 2025

The Victorian government goes on to say that:

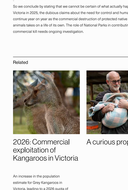
"In 2025, the demand for ATCW permits was the highest on record. Prior to the quarter four harvest quotas being fully allocated, the demand for ATCW permits was consistently at or above total quota due to the high demand for ATCW permits. In response, the final commercial quota release for 2025 was fully withheld in the Gippsland, Hume and Loddon Mallee harvest zones. Harvest quotas were fully allocated in the Barwon South West zone because of high levels of demand for Kangaroo control permits primarily through the ATCW system. Harvest quotas in the Barwon South West zone could not maintain current numbers with the recommended total quota".

The Victorian Government also now admits that:

"As described above, it is likely that the actual number of Kangaroos 'controlled' is lower than the figures presented, as ATCW figures underestimate the maximum numbers of Kangaroos that were approved for control".

So we conclude by stating that we cannot be certain of what actually happened in Victoria in 2025, the dubious claims about the need for control and humaneness continue year on year as the commercial destruction of protected native Australian animals takes on a life its own. The role of National Parks in contributing to commercial kill needs ongoing investigation.

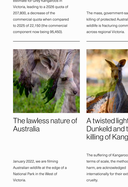
Related



2026: Commercial exploitation of Kangaroos in Victoria

An increase in the population estimate for Grey Kangaroos in Victoria, leading to a 2026 quota of 207,800, a decrease of the commercial quota when compared to 2025 of 22,162 (the commercial component now being 180,400).

A curious propinquity



The lawless nature of Australia

January 2022, we are filming Australian wildlife at the edge of a National Park in the West of Victoria.

A twisted light: Dunkeld and the killing of Kangaroos

The suffering of Kangaroos, in terms of scale, the methods of harm, are acknowledged internationally for their extreme cruelty.

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