

GREY KANGAROO MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Prior to European settlement in Western Australia the range of the grey kangaroo extended throughout the south-west and southern areas of the State.

Since that time, however, the spread of agriculture in the south-west land division has removed approximately 50 million acres from a total of 63 million acres of prime natural habitat. Reduced populations of grey kangaroos still survive in this region but the unavoidable conflict between primary producers and the animals remains.

In conjunction with the Agriculture Protection Board the Department of Fisheries and Fauna has formulated a management plan designed to ensure the long-term survival of the grey kangaroo. At the same time it will allow the landholder to protect his crops from damage caused by these animals.

Details of the management programme follow:

LIMITED OPEN SEASON AREAS

The following procedure will apply in the Shires shown in Appendix A.

Where Sale of Skins or Carcasses is not intended:

1. A landholder may, on cleared areas of his property, and at a point where damage is occurring, destroy the grey kangaroos causing damage.

(A damage license must be held before shooting in areas of virgin freehold or leasehold land or land held under pastoral or grazing lease.)

2. Forthwith, the landholder must notify the nearest Departmental Warden of Fauna that he has commenced shooting.

3. The landholder may continue shooting until the warden arrives, so long as the damage continues.

4. The warden will inspect the property as soon as convenient and assess the justification for shooting.

5. In the event of the shooting not being justified, the warden may issue the landholder with a notice prohibiting further shooting without first obtaining a damage license.

Where Landholder Wishes to Sell Skins or Carcasses:

1. A landholder may, on cleared areas of his property, and at a point where damage is occurring, destroy the grey kangaroos causing the damage.

(A damage license must be held before shooting in areas of virgin freehold or leasehold land or land held under pastoral or grazing leases.)

2. Forthwith, the landholder must notify the nearest Departmental Warden of Fauna that he has commenced shooting.

3. The landholder may continue shooting until the warden arrives so long as the damage continues, but he must retain for biological research purposes, the skulls of all grey kangaroos which he intends to market.

4. The warden will inspect the property as soon as convenient and assess the justification for shooting.

5. The warden may issue a license with tags to be affixed to the skins and carcasses of all or part of the take, if he considers the shooting was warranted. The issue of tags may take place during, or at the expiration, of the license.

6. If further management control of the population is necessary the warden may issue a license to take a specified number of grey kangaroos during a specified period.

7. The warden will issue tags to cover the number stated on the license.

8. The landholder will be required by the warden to retain the skulls of all grey kangaroos shot, for subsequent collection for biological research purposes.

9. In the event of the shooting not being justified, the warden may issue the landholder with a notice prohibiting further shooting without first obtaining a damage license.

10. In the event of a dispute arising regarding issue of tags, number of grey kangaroos taken, or justification for shooting, the farmer shall have a right of appeal to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna.

OTHER AREAS

Damage Licenses:

In all areas where grey kangaroos exist (except those listed in Appendix "A") landholders must apply for a damage permit before destroying any grey kangaroos.

In the event of a damage permit being issued, the Warden will issue sufficient tags to cover the number of grey kangaroos stated on the license should the landholder wish to sell the skins or carcasses. The issue of tags may take place during, or at the expiration of the license. The landholder will be required by the warden to retain the skulls of all grey kangaroos shot for subsequent collection for biological research purposes.

Eastern Goldfields (Yilgarn, Coolgardie, Boulder and Dundas Shires):

The area embracing the pastoral portions of these Shires presents some difficulty because of unresolved differences of opinion as to the numbers of grey kangaroos. For the time being, until further information is available, these Shires will be treated as areas where a damage license is required before shooting commences.

Management or Cropping Procedure:

In areas where grey kangaroo numbers have built up to troublesome proportions, the Department of Fisheries and Fauna will carry out a programme of management or cropping, based on the employment of Departmental staff or licensed shooters under contract.

Appeal Procedure:

In the event of a landholder and the Fauna Warden being unable to reach agreement, the Warden will consult the Regional Vermin Control Officer for his advice. The Warden will then make his final decision. Should the landholder still feel that he has cause to disagree with the Warden's assessment, he may appeal to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna.

APPENDIX "A"

Limited Open Season Areas

Areas of Freehold or leasehold occupied land actively farmed in the undermentioned Shires.

Northampton	Nyabing-Pingrup
Chapman Valley	Gnowangerup
Mullewa	Ravensthorpe
Greenough	Esperance
Irwin	Tambellup
Mingenew	Cranbrook
Morawa	Plantagenet
Three Springs	Albany
Perenjori	Denmark
Carnamah	Kojonup
Coorow	Manjimup
Dandaragan	Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Dalwallinu	Upper Blackwood
Koorda	Nannup
Mount Marshall	Augusta-Margaret River
Westonia	Donnybrook-Balingup
Yilgarn	West Arthur
Narembeen	Williams
Kondinin	Boddington
Kulin	Wandering
Dundas	Mukinbudin
Lake Grace	

That part of the Shire of Merredin east of the Vermin Fence.