



RESTRICTED
OPEN
SEASON - ONLY WATTLEBIRDS

GREY KANGAROO MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME EXPLAINED

The Grey Kangaroo Management Programme came into effect last year and is designed to ensure the long-term conservation of the grey kangaroo, while at the same time, recognising the right of the landholder to protect his primary production from damage.

Nearly one year has elapsed since the programme was implemented, and although there is no doubt of its overall success, an appraisal of the situation has shown that not all members of the rural community fully understand the provisions, and also that some amendments are necessary. The legislation covering the original programme was published in SWANS Vol. 2 No. 3 Winter 1971 (p. 70). It listed among other things, those shires where a limited open season on the grey kangaroo had been proclaimed; these are shires in which grey kangaroo populations are reasonably secure and where conflict with agriculture is likely to be continuous. The open season is referred to as "limited" because of the restrictive conditions placed upon it.

These restrictive conditions are:

- (1) Grey kangaroos may be taken only by the owner or occupier of the land on which they are taken, or by an agent appointed in writing by the owner or occupier. (This has now been amended to include employees, members of the owner's family, and also licensed part-time shooters.)
- (2) Where the land is virgin land or land held under pastoral lease, the owner or occupier or his agent (includes part-time shooters) shall not take any grey kangaroos unless he has first obtained a damage license.
- (3) The kangaroos shall be taken only on land which is being actively farmed and on which the kangaroos are causing damage.
- (4) The person taking the kangaroos shall notify the nearest warden of fauna as soon as practicable after he has commenced the taking of kangaroos.
- (5) The warden may, if after an inspection of the property he considers it necessary, prohibit the further taking of kangaroos on that property until the owner or occupier obtains a damage license.
- (6) Skins or carcasses may not be sold unless damage tags have been issued.

The introduction of licensed part-time shooters is the major amendment to the original programme. Many reports have been received indicating a build-up of grey kangaroo populations in the South-West, causing problems for farmers and creating road hazards. Licensed part-time shooters can now carry out cropping on behalf of farmers who have damage problems. Also, where grey kangaroos are found to be in excess numbers on uncleared land, part-time shooters will shoot under the authority and direction of this Department. It is thought that this should reduce both problems to reasonable proportions.

As a natural consequence of the introduction of part-time shooters there could be a need for chillers in rural areas. The Department will allow the licensing of these, but only in areas where they can be closely supervised.

The Shires where a limited (restricted) open season has been proclaimed are as follows:

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

All that part of the Shire of Merredin east of the Vermin Proof Fence.

*Added to list June, 1972.

One of the points which has arisen after examination of the programme is that some individual farmers are not fully aware of the requirements of the regulations. The action a farmer should take if he is suffering damage is shown in the flow chart below, which it is hoped will be republished through other media and thus reach the maximum number of involved parties.

It should be pointed out that the programme and any amendments are the result of informed discussion (and subsequent agreement) between officers of this Department, members of the Agriculture Protection Board and the Western Australian Wildlife Authority. Four farmers represent

the interests of the rural community in these bodies. The programme is flexible in that amendments may be made in the light of subsequent information or should conditions alter to any great extent.

