



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

**Code of practice for commercial kangaroo  
harvesting in NSW**

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## Enquires

All enquiries about this Code should be directed to OEH:

**Kangaroo Management Section**  
52 Wingewarra St (PO Box 2111), Dubbo NSW 2830  
Phone: Environment Line 131 555  
Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## PART ONE – THE CODE

*CONSULTATION NOTE: In NSW there is a moratorium on skin only harvesting. As part of consultation OEH is seeking comments on the reintroduction of skin only harvesting and will consider all comments before finalising the Code.*

### Nature and purpose of this Code

1. This Code is made under section X of the Act.
2. The objectives of this Code are:
  - a) to ensure that the commercial kangaroo harvest is ecologically sustainable and
  - b) to ensure kangaroo harvesting is humane and minimises the pain and suffering of the animal.
3. Kangaroo populations are monitored by OEH through scientifically robust population survey methods approved by the Chief Executive. Quotas are allocated as a percentage of population estimates that have been demonstrated to be ecologically sustainable. Information on population survey methods can be found here:  
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifemanagement/KMPPopulationEstimatesWest.htm>
4. Complying with this Code is a defence to the offences of harming and dealing in animals.
5. Failure to comply with this Code means that an offence is committed and may be subject to a caution, penalty notice or prosecution.
6. Nothing in this Code allows a person to keep, trade or sell live kangaroos.
7. This Code is for use by any business or individual harvesting kangaroos for commercial purposes, including the commercial use of products derived from kangaroos. This includes kangaroo harvesters, wholesalers and chiller premises operators.

## Definitions

8. The definitions in the Act apply in this Code.
9. The following definitions also apply in this Code:
  - *Act*: Biodiversity Conservation Act 201X.
  - *Buy*: this term is defined in the Act and includes advertise or hold out as being prepared to buy.
  - *Carcass*: the entire body (including skin) of the kangaroo excluding the head and viscera.
  - *Chief Executive*: the Chief Executive of OEH.
  - *Calendar quarter*: the four periods, spanning 1 January to 31 March, 1 April to 30 June, 1 July to 30 September or 1 October to 31 December.
  - *Chiller operator*: a commercial operator who is registered by the Chief Executive to operate a Chiller premise.
  - *Chiller premise*: a refrigerated facility used for the temporary storage of kangaroo carcasses until collection and transport to a processing works.
  - *Code*: the Code of practice for commercial kangaroo harvesting in NSW.
  - *Commercial operator*: any person who carries out activities which are regulated by this Code.
  - *Export*: this term is defined in the Act and includes advertise or holding out as being prepared to export.
  - *Harvest*: in relation to kangaroo harvesting, means harm for commercial purposes.
  - *Harvester*: a person who harvests kangaroos for commercial purposes and processes meat and skin.
  - *Import*: the term is defined in the Act and includes advertise or holding out as being prepared to import.
  - *Licence*: a licence issued under the Act.
  - *OEH*: Office of Environment and Heritage.
  - *Possess*: this term is defined in the Act and includes having custody or control.
  - *Processing*: means to remove the skin or cut up the carcass
  - *Registered premise*: a premise registered by Chief Executive in NSW for the temporary storage or processing of kangaroo carcasses.
  - *Regulation*: any Regulation made under the Act.
  - *Sell*: this term is defined in the Act and includes advertise or hold out as being prepared to sell.
  - *Tag*: a tag issued by OEH for the current calendar year for the purpose of commercial kangaroo harvest.
  - *Wholesaler*: a commercial operator registered by the Chief Executive to accept carcasses from nominated harvesters and chillers, and to trade kangaroo products to market, or to import or export from NSW.

## PART TWO – REGISTRATION

### Registering for commercial kangaroo harvesting

10. A commercial operator must register with the Chief Executive and provide the information outlined below at clauses 15 and 16.
11. A commercial operator must not carry out any activity regulated by this Code unless the commercial operator is registered by the Chief Executive.
12. A commercial operator becomes registered only once they receive written confirmation from the Chief Executive with a registration number.
13. Commercial operators must apply for registration either in writing or via the website:
  - If registering in writing, commercial operators must write to the Chief Executive at the address provided at the beginning of this document and provide the information required at clause 15 and 16.
  - If registering via the website, commercial operators must provide the information outlined below as instructed by the OEH website.
14. The registration process provides for businesses and individuals to register under the code of practice.
15. Businesses must provide OEH with the following information (as relevant to the activities they are undertaking):

**For a business:**

- a) Name of business, and
- b) Nature of business (harvester, chiller, wholesaler, import/export from NSW), and
- c) Australian Business Number, and
- d) Nominated contact person for dealing with OEH, and
- e) Business address, and
- f) Address/s of all locations where activities will be taking place, including harvesting activities and
- g) Phone number, and
- h) Email address, and
- i) Vehicle registration details of all vehicles that will be used to undertake harvest activities or to transport kangaroo carcasses, and
- j) Other commercial operators you will be dealing with in carrying out activities in accordance with this Code (including wholesaler and chiller premises), provide the nature of the business, name of the business/individual, address/s of business, contact details (phone and/or email), and OEH registration number, and
- k) GPS coordinates of any chiller sites where activities will be carried out in accordance with this Code, and
- l) Indicate if the business wishes to import kangaroo carcasses into NSW or export kangaroo carcasses from NSW as part of their operations. OEH will assess this

request noting that if approved this only relates to NSW and approval may also be required from the other state or territory.

16. Individuals, whether trading as part of a business or individually, must provide OEH with the following information (as relevant to the activities they are undertaking):

**For individuals:**

- a) Nature of business activity (i.e. harvester, chiller, wholesaler, import/export from NSW), and
- b) Name, and
- c) Address, and
- d) Address/s of where activities will be taking place, and
- e) Phone, and
- f) Email, and
- g) Vehicle registration details of all vehicles that will be used to undertake harvest activities or to transport kangaroo carcasses, and
- h) Other commercial operators you will be dealing with in carrying out activities in accordance with this Code (including wholesaler and chiller premises), provide the nature of the business, name of the business/individual, address/s of business, contact details (phone and/or email), and OEH registration number, and
- i) Provide GPS coordinates of any chiller sites where activities will be carried out in accordance with this Code, and
- m) Authorisations and licences:
  - o valid firearms licence,
  - o valid firearms shooting accuracy accreditation, and
  - o certificate of completion of Australian Game Meat Handling and Hygiene course through TAFE NSW, and
- n) Indicate if the individual wishes to import kangaroo carcasses into NSW or export kangaroo carcasses from NSW as part of their operations. OEH will assess this request noting that if approved this only relates to and approval may also be required from the other state or territory.

*NOTE: Individuals operating in accordance with this Code under a business registered in accordance with clause 15, must also provide the information required under clause 16.*

17. Commercial operators must notify the Chief Executive in writing or via the website if the details provided through registration change. A commercial operator may not carry out any activity that is regulated by this Code if the operator's details have changed but the Chief Executive has not been notified of the change.
18. Commercial operators must only participate in the activities for which they are registered.
19. Commercial operators must pay a registration fee at the time of registration.

## **Wholesaler and chiller premises**

20. Any wholesaler or chiller premises must be registered with the Chief Executive.

*NOTE: This registration occurs through the registration of a business that will be operating these premises.*

21. Any wholesaler or chiller premises must only accept the kangaroo carcass of the species listed in this Code.

22. Any wholesaler or chiller premises must only accept a kangaroo carcass with a valid tag attached. A valid tag is a tag that was issued in the same calendar quarter as the date when the carcass is accepted and which is for the same species as the carcass.

23. Confirmation of registration from Chief Executive must be displayed on the premises where the activity is being undertaken.

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## PART THREE – RECORD KEEPING

*NOTE: an obligation to keep records is an obligation to keep written records that are true and accurate. It is an offence under the Act to keep written records which are not true and accurate.*

*NOTE: an authorised officer under the Act has the power to request, inspect and copy records without prior notice. It is an offence under the Act to fail to produce records when requested.*

### Registration details

24. Commercial operators must keep a copy of the registration details they have provided the Chief Executive and a copy of the registration confirmation.
25. Commercial operators must record and report to OEH any non-compliance with this Code immediately after becoming aware of the non-compliance. Reports to OEH must be made via Environment Line (see contact details at page 2 of this Code).

### Keeping records

26. Commercial operators must make a record of information required by this section relating to kangaroos immediately upon completion.
27. A harvester's records must include:
  - a) Written landholder consent, and
  - b) For each kangaroo harvested:
    - Date harvest occurred, and
    - Property where harvest occurred, and
    - Species, and
    - Weight, and
    - Gender, and
    - Tag number used, and
    - Chiller or Wholesaler where the carcass is delivered, and
  - c) Number of lost tags, and
  - d) Number of returned tags and their tag number, and
  - e) Number of underweight carcasses, and
  - f) Number of kangaroos shot in the body.
28. A chiller operator's records must include:
  - a) For each carcass purchased or received and for each carcass received:
    - Name and registration number of commercial operator the carcass was received from, and
    - Date received, and
    - Species, and



- Weight, and
  - Gender, and
  - b) Wholesaler the carcass is delivered to.
29. A wholesaler's records must include:
- a) For each carcass purchased or received and for each carcass sold:
    - Name and registration number of the commercial operator the carcass was received from, and
    - Date received, and
    - Species, and
    - Weight, and
    - Gender.

*NOTE: the OEH website will have a template to assist commercial operators to keep true and accurate records of each activity relating to kangaroos.*

30. Commercial operators must keep records at each registered premise.
31. Commercial operators must report all information they are required to keep under clause 26, 27, 28 or 29 to OEH on a quarterly basis in writing or via the website, or as directed by OEH.
- a) For the calendar quarter 1 January to 31 March, information is to be provided on 15 April.
  - b) For the calendar quarter 1 April to 30 June, information is to be provided on 1 July.
  - c) For the calendar quarter 1 July to 30 September, information is to be provided on 1 October.
  - d) For the calendar quarter 1 October to 31 December, information is to be provided on 1 January.
32. Where a commercial operator has not undertaken any kangaroo harvest activities in a quarter they must report that fact in the timeframe required by clause 32.

## **Written landholder consent**

33. Commercial operators must have written consent from each landholder if they are harvesting kangaroos on land not owned by the commercial operator before carrying out harvesting on that land.
34. Commercial operators must keep a record of any written landholder consents.
35. The written landholder consent must include the following<sup>1</sup>:
- a) Address, and
  - b) Postal address, and
  - c) Dates that harvesting can occur, and

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<sup>1</sup> An example is available is at Attachment B

- d) Landline phone number, or
- e) Mobile phone number, and
- f) Landholder name, and
- g) Signature of the land holder and a statement authorising the activity, and
- h) Letter of authority if a manager or representative or family member is signing on behalf of the owner.

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## PART FOUR – HARVESTING KANGAROOS

### Species

36. This Code does not apply to any kangaroo found dead.
37. Only four species of kangaroo may be harvested in NSW. These are:
- a) Red kangaroo *Macropus rufus*
  - b) Eastern grey kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*
  - c) Western grey kangaroo *Macropus fuliginosus*
  - d) Common wallaroo *Macropus robustus* ssp. *robustus*

### Harvest area

38. Kangaroos may only be harvested on land that:
- a) is privately owned land, and
  - b) is within the NSW kangaroo commercial management zone.

The NSW kangaroo commercial management zone is the part of NSW in which commercial kangaroo harvesting is permitted. An indicative map of the NSW kangaroo commercial management zone is available at Attachment A.

39. Commercial operators must only harvest on land where the address has been provided as part of their registration and which has been confirmed by the Chief Executive of OEH as land within the NSW kangaroo commercial management zone.
40. Kangaroos must not be harvested within 200 metres of a dwelling or 500 metres of land zoned as residential.
41. For the purposes of this code land zoned as residential refers to land zoned as RU5 Village, R1 General Residential, R2 Low Density Residential, R3 Medium Density Residential, R4 High Density Residential, R5 Large Lot Residential under a Local Environmental Plan, or, in any other case, as land otherwise zoned as 'residential' (but not 'rural-residential'), 'village' or 'township' under an environmental planning instrument or having regard to the purpose of the zone, having the substantial character of a zone so designated.

### Shooting kangaroos

42. Commercial operators must only harm kangaroos in accordance with the *National code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies for commercial purposes*. That code of practice is available on the website of the Commonwealth Government Department of the Environment:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/publications/national-codes-practice-humane-shooting-kangaroos-and-wallabies>

### Kangaroos shot in the body

43. A kangaroo that is shot in the body must be tagged and left in the field.

44. A business or individual must not possess, sell or transfer a kangaroo with a bullet wound in a location other than the head.
45. Commercial operators must report any kangaroos shot in the body to OEH, immediately via the Environment Line on 131 555 or at [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Using tags

*NOTE: Guidelines about how commercial tag allocation operates are available on the OEH website.*

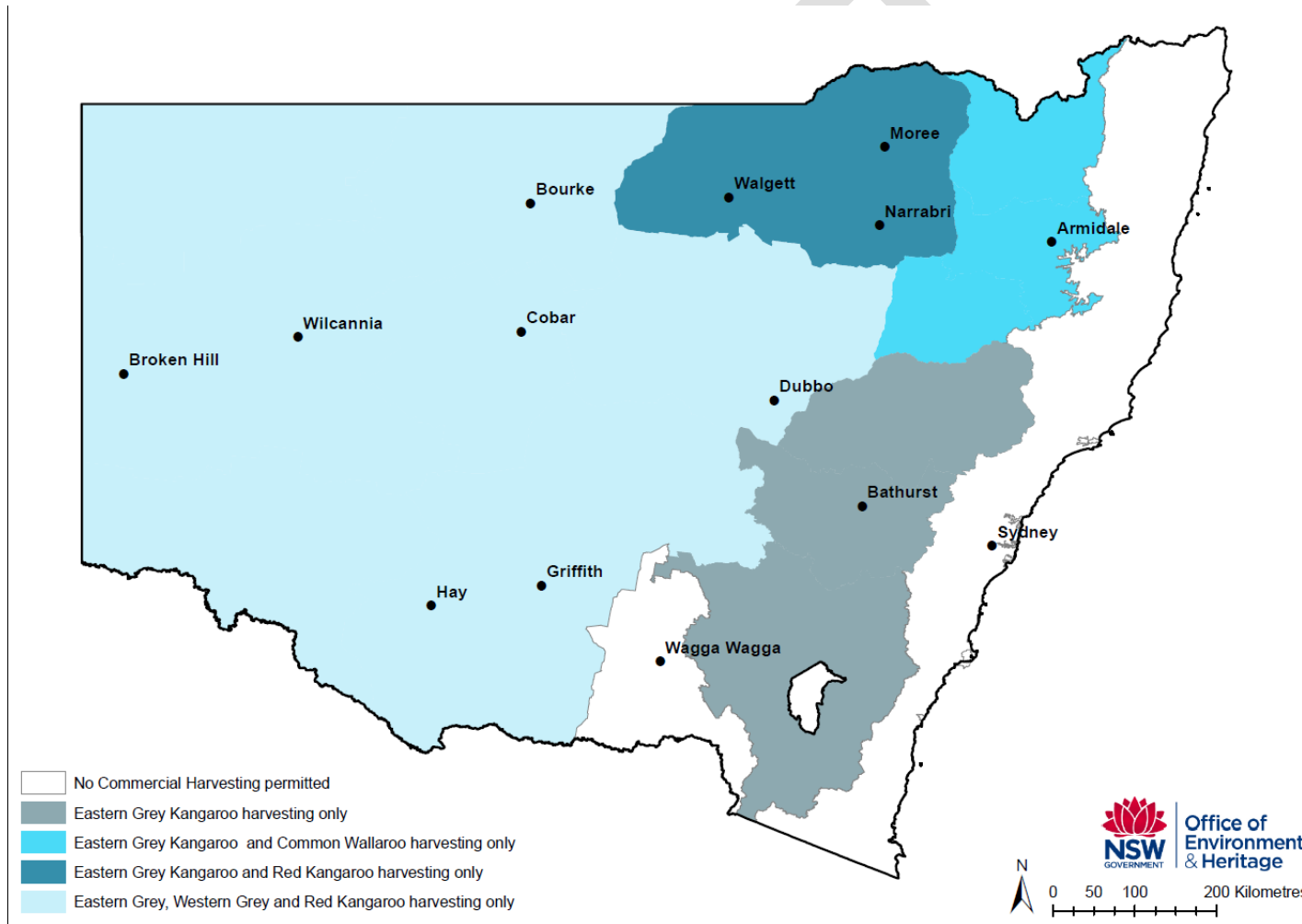
46. Commercial operators must only use tags purchased from OEH.
47. Commercial operators can only harm as many kangaroos as the number of commercial tags they have purchased from OEH.
48. Tags must not be affixed to an animal other than in the same calendar quarter in which they were issued.
49. Tags must not be transferred to another commercial operator.
50. All unused tags must be returned to OEH by 31<sup>st</sup> of January in the year following the date of issue.
51. A tag must be fixed to any kangaroo harvested.
52. A tag must be fixed immediately after the kangaroo is shot.
53. A tag must be fixed adjacent to the rectum on a kangaroo carcass.
54. Tags must only be used for the species they identify. Commercial tags are colour specific for each species of kangaroo.
55. Commercial operators must not sell, purchase or have in their possession a kangaroo carcass that does not have a tag affixed.

## Carcass requirements

56. Commercial operators must not harvest, possess, sell or purchase a kangaroo carcass that weighs less than:
  - a) 14 kilograms, in the case of a carcass from which the heart, liver, lungs, tail, forearms (below elbow) and feet (below tarsels/tibula joint) have been removed.
  - b) 15 kilograms, in the case of a carcass to which any of the above listed body parts are still attached when weighed at the point of delivery to a registered premise.
57. Commercial operators must only store kangaroo carcasses at a location registered with OEH and specified in the commercial operator's registration.

## Attachment A – NSW kangaroo commercial management zone

*Note: This map is a guide. Commercial operators are required to provide the address of premises where activities will be taking place in accordance with this Code, for harvesters this includes the properties they plan to harvest on. As a part of reviewing registration information OEHL will check that these properties are within the NSW kangaroo commercial management zone.*



## Attachment B – An example of landholder written consent

I, (INSERT LANDHOLDER NAME) of (INSERT PROPERTY NAME AND ADDRESS)  
permit (INSERT HARVESTER NAME) with OEH registration number (INSERT REGISTRATION)  
to harvest kangaroos for commercial purposes on the aforementioned property I  
own/manage (CIRCLE ONE) on (INSERT DATES OR PERIOD OF TIME HARVESTING CAN OCCUR)

I agree that the following are the dates that harvesting can occur: (INSERT DATES)\_

I also agree for OEH to contact me to discuss concerns on: (must have at least one current phone  
number)

Landline \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I also agree to notify the Commercial operator and OEH if I sell this property.

This consent remains in effect until I advise in writing that it is revoked or my property is sold.

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)