

Additionally, the open season applies in the Northcliffe Ward of the Manjimup Road District and in all that part of the Woodanilling Road District west of the Great Southern Railway.

The areas which were previously included in the open season but were closed from June 1 include all the Manjimup Road District outside the Northcliffe ward, and the whole of the Cranbrook and Greenbushes Road Districts.

In reaching its recommendation, the Committee had taken into account advice received from departmental officers, honorary wardens, local authorities and other interested persons, said the Minister. Although it had to be admitted that kangaroos did cause damage in parts of the districts to be closed, the effects of commercial exploitation of these marsupials for the pet food trade had to be watched very closely and were causing some local concern.

The status of kangaroos and the damage they caused in the closed districts were still under review, Mr. Hutchinson continued. He added that it might be decided later to include some of them or parts of them in the open season area. He wished to make it clear, however, that farmers whose properties were being damaged could take out licenses to authorise them to destroy as many kangaroos as they considered necessary to protect their properties.

"It must be clearly understood that all persons taking kangaroos for profit must be licensed and that professional hunters must not operate in areas where the open season does not apply", concluded the Minister. "I would like to issue a warning that these restrictions will be enforced strictly to ensure that kangaroos are only reduced in numbers and not exterminated."

ADDITIONAL FAUNA SANCTUARIES.

Four additional reserves, two east of Pingelly and two in Flinders Bay, have been created and their control vested in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. The reserves at East Pingelly include Woyerling Well which has historic significance from its use by the collector Shortridge about the turn of the century. It will serve now as headquarters for officers and scientists working in the adjacent reserve No. 25555 which probably contains the best representation of native mammals of any reserve in the State. The two reserves in Flinders Bay include Seal and St. Alouarn Islands, nesting sites

of various sea-birds.

The setting aside of these four new reserved areas brings the total number of reserves for the conservation of fauna to 96. Ranging in size from four to almost one million acres, the reserves protect over four thousand square miles of wildlife habitat.