



FACTSHEET 1: HUMANE TREATMENT

AUGUST 2018

The KIAA places a particular emphasis on the humane treatment of kangaroos and wallabies. We work closely with governments, scientific experts, commercial harvesters and landowners to reduce stress for the animals. As an industry of people with strong ties to the land, this is a core value of our organisation and allows us to proudly offer responsibly and ethically sourced products.

KIAA complies with the *National code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies for commercial purposes*, which was developed in close consultation with scientific experts and animal welfare advocates.

One of the defining benefits of the kangaroo industry is that the animals are harvested in the wild, meaning they are able to live undisturbed in their natural habitats. Four species of adult kangaroos in specific areas under strict regulations. None are threatened species.

Much research and discussion has gone into determining the most humane way to harvest kangaroos and this is outlined in the *National code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies for commercial purposes*. The Code of Practice is currently being reviewed through a project led by AgriFutures Australia with a reference group from the Australian Veterinary Association, the RSPCA, industry and relevant government agencies.

IAA members comply with the Code of Practice and we encourage a high level of accountability. We recognise a small proportion of the industry not represented by KIAA may not be compliant, which raises concerns about the welfare of animals and is taints the reputation of the industry as a whole. We intend to work to increase transparency and rigour around commercial harvesting and also to advocate for improvements in standards for non-commercial culling of kangaroos.

QUICK FACTS

- ▶ Australia's laws concerning the wildlife trade are some of the most stringent in the world.
- ▶ Licenced harvesters are skilled professionals who are required to undergo proficiency tests before being licenced.
- ▶ The industry is guided by the *National code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies for commercial purposes* which was developed with animal welfare agencies.
- ▶ Blunt trauma is outlined in the Code of practice for adult kangaroos and dependent young not killed by a single shot. This has been proven to cause less distress than other methods.
- ▶ To ensure the industry is adhering to best practice in the humane treatment of kangaroos, the current Code is currently being reviewed by an expert panel.

ABOUT

The KIAA is the peak representative body for the kangaroo industry. Its principal membership base is the kangaroo meat and hide processing sector. KIAA members represent more than 90 per cent of the industry. The kangaroo industry creates meat and leather products responsibly sourced from an open range environment where kangaroos graze on the natural pastures and foliage of the Australian bush. The kangaroo industry is worth more than \$200 million to the Australian economy and employs more than 2,000 people, the majority of whom are in remote and rural communities.