

ENSURING TRACEABLE KANGAROO PRODUCTS FROM THE PADDOCK TO THE CUSTOMER



KIAA Policy Paper #2 June 2019

Summary

The future of the kangaroo industry relies on the sustainable management and humane treatment of kangaroos.

There are four species of kangaroo which have been identified by the Australian government as requiring harvesting for ecological and land management reasons. None are threatened species.

Accountability in the harvesting of kangaroos requires complete traceability of animals from the paddock to the customer. It is the position of the KIAA and its members that:

- Animal welfare is the top and guiding priority for the industry;
- Any kangaroo products be fully traceable through the supply chain, that is from the paddock to the customer;
- That kangaroos are only harvested under licenced and regulated conditions, and from sustainable populations;
- That stringent health and safety standards are met in the transport, storage and treatment of kangaroo products;
- That there is complete oversight by state and federal regulatory bodies who can assure kangaroos are humanely treated, sourced on a sustainable basis, and that strict export standards are met.

Purpose of this document

The KIAA and its members believe that it is vital that customers and consumers of kangaroo products in export and domestic markets have confidence in the sustainable and humane management of kangaroos.

This document details the policy position of KIAA members as it relates to the traceability of kangaroo products from the paddock to the customer.

It outlines the minimum expectations KIAA members adhere to when supplying products to export and domestic markets and the advocacy positions the KIAA will take in relation to ensuring consumers can have confidence in the humane treatment of kangaroos.

Overall the KIAA and its members believe kangaroos are important both from a biodiversity viewpoint and as a sustainable resource. They need to be respected and humanely treated,

and that management requires collaboration across all parties including landowners, governments, animal welfare groups, harvesters, exporters and suppliers.

Overview of issue

Confidence in the kangaroo industry and its products depends on full accountability and traceability of any harvested kangaroo throughout the supply chain.

This can be and is largely being met through a range of state and federal-based licensing regimes combined with monitoring and public reporting.

In all export states, controlled harvesting is managed through the allocation of tags under a quota system. These operate in NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia (see also *KIAA Policy Paper #1 Maintaining sustainable kangaroo populations for the long term*).

Today every harvested kangaroo for export or domestic commercial sale can be individually traced through these state-based tagging and reporting systems.

Complementing and enforcing the tagging system are a range of other critical licensing activities. Combined they link the harvester, chiller operators, and meat processors to each and every individually harvested kangaroo.

These activities are backed by federal regulations to ensure the production of a wholesome food product with trace back mechanisms for each carcass.

There are additional licensing requirements for the use of kangaroo skins (state-based) and federal government export certification to confirm the species as a wild population are not threatened.

A full summary of these licensing and traceability steps can be found in Table 1 at the end of this document.

Improvements to the traceability of kangaroo products will give the public more confidence in the humane and legal harvest of the animals as well as the quality of the product.

Standards and improvements sought by KIAA members

Key operational area	KIAA member policy position	Areas KIAA members are seeking improvements
Registration of commercial harvesters	Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firearms licence in place • Target training and verification • Training in an approved harvesting course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift in random auditing by state agencies based on a transparent risk assessment model of where to focus compliance efforts
Field tagging to individually trace all harvested kangaroos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tagging by species, property or region, and individual animal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift in random auditing by state agencies based on a transparent risk assessment model of where to focus compliance efforts
Individual verification of field chillers and their contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State based licensing with national quality standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift in random auditing by state agencies based on a transparent risk assessment model of where to focus compliance efforts

Key operational area	KIAA member policy position	Areas KIAA members are seeking improvements
Individual verification of transportation of kangaroos to processing and packaging facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing to transport across state boundaries • National quality standards for game meat transport 	
Licensing and government oversight of processing and packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of game meat industry standards and oversight requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift in public reporting of activities based on a transparent risk assessment model of where to focus compliance efforts
Government sign off for exported products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require for all export game meats, no exceptions 	
Licensing of other facilities (eg tanneries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for all premises receiving kangaroo products for export markets 	

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Table 1: Overview of activities to ensure traceability and correct handling of kangaroo products from the paddock to the customer

	New South Wales	Queensland	Western Australia	South Australia
Licensing of a commercial harvester	<p>Harvesters require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valid firearms licence, listing an appropriate genuine reason • Successful completion of the Kangaroo Harvester Accreditation course through the NSW Firearms Safety and Training Council • Successful completion of the Statement of Attainment for Game Harvester Skill Set (meat handling training course) 	<p>Harvesters require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Macropod Harvesting Licence • Prior to submitting a licence application, must complete an approved training course and pass an approved shooting test 	<p>Harvesters require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Licence to Take Kangaroos for Sale (Professional Shooter's Licence) • Current Firearms Licence with appropriate calibre firearm • Satisfactory completion of accredited test of marksmanship • Satisfactory completion of Australian Game Meat Hygiene and Handling course, or equivalent. 	<p>Harvesters require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of TAFE SA certificates in Game Meat Field Processing (or equivalent) and Kangaroo Field Processor Firearms Accuracy accreditation • Have a current Firearms Licence • Obtain accreditation for the field processing of kangaroos from Biosecurity SA, Food Safety Program, Department for Primary Industries and Regions SA • Have the vehicle tray inspected to verify it meets the Australian Standard for the hygienic processing of kangaroos for human consumption • Attend an interview with staff from the Kangaroo Management Program of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).
Adherence to the <i>National Code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies for commercial purposes</i>	Required	Required	Required	Required
Tagging	<p>Full tagging and reporting for every kangaroo</p> <p>For commercial harvesting, commercial tags are required, and only issued to a person who holds a current Commercial Harvester (Kangaroo) Licence</p> <p>Commercial tags are property specific and require the owner of a property to give consent for a licensed harvester to apply for commercial tags at their property. The landholder completes</p>	<p>Full tagging and reporting for every kangaroo</p> <p>Specific tags are issued for each species and zone and are colour-specific for each species.</p> <p>A return of operations book is used to record the particular details of the macropods harvested during a harvest period.</p> <p>Harvesters must complete their return of operations and submit it to the Department of Environment and</p>	<p>Full tagging and reporting for every kangaroo</p> <p>Licensed professional shooters must attach tags to the carcass of commercially harvested kangaroos as a condition of their licence.</p> <p>Kangaroo skins or carcasses cannot be bought, sold, transported or held in possession unless a tag has been affixed to the skin or carcass.</p>	<p>Full tagging and reporting for every kangaroo</p> <p>Kangaroo sealed tags are allocated to a harvest subregion and can be used on any property within that subregion, providing the field processor has written permission to be on the land for the purpose of harvesting kangaroos.</p>

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	<p>an annual landholder consent form nominating the harvester.</p> <p>The tags state the name of the nominated licensed harvester, the property name and location description, the name of the landholder, how many kangaroos of a particular species are authorised to be harvested, and the start and expiry date of the tags.</p> <p>Each kangaroo must be field dressed and a commercial tag for use on that property attached to the carcase immediately.</p> <p>Harvesters are to use supplied forms to provide activity reports to by the specified date at the end of each month.</p>	<p>Science within 14 days of the end of the month.</p> <p>A separate movement advice form must be completed for each consignment of macropods, or macropod products moved within or exported from Queensland.</p>		
Chillers	<p>Detailed field depot chilling records required for export markets under Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Meat Notice 2009-18) and under the Australian Standard for hygienic production of wild game meat for human consumption (AS 4464:2007)</p> <p>Only the harvester who has registered the chiller can put kangaroo carcasses into that chiller. No other harvester is authorised to use it.</p> <p>Various conditions are attached to a Harvester Chiller Certificate of Registration.</p>	<p>Detailed field depot chilling records required for export markets under Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Meat Notice 2009-18) and under the Australian Standard for hygienic production of wild game meat for human consumption (AS 4464:2007)</p> <p>Additional Requirements for Wild Game Processing for Export</p>	<p>Detailed field depot chilling records required for export markets under Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Meat Notice 2009-18) and under the Australian Standard for hygienic production of wild game meat for human consumption (AS 4464:2007)</p> <p>Chiller units for the initial cold storage of kangaroo carcasses must be registered. The person in charge of a chiller unit is required to forward a monthly return and all kangaroos or parts placed in the unit must have the applicable royalty tags attached</p>	<p>Detailed field depot chilling records required for export markets under Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Meat Notice 2009-18) and under the Australian Standard for hygienic production of wild game meat for human consumption (AS 4464:2007)</p>
Animal dealers	<p>Kangaroo processors, called an Animal Dealer (Kangaroo), must obtain an Animal Dealer</p>	<p>Must have a Commercial Macropod Licence (dealer) to buy and process macropods. There are three types of licences available:</p>	<p>License required to deal in carcasses of fauna.</p>	<p>Permit of this type is required of any person intending to process and sell the carcasses and skins of kangaroos.</p>

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	<p>(Kangaroo) Licence, as well as a Certificate of Registration for each of the chiller premises they operate.</p> <p>Animal Dealers (Kangaroo) must send weekly reports from their field chillers and monthly reports from their processing works.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dealer (allows macropod carcasses and skins to be purchased from licensed Queensland harvesters at a licensed premises) Meat processing (allows macropod meat to be processed) <p>The holder or relevant person of licenced dealer sites must complete their return of operations and submit it within 14 days of the end of the month.</p>		
Skin dealers	<p>Must be licensed to process kangaroo skins, and their processing works must also be registered.</p> <p>Skin dealers must submit returns each month, detailing how many skins they buy and from which dealers.</p>	License required to allow macropod skins to be processed.	Persons dealing in kangaroo carcasses and skins must be licensed and must provide monthly returns.	Permit required of any person intending to process and sell the carcasses and skins of kangaroos.
Processing facility	License required.	License required.	License required.	License required.
<p>Processing & Packaging tracking</p> <p>Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Meat Notice 2009-18</p> <p>Australian Standard for hygienic production of wild game meat for human consumption (AS 4464:2007)</p>	<p>Traceability requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to identify of the field harvester from whom it was received The batch in which it was processed, date of processing and the total size of the batch Its location at the premises All other information necessary to identify whether or not it should be recalled Name and address of the person to whom the wild game meat business consigned the wild game meat and date of consignment <p>In terms of packaging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species of wild game Date and identify of the wild game business A refrigeration statement The specific product in the package A trace back document system to the individual production batch All raw materials 			
<p>Record keeping</p> <p>Addressed under the Australian Standard for the hygienic production of wild</p>	<p>To comply with these requirements harvesters are to keep records of the following and have them available for audit purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> date of harvest; time each animal was shot; property name or property owner's name; 			

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game meat for human consumption (AS 4464:2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of animals and species; time of arrival at depot; and who the product was supplied to <p>For traceback purposes, harvesters are to supply the following information with each consignment of wild game animal carcasses they deliver to a field depot operators or game meat processors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date of harvest The place of harvest The harvester's name or accreditation/licence number 			
Compliance	<p>Government staff carry out a range of monitoring activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cross-checking returns from harvesters, chillers and Animal dealers (kangaroo) wholesalers random, unannounced inspections of chillers and processing works random inspections of harvester vehicles investigation of alleged illegal harvesting activities. 	<p>Planned and random compliance audits on tag applications.</p> <p>Applications compared to harvester and dealer returns to ascertain the number of tags on hand at the time of application. Returns that indicate a person has given false information in the tag application will be investigated.</p>	Planned random compliance audits	Planned random compliance audits
<p>Other export traceability requirements</p> <p>Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Meat Notice 2009-18</p> <p>Australian Standard for hygienic production of wild game meat for human consumption (AS 4464:2007)</p>	<p>On-plant-supervisor to ensure hygiene outcomes</p> <p>Overseen by On-Plant veterinarian and on-plant area technical manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities to be export registered wild game processing Specified minimum tagging information required Detailed field depot chilling records required Transport vehicle air temperature records required <p>Only carcasses that have been stamped with the game pentagonal stamp after passing post mortem inspection are to be moved from the dressing floor to the boning room for boning or cutting for export to member states of the EU or to countries requiring adherence with EU requirements.</p>			
Other export licensing: CITES Permit (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)	Required	Required	Required	Required