



2023 Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Quota Submission for Western Australia

For submission under the Commonwealth *Environment
Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

December 2022



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Phone: (08) 9219 9000
Fax: (08) 9334 0498

www.dbca.wa.gov.au

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December 2022

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This report was prepared by Martin Dziminski

Questions regarding the use of this material should be directed to:
Senior Zoologist
Species and Communities Program
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Email: fauna@dbca.wa.gov.au

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1 Proposed quotas for Western Australia for 2023

This document presents the proposed quotas for commercial kangaroo harvest in Western Australia for 2023. This document should be read and considered in conjunction with the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2019-2023*.

Population estimates for 2022 indicated that Western grey kangaroos remained at relative low density in the SE Population Monitoring Zone (PMZ) at 0.37 individuals per km². Aerial surveys were last undertaken in the SE PMZ in September 2021 and previously in 2017. The SE PMZ has experienced average rainfall and below average to extremely low pasture growth over the last 24 months (Appendix 2). It is likely that higher quality habitat for western grey kangaroos exists in the coastal South East Agricultural (SEA) Management Area of the SE PMZ (Figure 1, DBCA 2019), supporting higher densities. Above average rainfall and extremely high pasture growth along coastal areas of the SEA Management Area over the last 24 months supports this assumption. Therefore, densities of western grey kangaroos were calculated for Management Areas within the SE PMZ, as well as the entire SE PMZ, and are shown in Table 1.4.

In accordance with the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2019-2023*, Action 12 (DBCA 2019), the commercial harvest rate is to be suspended if aerial surveys indicate that the western grey kangaroo population density within the SE PMZ or within Management Areas within the PMZ has fallen ≤ 0.80 individuals per km². The suspensions will remain in place until surveys, or populations estimates corrected for trends in rainfall, indicate that kangaroo densities have increased above the 0.80 individuals per km² density threshold. Therefore, harvest of western grey kangaroos can only occur from within the SEA Kangaroo Management Area within the SE PMZ (Table 1.4), and there is to be no harvest of western grey kangaroos in remainder of the SE PMZ in 2023.

1.1 State Summary

Species	2023 Proposal			2022		
	2022 Population estimate ^a	Harvest rate (%)	Quota	Quota	Harvest rate (%)	2021 Population estimate
Red kangaroo	736,630	17	125,225	207,340	17	1,219,645
Western grey kangaroo	1,419,920	14 ^b	203,240	168,070	14 ^b	1,179,545
Totals	2,156,550		328,470	375,410		2,399,190

^a Note: aerial surveys were not conducted in 2020 due to COVID-19 border restrictions.

^b Rate calculated from total harvest quota (incorporating only the SEA MA of the SE PMZ).

1.2 Regional Quotas for Red Kangaroos in 2023

(See Fig. 2.1 for location of regions)

Zone	2022 Population estimate (\hat{N})	2023 Proposal	
		Harvest rate (H) %	Quota ($\hat{N} \times H$)
Central	341,870	17	58,120
Northern	221,850	17	37,715
South-East	172,910	17	29,395
Totals	736,630		125,225

1.3 Regional Quotas for Western Grey Kangaroos in 2023

(See Fig. 2.1 for location of regions)

Zone	2022 Population estimate (\hat{N})	2023 Proposal	
		Harvest rate (H) %	Quota ($\hat{N} \times H$)
Central	369,330	15	55,400
South-East	126,930	15 (SEA Management Area only)	9,290 (SEA Management Area only)
South-West	923,660	15	138,550
Totals	1,419,920		203,240

1.4 South East Management Areas Quotas for Western Grey Kangaroos

(See Fig. 1 in DBCA 2019 for location of Management Areas)

Management Area	2022 Density (kangaroos per km ²)	2022 Population estimate (\hat{N})	2023 Proposal	
			Harvest rate (H) %	Quota ($\hat{N} \times H$)
South Eastern Agricultural (SEA)	1.54	61,935	15	9,290
Dundas (DU)	0.14	6,360	0	0
Nullarbor (NU)	0.51	42,120	0	0
Coolgardie (CO/CG)	0.04	1,700	0	0
Leonora Eastern Goldfields (LEG)	0.12	13,690	0	0

2 Population estimation methods

The N, C and SW PMZs were surveyed in 2022. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, only the SE and SW PMZs were surveyed in 2021 and no aerial surveys for kangaroos were undertaken in 2020. Population estimates have been set in accordance with the management plan using the calculation for intervening survey years, i.e. the most recent population estimate adjusted for regional rainfall and commercial harvest offtake, according to the equation:

$$\widehat{N}_{i+1} = (\widehat{N}_i - H) \times r,$$

where:

\widehat{N}_i = the most recent population estimate;

H = commercial harvest offtake between population estimates; and

r = population growth rate for a regional rainfall category.

2.1 Ground Survey

No regular quantitative ground surveys are undertaken in Western Australia. The reason for this is because the standard aerial survey method can be applied efficiently to most areas without any difficulties. Heavily wooded and forested areas are restricted to the south-west region of the State, an area that does not form any part of the commercial harvest zone for red kangaroos. The use of ground survey would in any case be of very limited value in the south-west due to the fragmented nature of much of the vegetation along with the extensive forested areas in the central and southern parts of the south-west. The carrying of firearms in State Forest is generally prohibited and the shooting of native fauna including kangaroos without licence is prohibited under the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*.

Ground surveys are expensive to conduct and, while they can give accurate assessments of local kangaroo populations, the proportion of the natural range of either red or western grey kangaroos that can be covered effectively by ground surveys is so small as to make this survey method unsuitable for broad scale population estimates. Rather, ground surveys are better suited to smaller scale population estimates or to confirm the nature of unexplained mortality. They have been used successfully in the past when epizootic diseases such as lumpy jaw or choroid blindness have occurred.

3 Criteria used in setting quotas

The proposed quota is set in accordance with Actions 9-12 of the Management Plan and takes into consideration information available on:

- historical commercial harvest statistics (see Appendix 1);
- seasonal conditions (see Appendix 2);
- current population trends (see Appendix 3);
- the proportion of the habitat and population not subject to harvesting;
- current land use practice and trends in land use; and
- significance of the non-commercial take relative to the population estimates, commercial quota and commercial harvest.

4 Harvest monitoring

- Species: red and western grey kangaroo.
- Extent: commercial harvest zone (see Fig. 4.1).
- Frequency: continuous (see Table 4.1).
- Methodology: analysis of trends in:
- commercial take;
 - sex ratio; and
 - average weight by sex.
- (see appendices 1 and 3)

Frequency	<p>Whole of commercial harvest zone was surveyed triennially from 1981 to 1993 (1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993).</p> <p>Then, in part, annually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Zone in 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022. • South-East Zone in 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2021. • Central Zone in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022.
Monitor blocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor block surveys in zones not covered by main survey in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. • Monitor blocks in the South-West Zone in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021 and 2022.

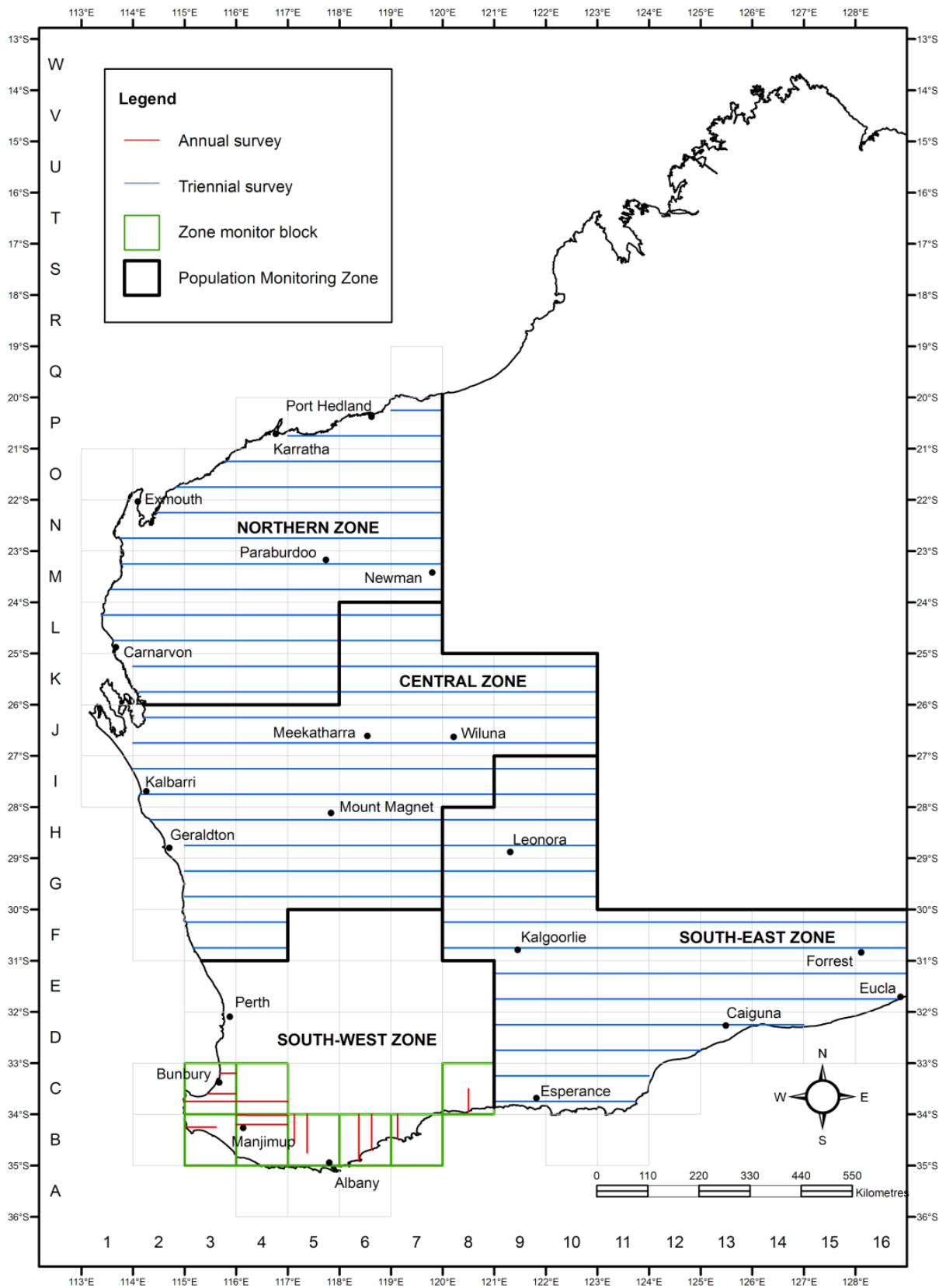


Fig. 4.1. Kangaroo Population Monitoring Zones over the allowable harvest areas in Western Australia.

5 References

Caughley G., Sinclair R. and Scott-Kemmis D. (1976) Experiments in aerial survey. *Journal of Wildlife Management* **40**, 290-300.

Caughley G., Sinclair R.G. and Wilson G.R. (1977) Numbers, distribution and harvesting rate of kangaroos on the inland plains of New South Wales. *Australian Wildlife Research* **4**, 99-108.

DBCA (2019) Management plan for the commercial harvest of kangaroos in Western Australia 2019-2023. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia.

Pople T. and Grigg G. (1999) 'Commercial harvesting of kangaroos in Australia.' (Environment Australia: Canberra). Available online at:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/wild-harvest/kangaroo/harvesting/index.html>

Appendices

Appendix 1 Harvest monitoring results for Western Australia

Harvest data for 2022, presented in the figures and tables in Appendix 1, only includes data processed prior to 31 October 2022.

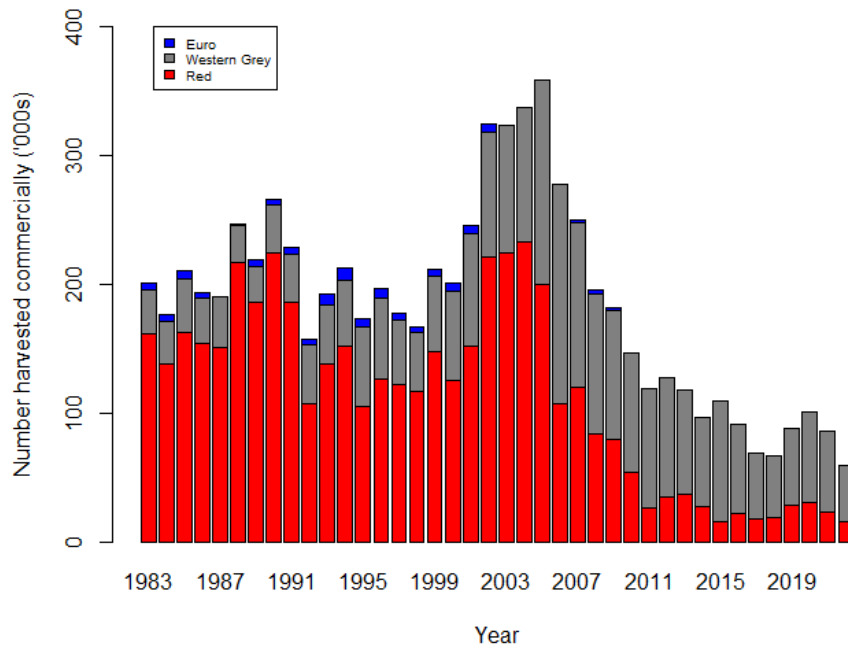


Fig. A1.1. Total commercial kangaroo harvest in Western Australia from 1983 to 2022. There was no commercial harvest of euros from 2003-2006 and from 2010-2022.

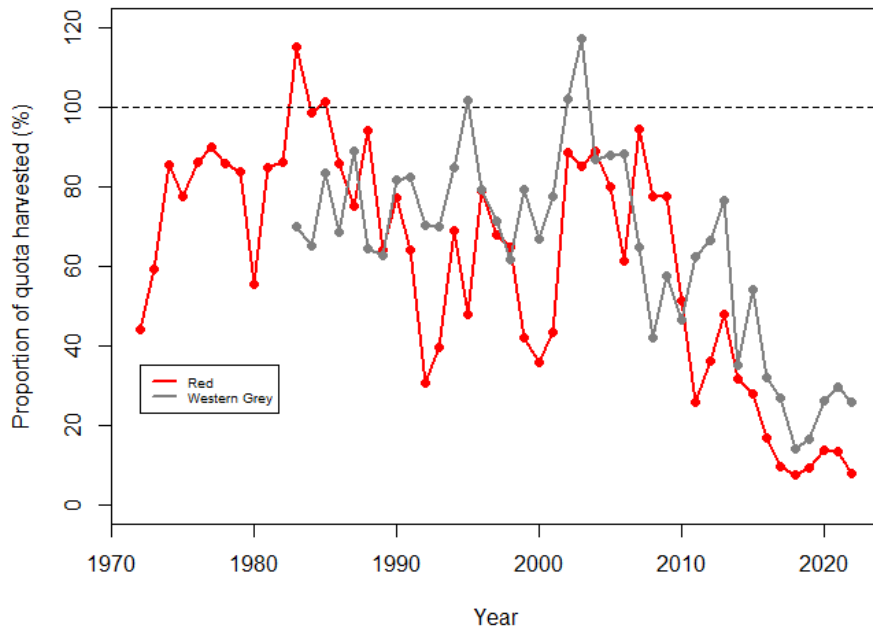


Fig. A1.2. Proportion of the commercial quota harvested in Western Australia from 1972 to 2022.

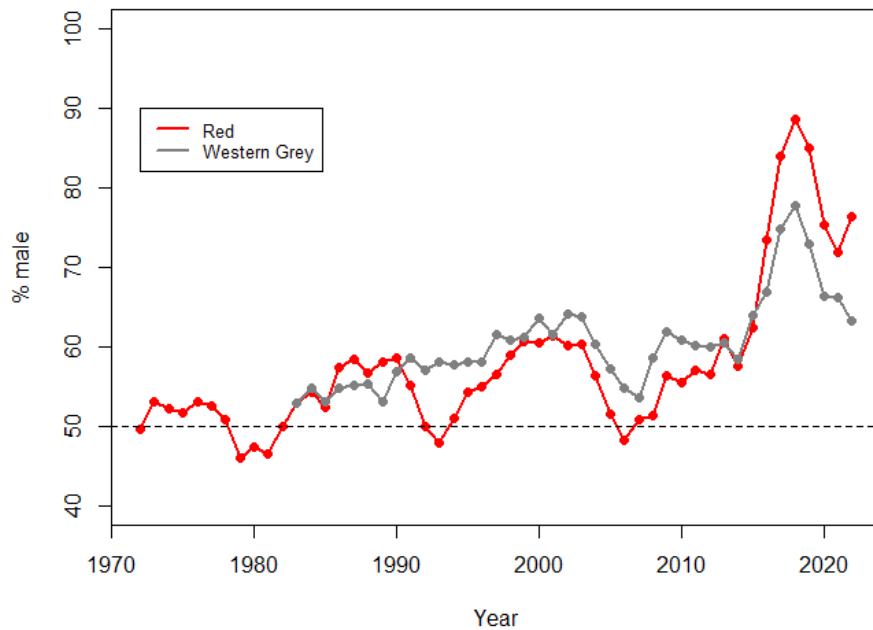


Fig. A1.3. Sex ratio of the commercial kangaroo harvest in Western Australia from 1972 to 2022.

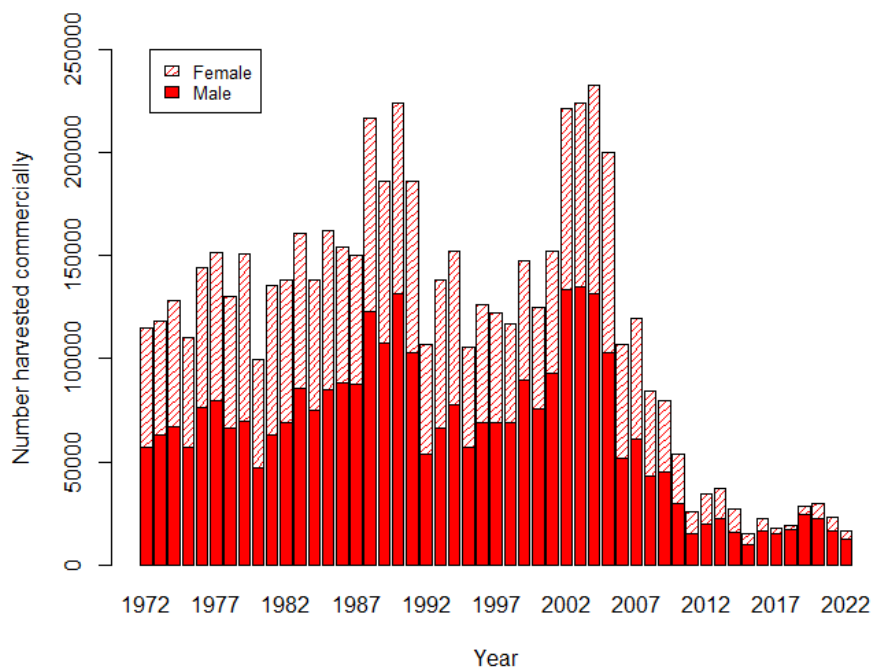


Fig. A1.4. Number of red kangaroos harvested commercially in Western Australia from 1972 to 2022.

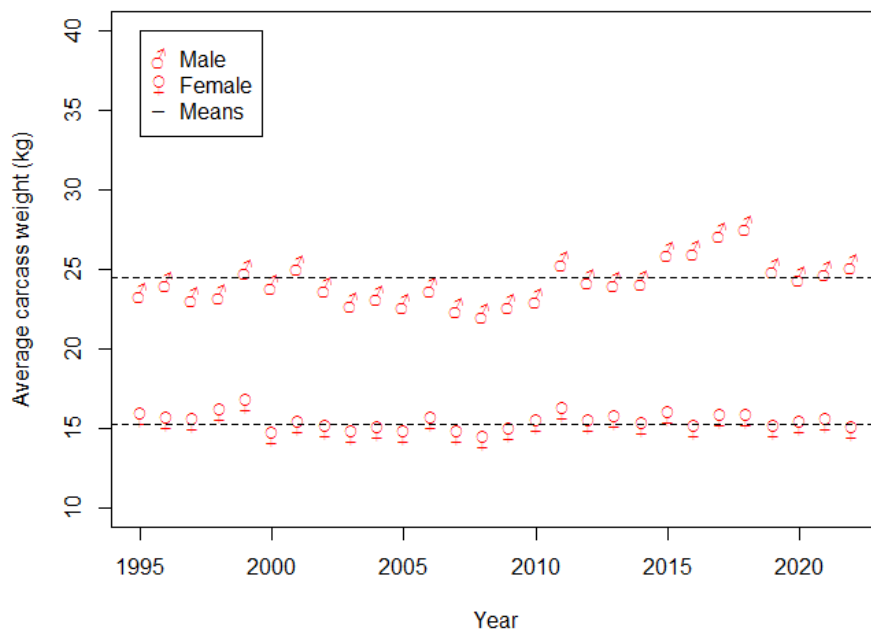


Fig. A1.5. Average carcass weights for red kangaroos harvested commercially in Western Australia from 1995 to 2022. Carcass dressing methods (and therefore carcass weights) are not standardised.

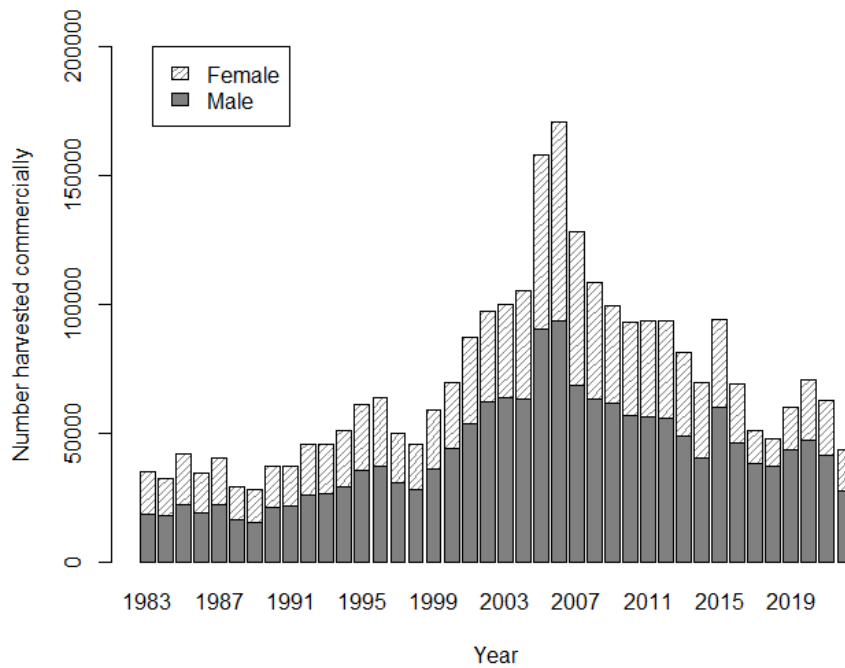


Fig. A1.6. Number of western grey kangaroos harvested commercially in Western Australia from 1983 to 2022.

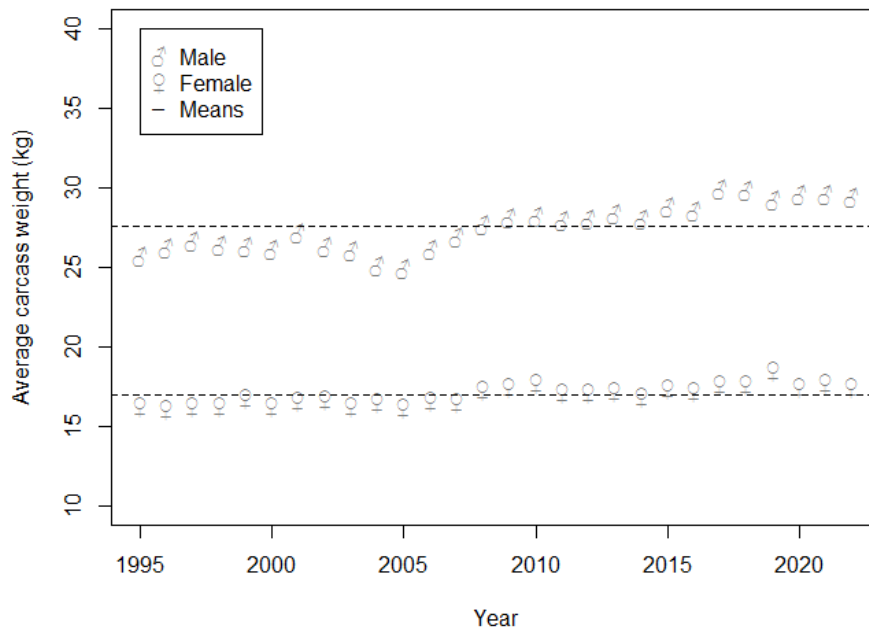


Fig. A1.7. Average carcass weights for western grey kangaroos harvested commercially in Western Australia from 1995 to 2022. Carcass dressing methods (and therefore carcass weights) are not standardised.

Appendix 2 Rainfall and drought maps

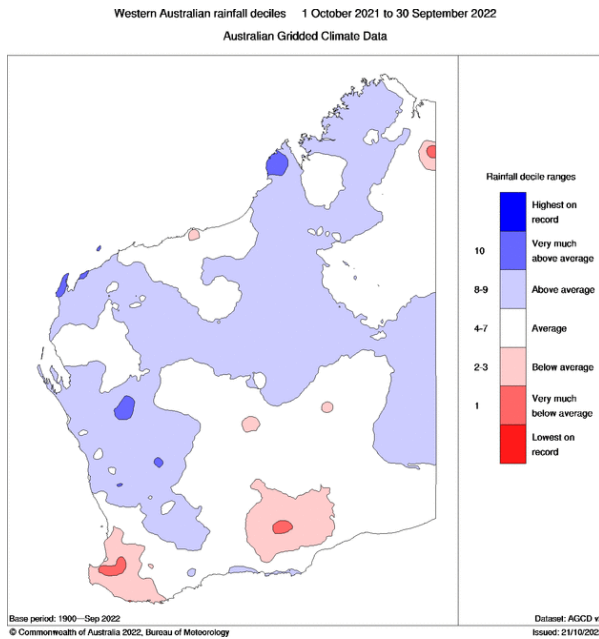


Fig. A2.1. Rainfall deciles for Western Australia for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 (last 12 months).

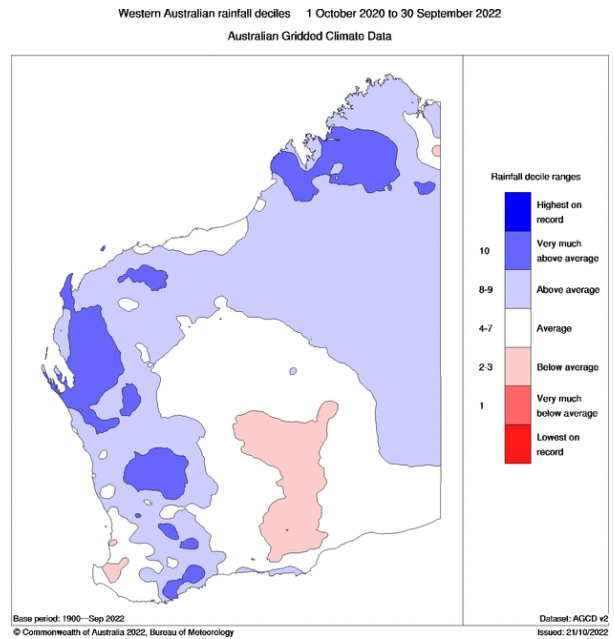


Fig. A2.2. Rainfall deciles for Western Australia for the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2022 (last 24 months).

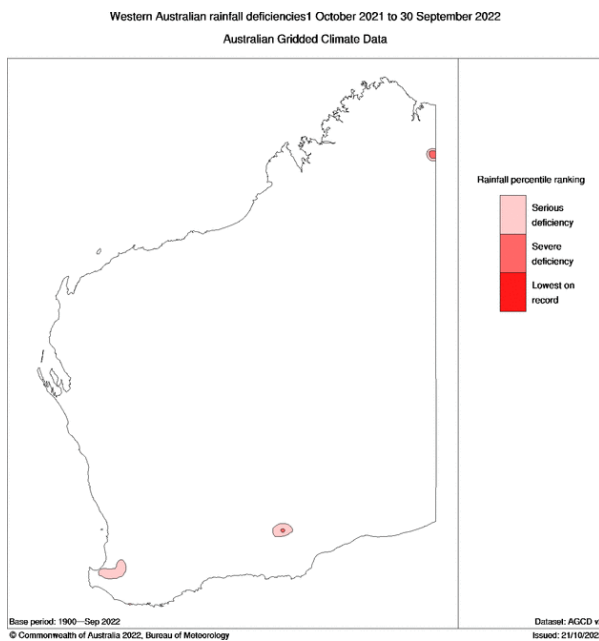


Fig. A2.3. Drought map for Western Australia for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 (last 12 months).

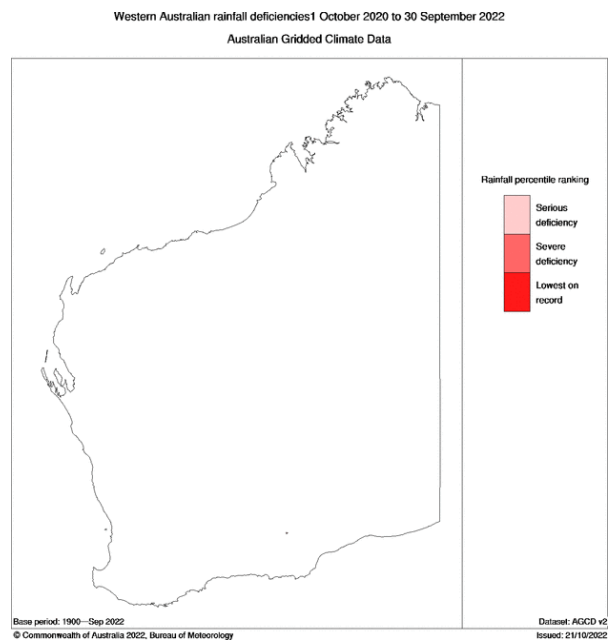


Fig. A2.4. Drought map for Western Australia for the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2022 (last 24 months).

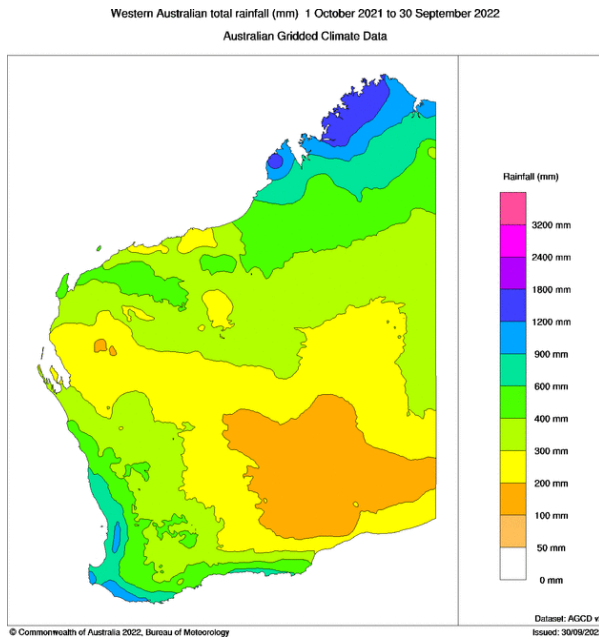


Fig. A2.5. Rainfall totals for Western Australia for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 (last 12 months).

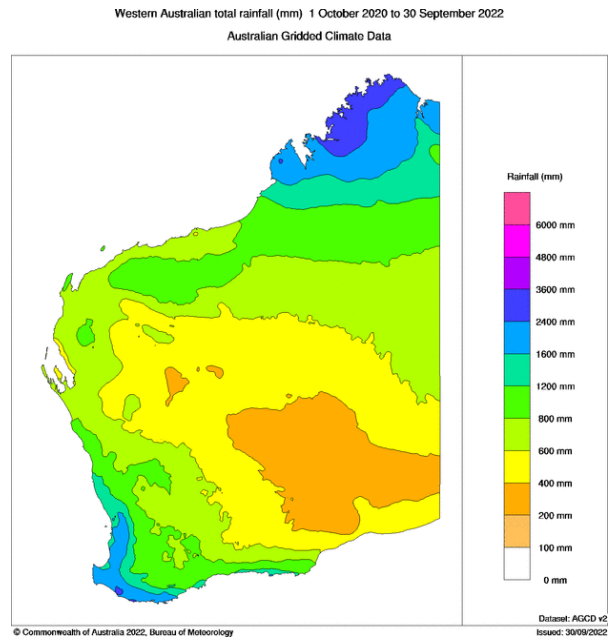


Fig. A2.6. Rainfall totals for Western Australia for the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2022 (last 24 months).

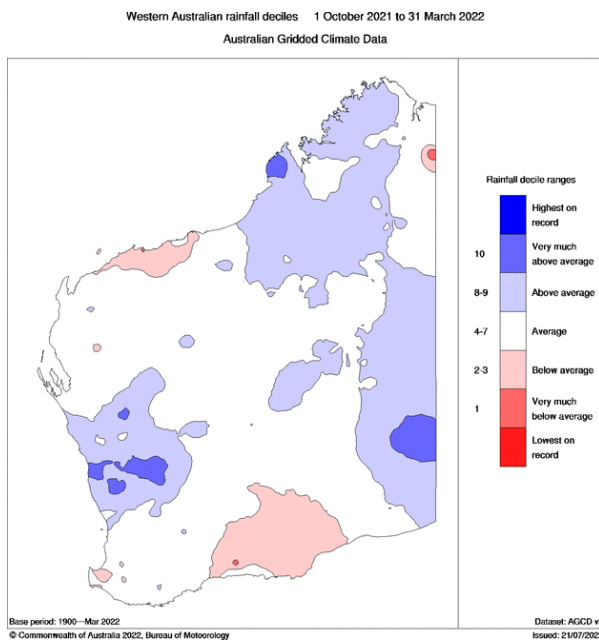


Fig. A2.7. Summer rainfall deciles for Western Australia for the period 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

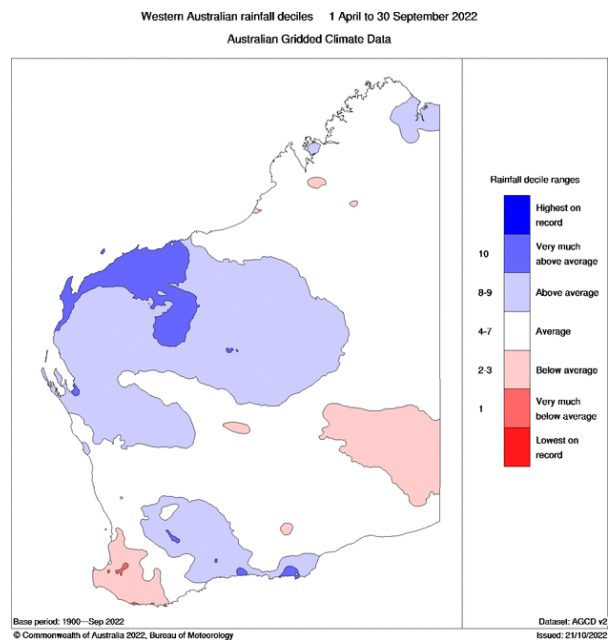
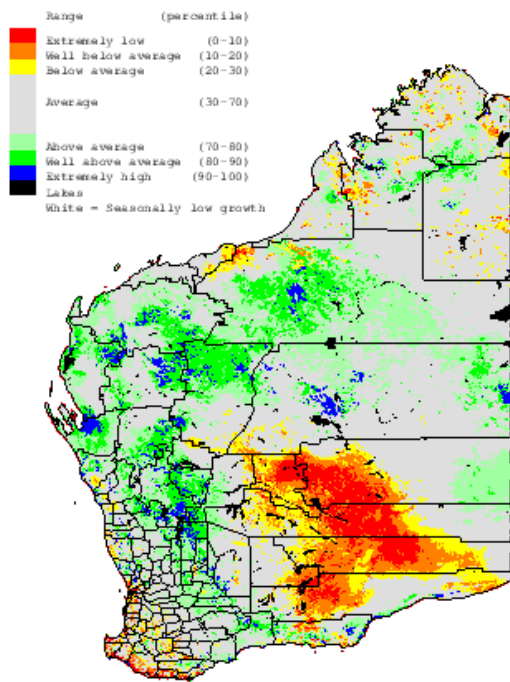


Fig. A2.8. Winter rainfall deciles for Western Australia for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.

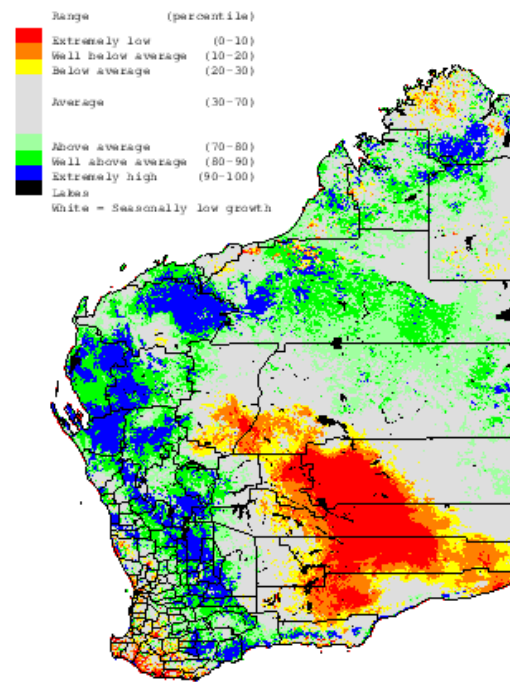
**Pasture Growth Percentile
Relative to Historical Records from 1957
October 2021 to September 2022**



www.LongPaddock.qld.gov.au

Fig. A2.9. Pasture growth in Western Australia for the period October 2021 to September 2022 (last 12 months).

**Pasture Growth Percentile
Relative to Historical Records from 1957
October 2020 to September 2022**



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Fig. A2.10. Pasture growth in Western Australia for the period October 2020 to September 2022 (last 24 months).

Appendix 3 Regional population estimates

Harvest data for 2022, presented in the figures and tables in Appendix 3, only includes data processed prior to 31 October 2022.

Northern Zone

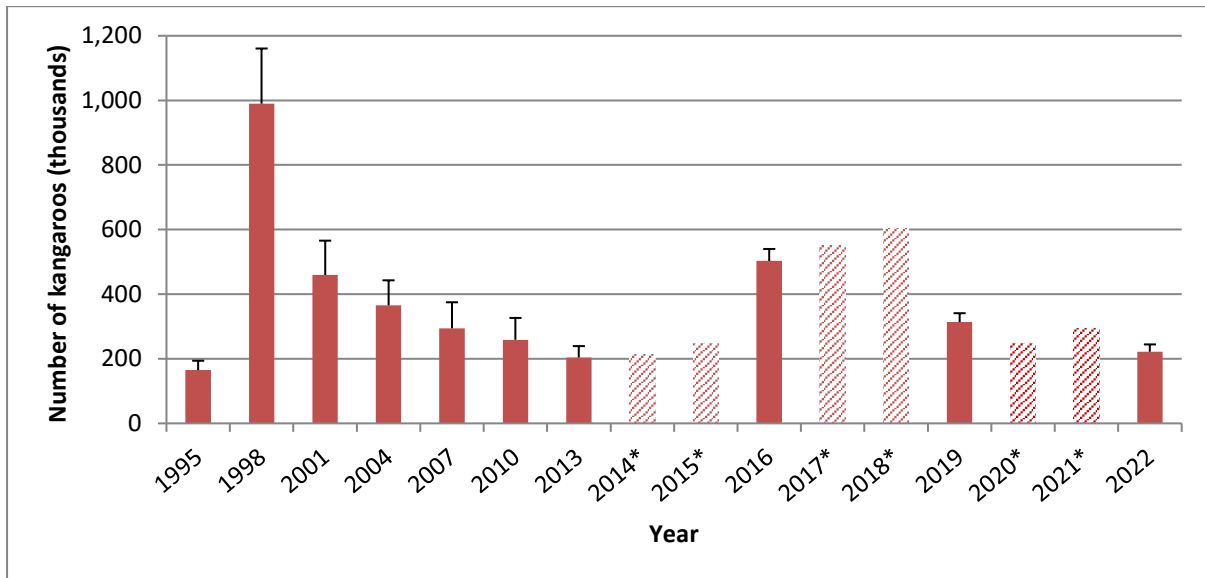


Fig. A3.1.1. Population estimates for red kangaroos in the Northern Zone. Note, all estimates use standard habitat correction factors. Temperature corrections are applied to post-1993 data. Estimates for years where the zone was not surveyed in full (*) are based on estimates from surveys in previous years and are scaled according to trends in rainfall.

Table A3.1.1. Red kangaroo population estimates for the Northern Zone in years following a full aerial survey of the zone.

Year	Population estimate ^a (\hat{N}_t)	Commercial harvest off-take (H)	Zone Rainfall Category	Population growth rate (r)
2013	203,820±35,588	9,789	Average	1.1
2014	213,434	7,435	Above average	1.2
2015	247,200	6,755	Average	na
2016	502,800±37,100	2,495	Average	1.1
2017	550,340	1,561	Average	1.1
2018	603,660	3334	Very much below average	na
2019	313,850±27,200	4311	Below average	0.8
2020	247,630	1,562	Above average ^d	1.2
2021	295,280	0 ^c	Above average ^d	1.2
2022 ^b	221,850±22,555			

^a $\hat{N}_{t+1} = (\hat{N}_t - H) \times r$ where: \hat{N}_t = the most recent population estimate; H = commercial harvest off-take between population estimates; and, r = population growth rate for a regional rainfall category in accordance with Action 10 of the management plan.

^b The most recent full survey of the Northern Zone was flown in August 2022.

^c The commercial harvest off-take in the Northern Zone between 1 January 2022 and 31 October 2022.

^d Rainfall in the Northern Zone for the preceding 12 months was considered to be above average for the zone overall (Figs A2.1 – A2.10).

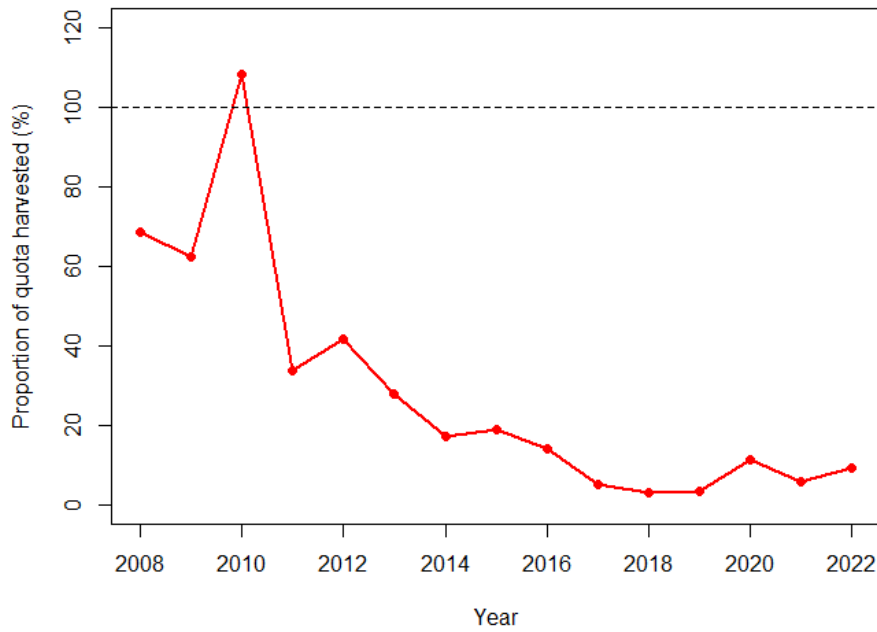


Fig. A3.1.2. Proportion of the Northern Zone commercial quota harvested from 2008 to 2022.

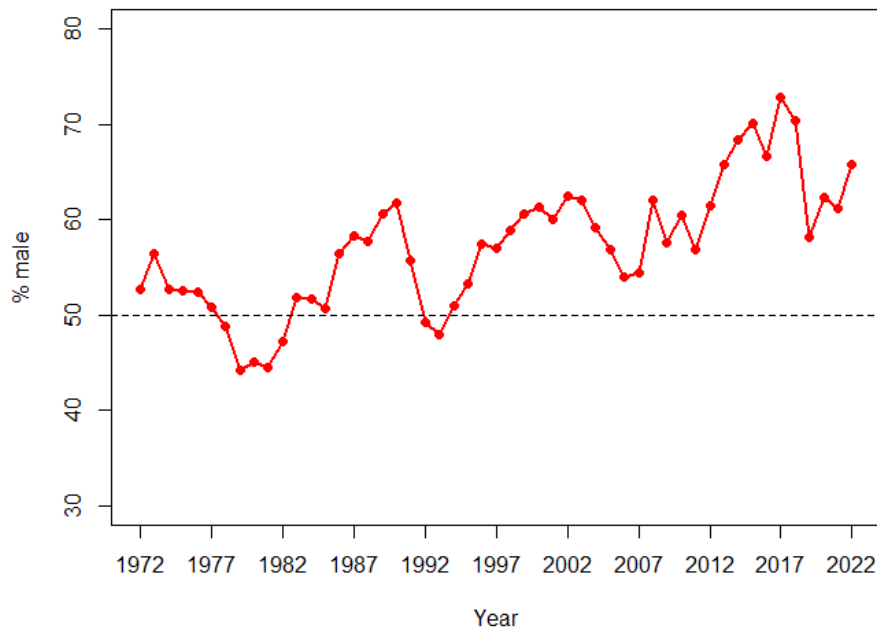


Fig. A3.1.3. Sex ratio of the commercial red kangaroo harvest in the Northern Zone from 1972 to 2022.

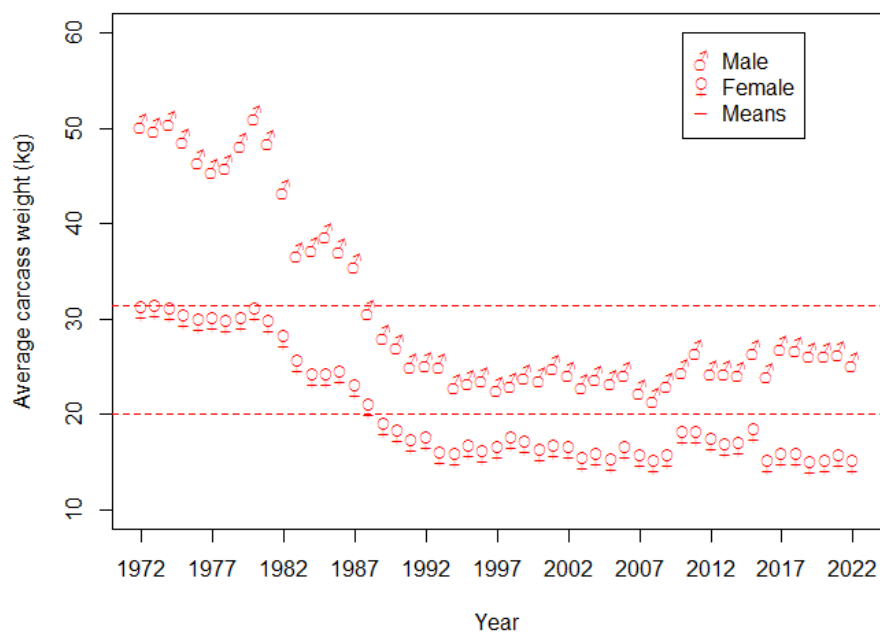


Fig. A3.1.4. Average carcass weights of the commercial red kangaroo harvest in the Northern Zone from 1972 to 2022. Carcass dressing methods (and therefore carcass weights) are not standardised.

Central Zone

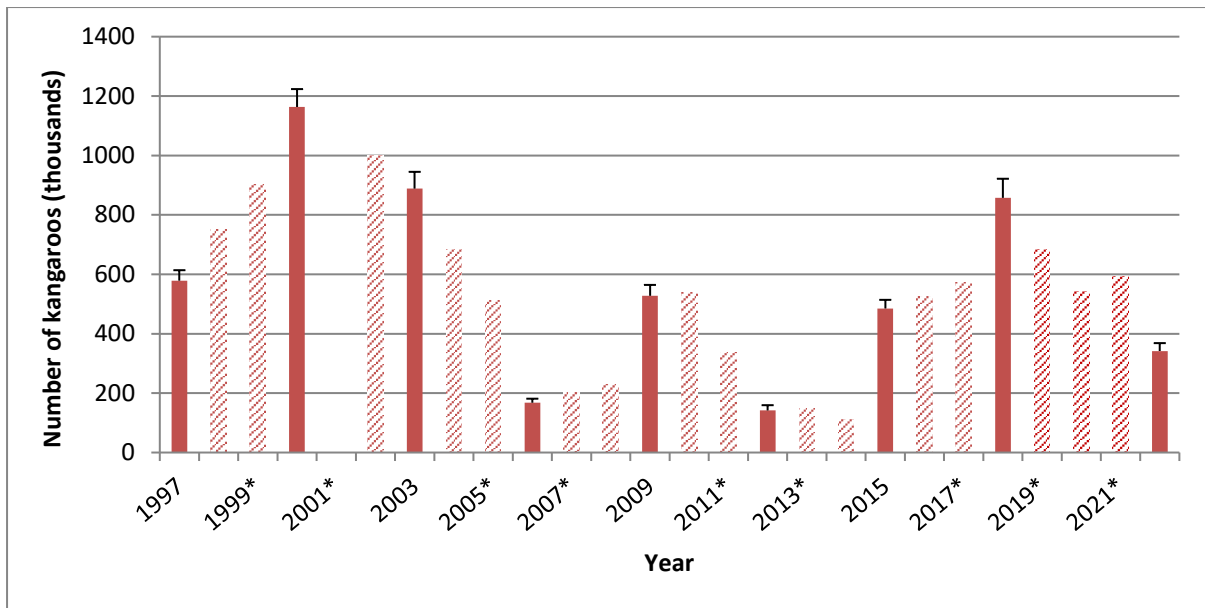


Fig. A3.2.1. Population estimates for red kangaroos in the Central Zone of Western Australia. Note, all estimates use standard habitat correction factors. Temperature corrections are applied to post-1993 data. Estimates for years where the zone was not surveyed in full (*) are based on estimates from surveys in previous years and/or monitor block surveys, and are scaled according to trends in regional rainfall.

Table A3.2.1. Red kangaroo population estimates for the Central Zone in years following a full aerial survey of the zone.

Year	Population estimate ^a (\hat{N}_t)	Commercial harvest off-take (H)	Zone Rainfall Category	Population growth rate (r)
2012	141,765	7,333	Average	1.1
2013	147,875	10,704	Below average	0.8
2014	109,737	12,842	Above average	na
2015	485,000±29,000	7,886	Average	1.1
2016	524,800	3,399	Average	1.1
2017	573,540	2,599	Average	na
2018	857,350±64,300	3,335	Below average	0.8
2019	683,210	4,992	Below average	0.8
2020	542,575	2,621	Average ^d	1.1
2021	593,950	1925 ^c	Above average ^d	1.2
2022 ^b	341,870			

^a $\hat{N}_{t+1} = (\hat{N}_t - H) \times r$ where: \hat{N}_t = the most recent population estimate; H = commercial harvest off-take between population estimates; and, r = population growth rate for a regional rainfall category in accordance with Action 10 of the management plan.

^b The most recent full survey of the Central Zone was flown in September 2022.

^c The commercial harvest off-take in the Central Zone between 1 January 2022 and 31 October 2022.

^d Rainfall in the Central Zone for the preceding 12 months was considered to be above average for the zone overall (Figs A2.1 – A2.10).

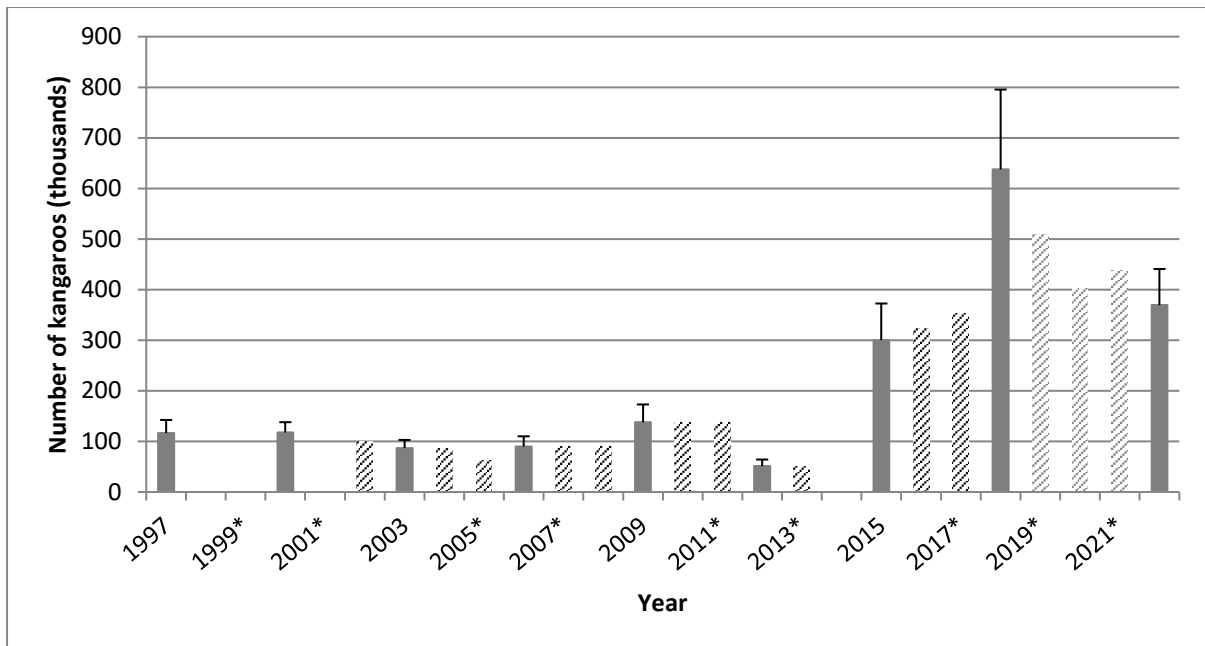


Fig. A3.2.2. Population estimates for western grey kangaroos in the Central Zone of Western Australia. Note, all estimates use standard habitat correction factors. Temperature corrections are applied to post-1993 data. Estimates for years where the zone was not surveyed in full (*) are based on estimates from surveys in previous years and/or monitor block surveys, and are scaled according to trends in regional rainfall.

Table A3.2.2. Western grey kangaroo population estimates for the Central Zone in years following a full aerial survey of the zone.

Year	Population estimate ^a (\hat{N}_t)	Commercial harvest off-take (H)	Zone Rainfall Category	Population growth rate (r)
2012	51,193	5,178	Average	1.1
2013	50,616	4,716	Below average	0.8
2014	36,720	5,504	Above average	na
2015	300,100±72,500	5,631	Average	1.1
2016	323,900	3,313	Average	1.1
2017	352,645	2,762	Average ^d	na
2018	637,660±157,800	2,679	Below average	0.8
2019	507,985	5,219	Below average ^d	0.8
2020	402,210	4,632 ^c	Average	1.1
2021	437,340	3,825 ^c	Above average ^d	1.2
2022 ^b	369,330			

^a $\hat{N}_{t+1} = (\hat{N}_t - H) \times r$ where: \hat{N}_t = the most recent population estimate; H = commercial harvest off-take between population estimates; and, r = population growth rate for a regional rainfall category in accordance with Action 10 of the management plan.

^b The most recent full survey of the Central Zone was flown in September 2022.

^c The commercial harvest off-take in the Central Zone between 1 January 2022 and 31 October 2022.

^d Rainfall in the Central Zone for the preceding 12 months was considered to be above average for the zone overall (Figs A2.1 – A2.10).



Fig. A3.2.3. Proportion of the Central Zone commercial quota harvested from 2008 to 2022.

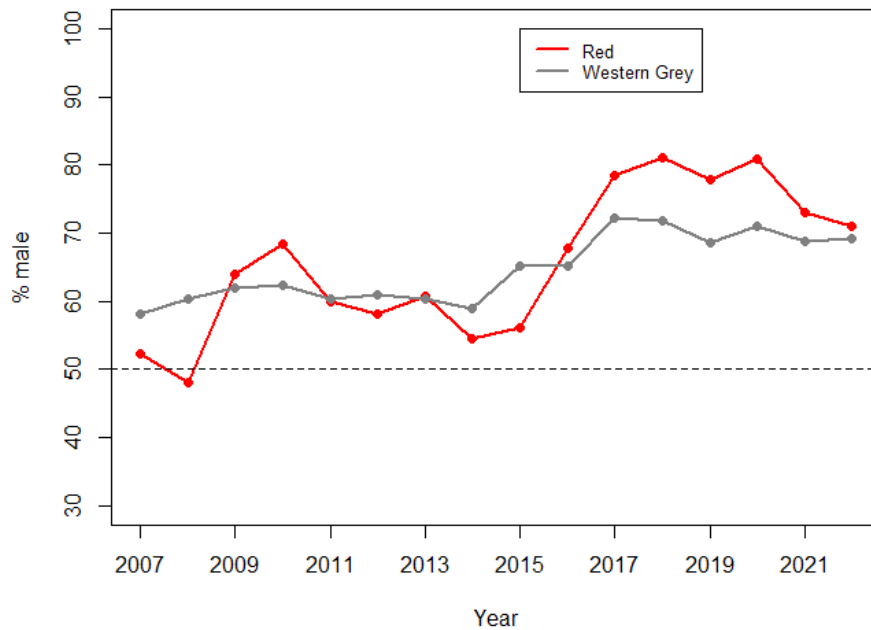


Fig. A3.2.4. Sex ratio of the commercial red and western grey kangaroo harvest in the Central Zone from 2007 to 2022.

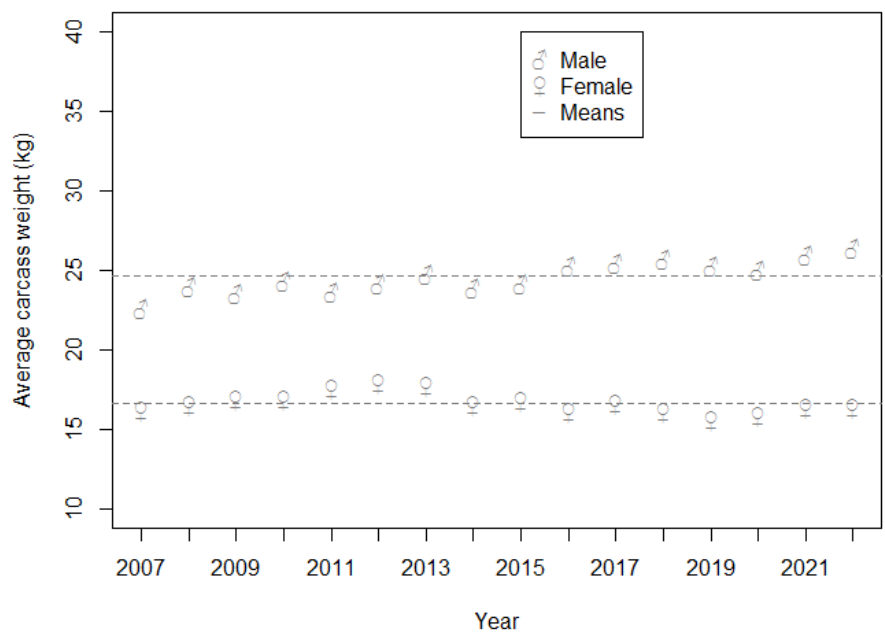
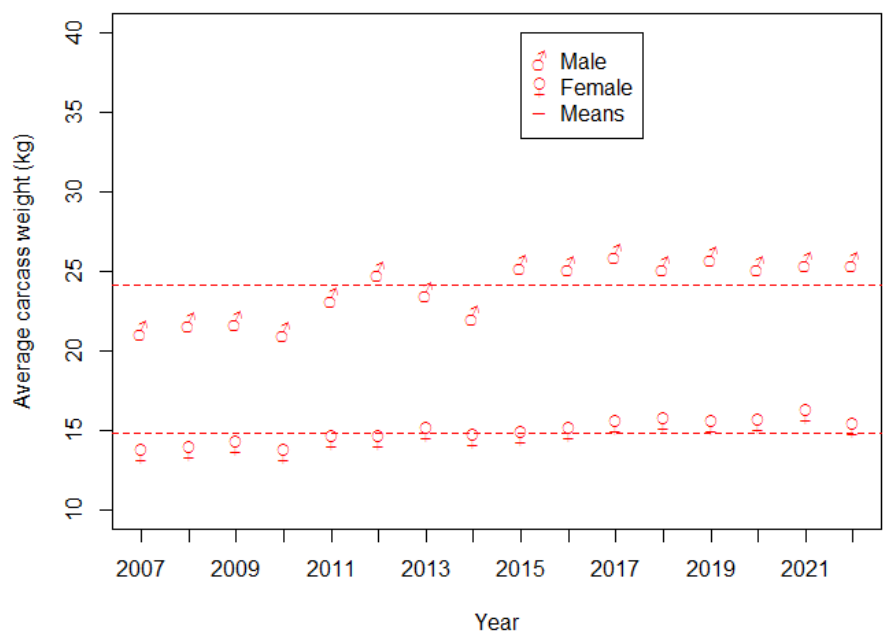


Fig. A3.2.5. Average carcass weights of the commercial red and western grey kangaroo harvest in the Central Zone from 2007 to 2022. Carcass dressing methods (and therefore carcass weights) are not standardised.

South-East Zone

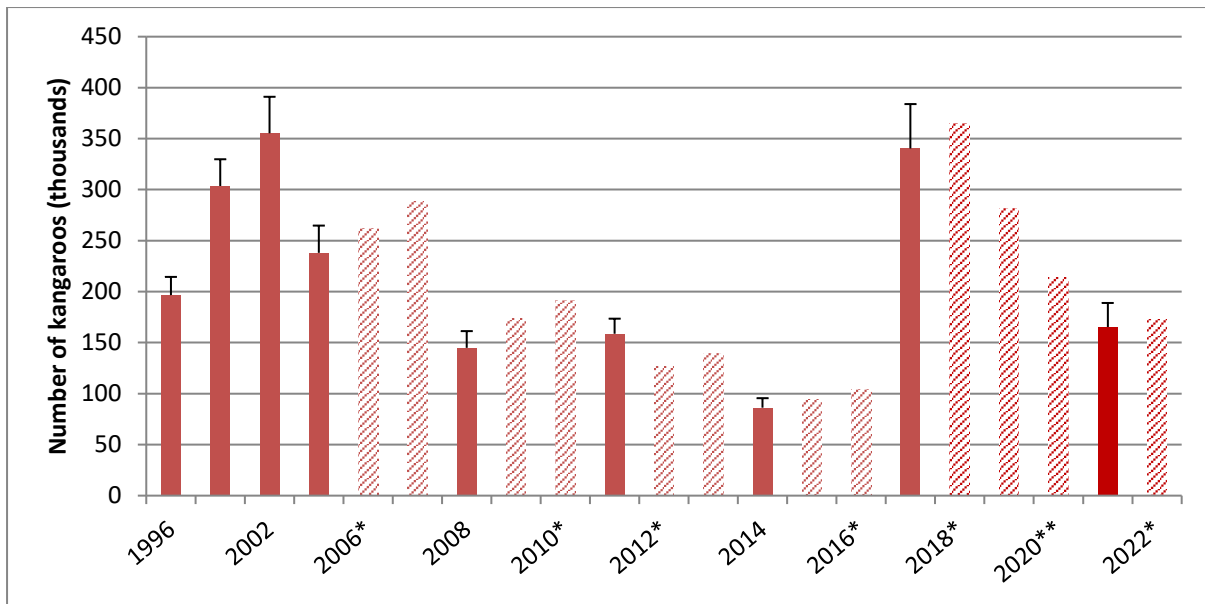


Fig. A3.3.1. Population estimates for red kangaroos in the South-East Zone of Western Australia. Note, all estimates use standard habitat correction factors. Temperature corrections are applied to post-1993 data. Estimates for years where the zone was not surveyed in full (*) are based on estimates from surveys in previous years and/or monitor block surveys, and are scaled according to trends in regional rainfall. **The 2020 aerial survey was not conducted due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Table A3.3.1. Red kangaroo population estimates for the South-East Zone in years following a full aerial survey of the zone.

Year	Population estimate ^a (\hat{N}_i)	Commercial harvest off-take (H)	Zone Rainfall Category	Population growth rate (r)
2014	86,200±17,250	0	Average	1.1
2015	94,800	7,781	Above average	1.2
2016	104,400	5,580	Above average	na
2017	340,450±43,470	8,857	Average	1.1
2018	364,750	12,801	Below average	0.8
2019	281,560	14,452	Below average	0.8
2020 ^e	213,685	9,660	Average	1.1
2021 ^b	165,360±23,530	8,171 ^c	Average ^d	1.1
2022	172,910			

^a $\hat{N}_{i+1} = (\hat{N}_i - H) \times r$ where: \hat{N}_i = the most recent population estimate; H = commercial harvest off-take between population estimates; and, r = population growth rate for a regional rainfall category in accordance with Action 10 of the management plan.

^b The most recent full survey of the South-East Zone was flown in September 2021.

^c The commercial harvest off-take in the South-East Zone between 1 January 2022 and 31 October 2022.

^d Rainfall in the South-East Zone for the preceding 12 months was considered to be average for the zone overall (Figs A2.1 – A2.10).

^e Due to Covid-19 restrictions including WA border closure the SE Zone was not flown in 2020.

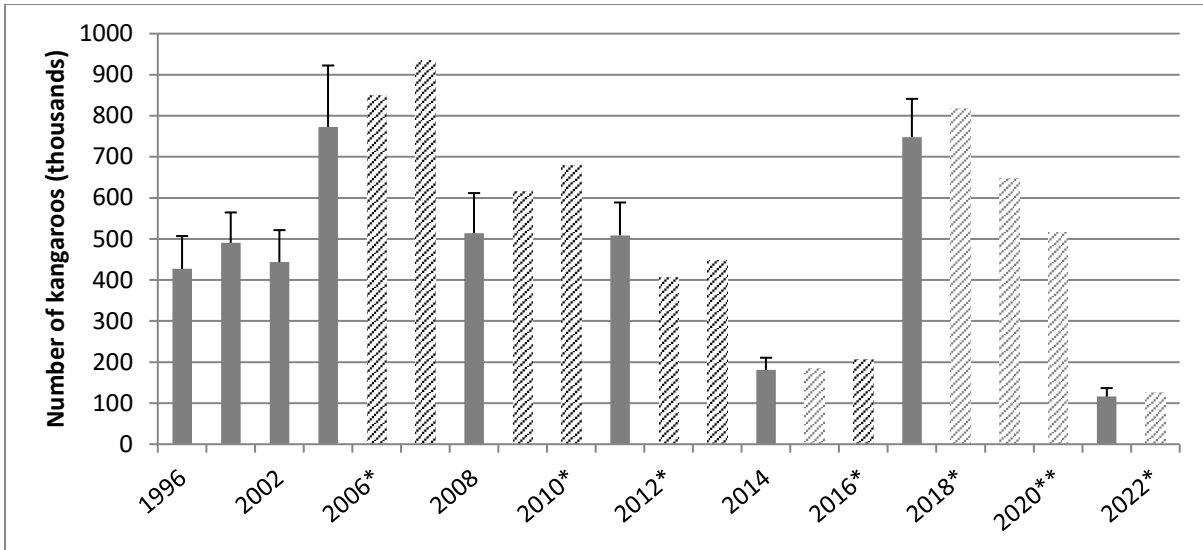


Fig. A3.3.2. Population estimates for western grey kangaroos in the South-East Zone of Western Australia. Note, all estimates use standard habitat correction factors (Table 2.2). Temperature corrections are applied to post-1993 data. Estimates for years where the zone was not surveyed in full (*) are based on estimates from surveys in previous years and/or monitor block surveys, and are scaled according to trends in regional rainfall. **The 2020 aerial survey was not conducted due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Table A3.3.2. Western grey kangaroo population estimates for the South-East Zone in years following a full aerial survey of the zone.

Year	Population estimate ^a (\hat{N}_i)	Commercial harvest off-take (H)	Zone Rainfall Category	Population growth rate (r)
2014	179,400±51,751	14,743	Average	1.1
2015	181,100	9,679	Above average	1.2
2016	205,700	4,304	Above average	na
2017	747,700±93,400	5,117	Average	1.1
2018	816,840	5,548	Below average	0.8
2019	647,620	2,919	Below average	0.8
2020 ^e	515,760	3,820	Average	1.1
2021 ^b	115,895±20,760	506 ^c	Average ^d	1.1
2022	126,930			

^a $\hat{N}_{i+1} = (\hat{N}_i - H) \times r$ where: \hat{N}_i = the most recent population estimate; H = commercial harvest off-take between population estimates; and, r = population growth rate for a regional rainfall category in accordance with Action 10 of the management plan.

^b The most recent full survey of the South-East Zone was flown in September 2021.

^c The commercial harvest off-take in the South-East Zone between 1 January 2022 and 31 October 2022.

^d Rainfall in the South-East Zone for the preceding 12 months was considered to be average for the zone overall (Figs A2.1 – A2.10).

^e Due to Covid-19 restrictions including WA border closure the SE Zone was not flown in 2020.

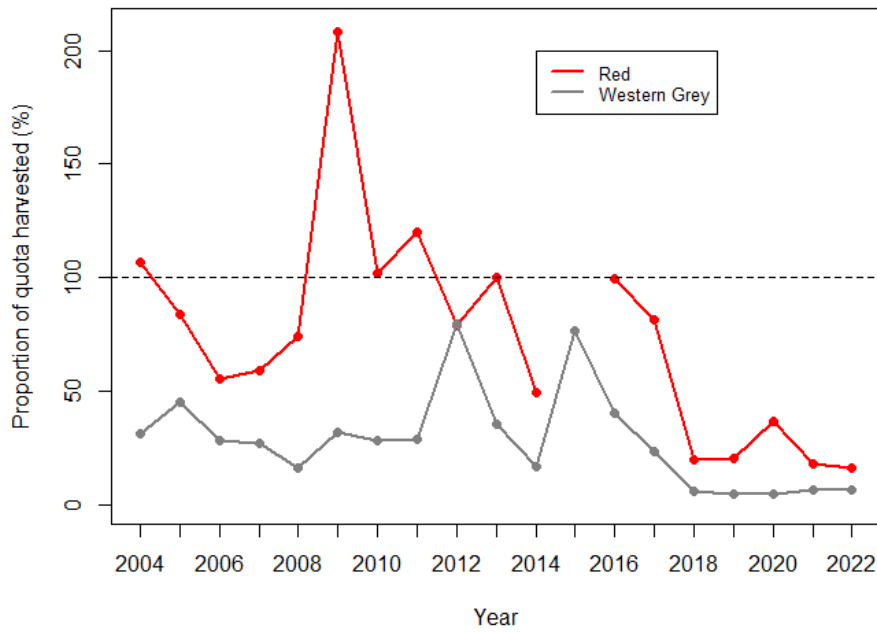


Fig. A3.3.3. Proportion of the South-East Zone commercial quota harvested from 2008 to 2022. Note, no red kangaroos were harvested in 2015.

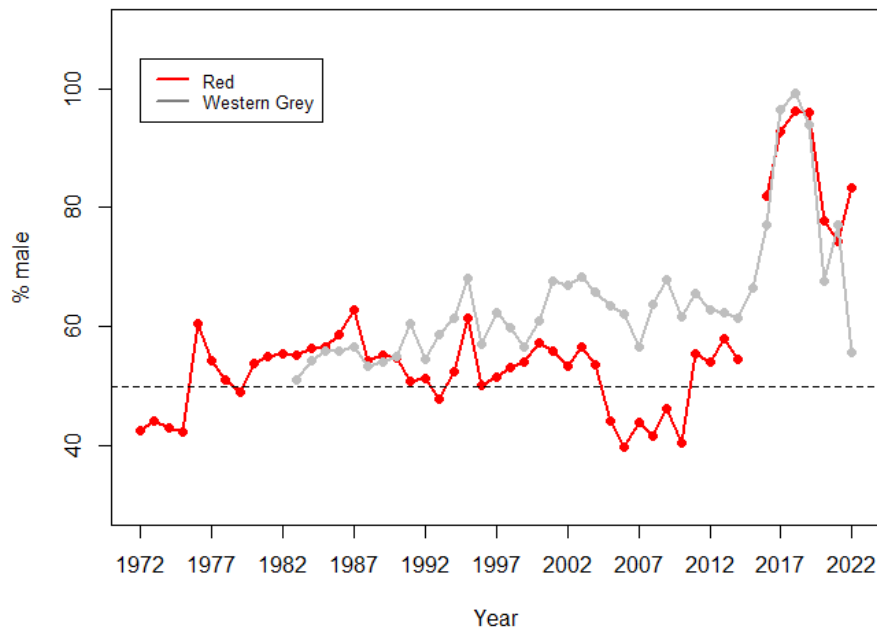


Fig. A3.3.4. Sex ratio of the commercial harvest of red and western grey kangaroos in the South-East Zone from 1972 to 2022. Note, no red kangaroos were harvested in 2015.

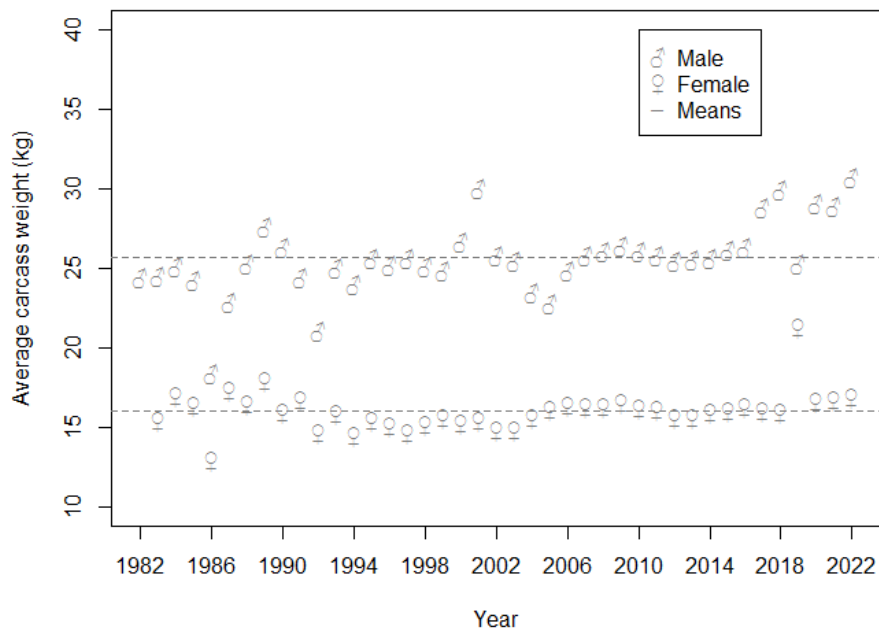
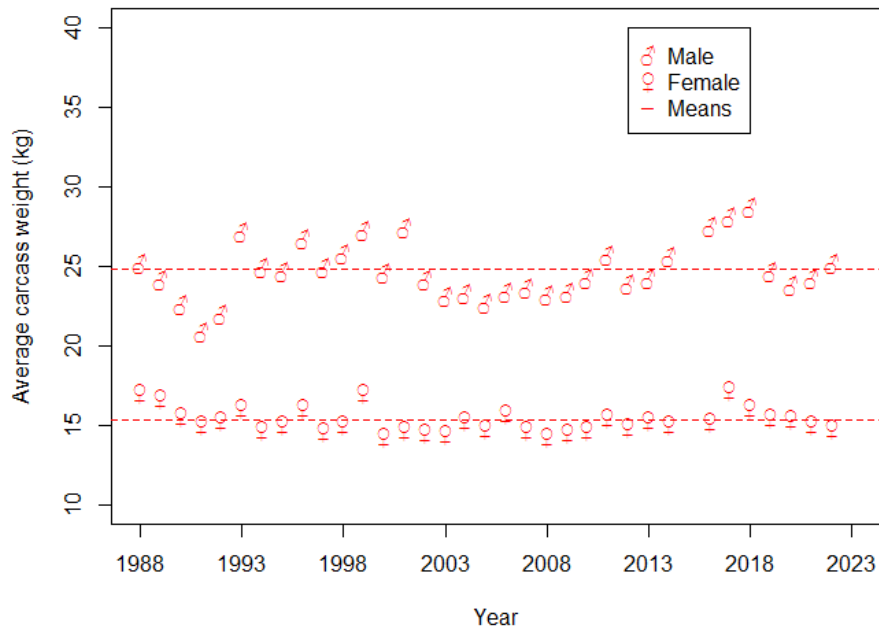


Fig A3.3.5. Average carcass weights of the commercial red and western grey kangaroo harvest in the South-East Zone. Carcass dressing methods (and therefore carcass weights) are not standardised.

South-West Zone

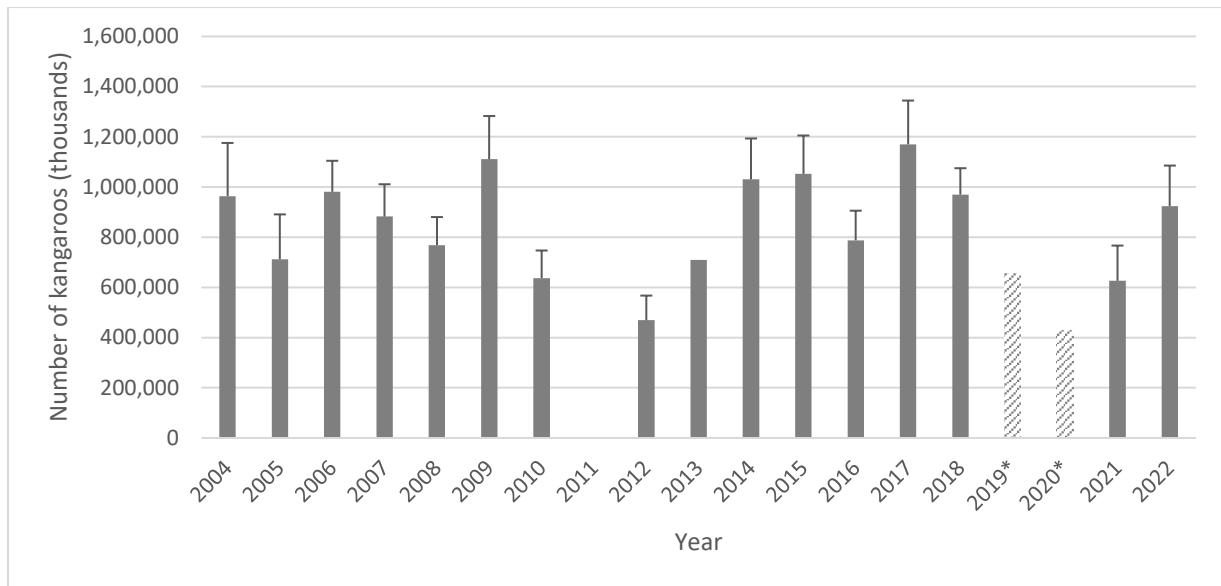


Fig. A3.4.1. Aerial survey population estimates with standard errors for western grey kangaroos in South-West Zone monitor blocks from 2004-2022. All estimates use standard habitat correction factors and temperature corrections. No aerial surveys were undertaken in the South-West Zone from 1988-2003, in 2011, 2019 and 2020. New transects were added in 2013 which increased the aggregate area of the monitor blocks. Consequently, adjustments have been made to population estimates in prior years. Estimates for years where the zone was not surveyed in full (*) are based on estimates from surveys in previous years and/or monitor block surveys and are scaled according to trends in regional rainfall.

Note that population estimates for the South-West Zone are a product of the mean kangaroo density in the monitor blocks and the aggregate area of the monitor blocks. No additional allowance is being made for kangaroos occupying the unsurveyed portion of the South-West Zone (i.e. for the purpose of the quota calculation, the density in the unsurveyed areas is treated as being zero). However, western grey kangaroos are harvested in the unsurveyed parts of the South-West Zone.

Table A3.4.1. Western grey kangaroo population estimates for the South-West Zone in years following a full aerial survey of the zone.

Year	Population estimate ^a (\hat{N}_t)	Commercial harvest off-take (H)	Zone Rainfall Category	Population growth rate (r)
2018	969,300±105,250	31,617	Below average	0.7
2019	656,380	43,645 ^c	Below average	0.8
2020	490,190	36,874	Above average ^d	1.2
2021	626,310±140,240	38,685 ^c	Average	1.1
2022 ^b	923,660±161,780			

^a $\hat{N}_{t+1} = (\hat{N}_t - H) \times r$ where: \hat{N}_t = the most recent population estimate; H = commercial harvest off-take between population estimates; and, r = population growth rate for a regional rainfall category in accordance with Action 10 of the management plan.

^b The most recent full survey of the South-West Zone was flown in October 2022.

^c The commercial harvest off-take in the South-West Zone between 1 January 2022 and 31 October 2022.

^d Rainfall in the South-West Zone for the preceding 12 months was considered to be average for the zone overall (Figs A2.1 – A2.10).

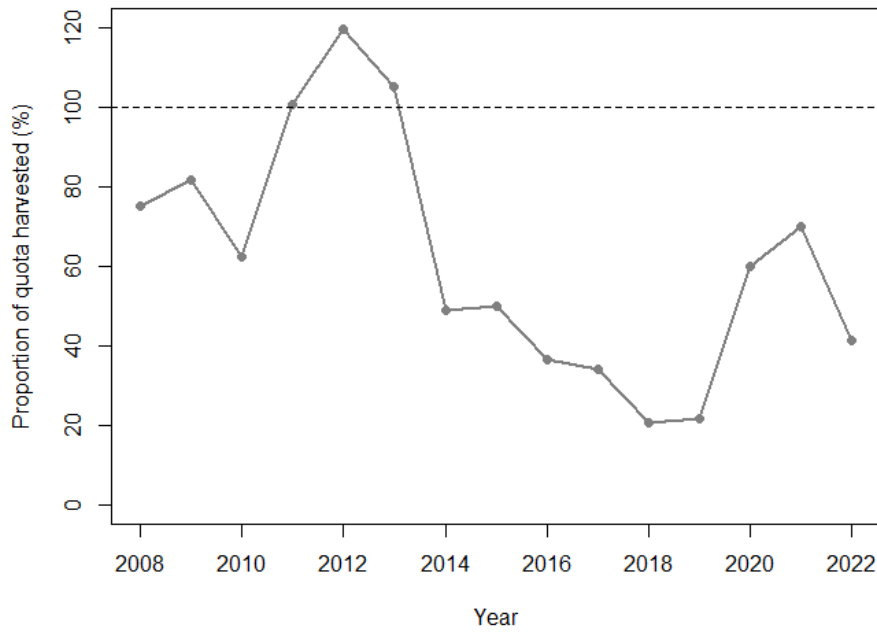


Fig. A3.4.2. Proportion of the South-West Zone regional commercial quota harvested from 2008 to 2022.

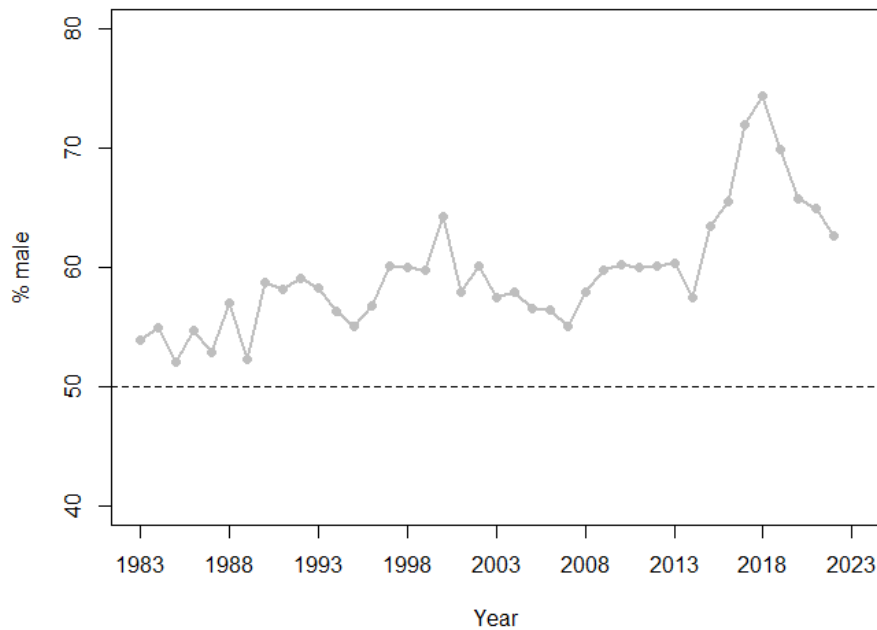


Fig. A3.4.3. Sex ratio of the commercial harvest of western grey kangaroos in the South-West Zone from 1983 to 2022.

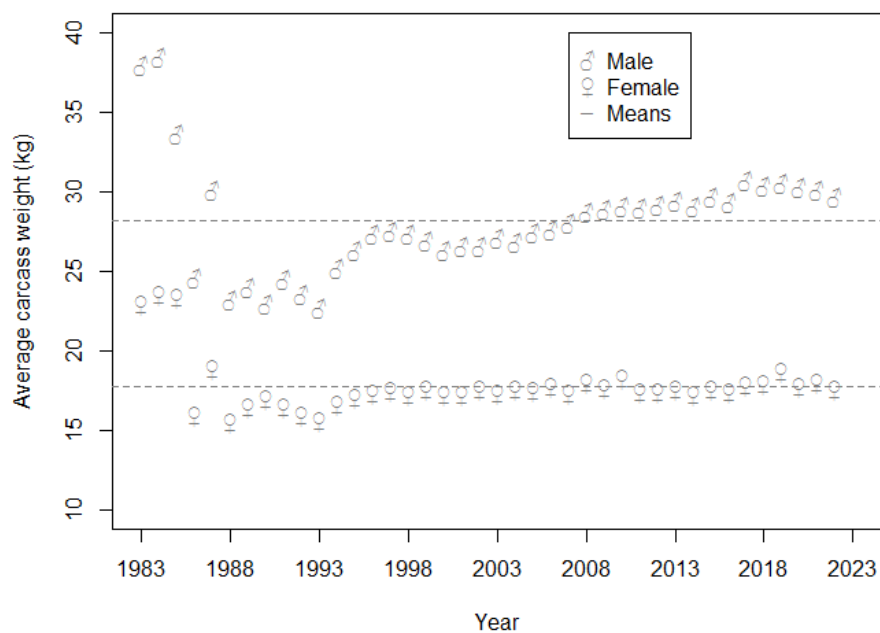


Fig A3.4.4. Average carcass weights of the commercial western grey kangaroo harvest in the South-West Zone. Carcass dressing methods (and therefore carcass weights) are not standardised.