



FACTSHEET 2: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

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The kangaroo is a much-loved national icon of Australia and an important part of our ecosystem. As Australians, we have a long tradition of living off the land. Indigenous communities have been hunting kangaroos for food for centuries. Our responsibility is to do this in a sustainable way that protects our native species and the broader natural environment as well as supports our economy into the long term.

This task requires a cross-disciplinary understanding of how different species of kangaroos and wallabies live and survive across the country and their impact on their surroundings. Over the last couple of decades, kangaroo numbers have fluctuated due to changing climate conditions and in the absence of natural predators such as the dingo. Large numbers of kangaroos in particular areas pose a threat to their own survival, the habitats of other native flora and fauna, and to agricultural land.

The commercial harvesting of kangaroos for meat and leather is widely considered among the scientific community, government, animal welfare groups, indigenous groups and the agricultural industry as a sustainable and resourceful way to manage kangaroo numbers, while boosting the economy. All states and territories have kangaroo management programs, of which five permit the commercial harvest of four species of kangaroos. This enables them to control and monitor the harvest to prevent any negative impact on the species or their ecosystems.

Maintaining a sustainable kangaroo harvest is in the best interests of all Australians, including KIAA. Since 2001, around 65 per cent of the allowable national harvest quota has been met, indicating room for growth. We commit to complying and advocating for stringent regulation and governance from the paddock to the customer. This extends to the leadership in the humane and sustainable wild harvesting of kangaroos to bring high-quality products to the world.

QUICK FACTS

- ▶ The commercial kangaroo harvest is permitted in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.
- ▶ The only species permitted to be harvested are the Western Grey Kangaroo, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Common Wallaroo and Red Kangaroo. None are rated as endangered.
- ▶ Of the 48 species of kangaroo in Australia, six have reached extinction since European settlement and six are endangered. None of these are permitted to be killed in the wild.
- ▶ Strict regulations and yearly quotas are set by state governments to manage kangaroo and wallaby populations. Harvest quotas are based on aerial and ground surveys and typically are set at under 20% of the population. Around 65 per cent of the allowable quota across the country has been harvested since 2001.

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.