



No. 30 Western grey kangaroo management plan

This note provides information on the western grey kangaroo management plan for Western Australia, including the legalities of destroying kangaroos. For general comments on control and information on other methods and kangaroo biology, refer to the publications listed under further reading.

Destruction of western grey kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*), by shooting can be an effective way to reduce the damage they cause. Managing kangaroo numbers is part of the process of controlling total grazing pressure on farmland and rangeland.

Status

The western grey kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*) is protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). The western grey kangaroo is also a declared pest of agriculture under the provisions of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*, administered by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food. This declaration allows for the approval and implementation of a western grey kangaroo management plan and management strategies in various areas of the state.

Kangaroo management plan

The management program for western grey kangaroos is administered by DEC and was introduced in this State in 1971. The plan meets the requirements of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and *Regulations*, as well as State legislation.

It's aim is to prevent unacceptable damage to agriculture, whilst ensuring the long-term viability of kangaroo populations, including those at the local community level. Where possible, it also aims to manage kangaroos as a renewable resource without compromising the conservation of the species.

Commercial harvest quotas for western grey kangaroos are determined annually by reviewing current population trends, past seasonal conditions and trends in land use. Annual aerial surveys of kangaroos are undertaken to determine animal abundance and distribution.

Commercial use of kangaroos

The total number of kangaroos that may be taken commercially is controlled by DEC through the issue of royalty tags. The tags are colour-coded for each kangaroo species. A tag must be attached to the each carcase or skin taken for commercial purposes in the prescribed manner.

Open season shires

The current open season permits the shooting of western grey kangaroos on private property in specified municipal districts (see the attached map) without a damage licence. Kangaroo populations in these shires are secure and damage to agriculture is likely to be an ongoing problem.

Open season restrictions

1. The open season applies only on private land in the districts listed, including freehold land, conditional purchase leasehold land or any other leasehold land which is granted for the purpose of agricultural production under the *Land Administration Act 1997*.
2. Western grey kangaroos may be taken only when they are, or can be reasonably expected to, cause damage to primary production.
3. After inspecting a property in an open season shire a DEC wildlife officer may prohibit the shooting of western grey kangaroos on that property, until the landholder or leaseholder obtains a damage licence.
4. Western grey kangaroos may be destroyed only by the landholder or leaseholder on land which they own or occupy in the open season shire. If the landholder does not wish to, or is unable to carry out the shooting himself or herself, they may nominate an agent or a licensed kangaroo shooter to shoot on their behalf. The landholder or leaseholder must fill out a proforma letter - for private property owners/lessees to authorise persons to enter their land and destroy western grey kangaroos when they are causing damage to primary production. The licensed professional shooter must carry this permit with them at all times when shooting. If the landholder or leaseholder does not have anyone to do the shooting for them, the local DEC

office can provide the names of licensed shooters in the district who may be able to assist.

5. Whether or not they are in an open season shire, a property owner can not shoot, then sell or move western grey kangaroos, their carcasses or skins for commercial purposes unless they hold the appropriate royalty tags and a professional shooter's licence.
6. All shooting must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos.

Private property

The flow diagram below summarises the management options for reducing numbers or damage caused by western grey kangaroos on private property, both in and out of the open season shires.

Shires without an open season

For properties outside the open season area (i.e. local government authorities other than those shaded on the map), western grey kangaroos may not be destroyed on private property unless the landholder or leaseholder has first obtained a *Regulation 5 - Damage Licence* from DEC.

Before the issue of a Regulation 5 - Damage Licence, it is normal practice for a DEC wildlife officer to carry out a property inspection to assess the extent of the problem.

Many areas on the outskirts of Perth and other centres come under this category. Conditions four to six above, relating to open season shires, will apply once a damage licence is issued. In addition to the conditions, approval must be sought from the local police before shooting is undertaken and all adjoining neighbours must be notified prior to the commencement of a shooting program (which may last several days, weeks or months).

On small holdings, shooting may be permitted only as a one-off, short-term measure. Long-term damage reduction methods may be suggested to landholders as an alternative to shooting on small properties. Repeated shooting in such locations may lead to a serious decline in local populations of kangaroos. The use of high-powered firearms can be dangerous and, as such, lower powered firearms may be approved by DEC under certain circumstances. In some areas, shooting will not be permitted by DEC or the local police, so other control methods must be considered (see the notes listed under further reading for damage control options).

Non-private land

When western grey kangaroos are found to be in excessive numbers on areas other than private land culling may be authorised by DEC, subject to the approval of the authority controlling the land concerned.

Licensed professional shooters

Under the management plan, licensed professional shooters can be nominated to assist landholders in the management of western grey kangaroos which are causing damage. Landholders who require the assistance of a licensed professional shooter should contact the nearest DEC office.

White royalty tags for grey kangaroos will only be allocated to the licensed professional shooters who hold a *Regulation 6 - Licence to Take Kangaroos For Sale*.

Professional shooters are licensed by DEC to shoot kangaroos for commercial purposes on a specified private property for a set period. They must provide DEC with details of their harvest operations on a monthly basis and all animals or animal parts transported or sold to licensed kangaroo meat processors must have the applicable royalty tag attached.

Registered refrigeration chiller units

Chiller units for the initial cold storage of kangaroo carcasses must be registered with DEC. The person in charge of a chiller unit is required to forward a monthly return to DEC and all kangaroos or parts placed in the unit must have the applicable royalty tags attached.

Kangaroo processors

Processors of kangaroo meat must also be licensed by DEC and must forward monthly returns to DEC for carcasses received from licensed professional shooters.

Dealing

Persons dealing in kangaroo carcasses and skins must be licensed by DEC and must provide monthly returns to the department.

Trade

The interstate export from Western Australia of kangaroo skins and meat is subject to the issue of export and import licences by DEC. The Australian Government controls the overseas export of wildlife and wildlife products from Australia.

Persons of aboriginal descent

The *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* provides for persons of Aboriginal descent to take kangaroos for food on Crown land when that land is not a nature reserve or wildlife sanctuary, for the person and their immediate family only. When the Crown land is occupied, the consent of the occupier of the land must be obtained prior to shooting. Kangaroos taken in this manner must not be sold for commercial gain.

Further reading

- Fauna note no. 29. Western grey kangaroo. DEC, Western Australia.
- Fauna note no. 32. Fencing and gates to reduce damage by kangaroos. DEC, Western Australia.

References

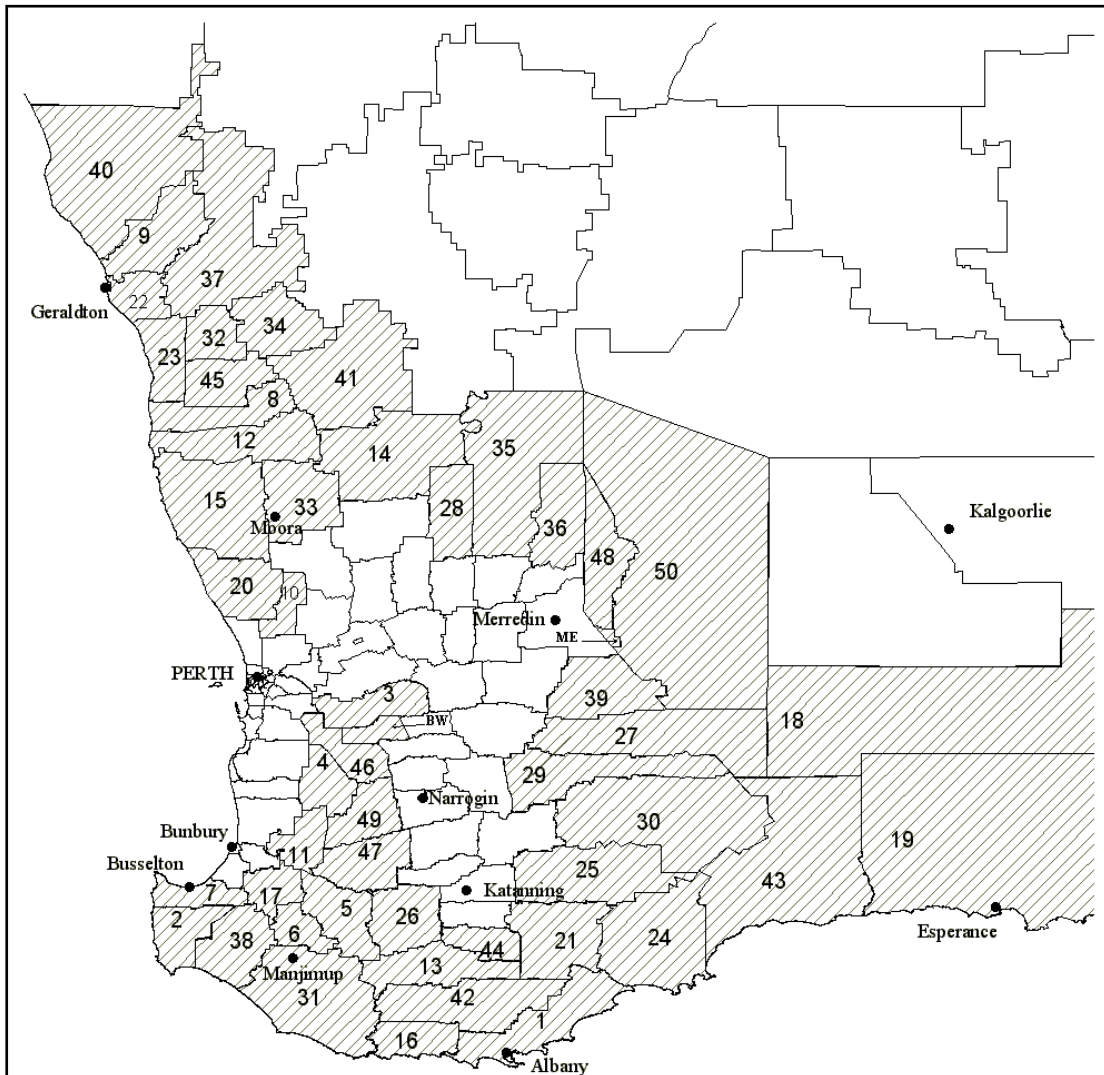
Pope, T. and Grigg, G. (1999) Commercial harvesting of Kangaroos in Australia. Prepared for Environment Australia. Department of Zoology, the University of Queensland.

Anonymous (1998). Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos. Environment Australia, Canberra.

Further information

Contact your local DEC office.

See the department's website for the latest information:
www.dec.wa.gov.au.

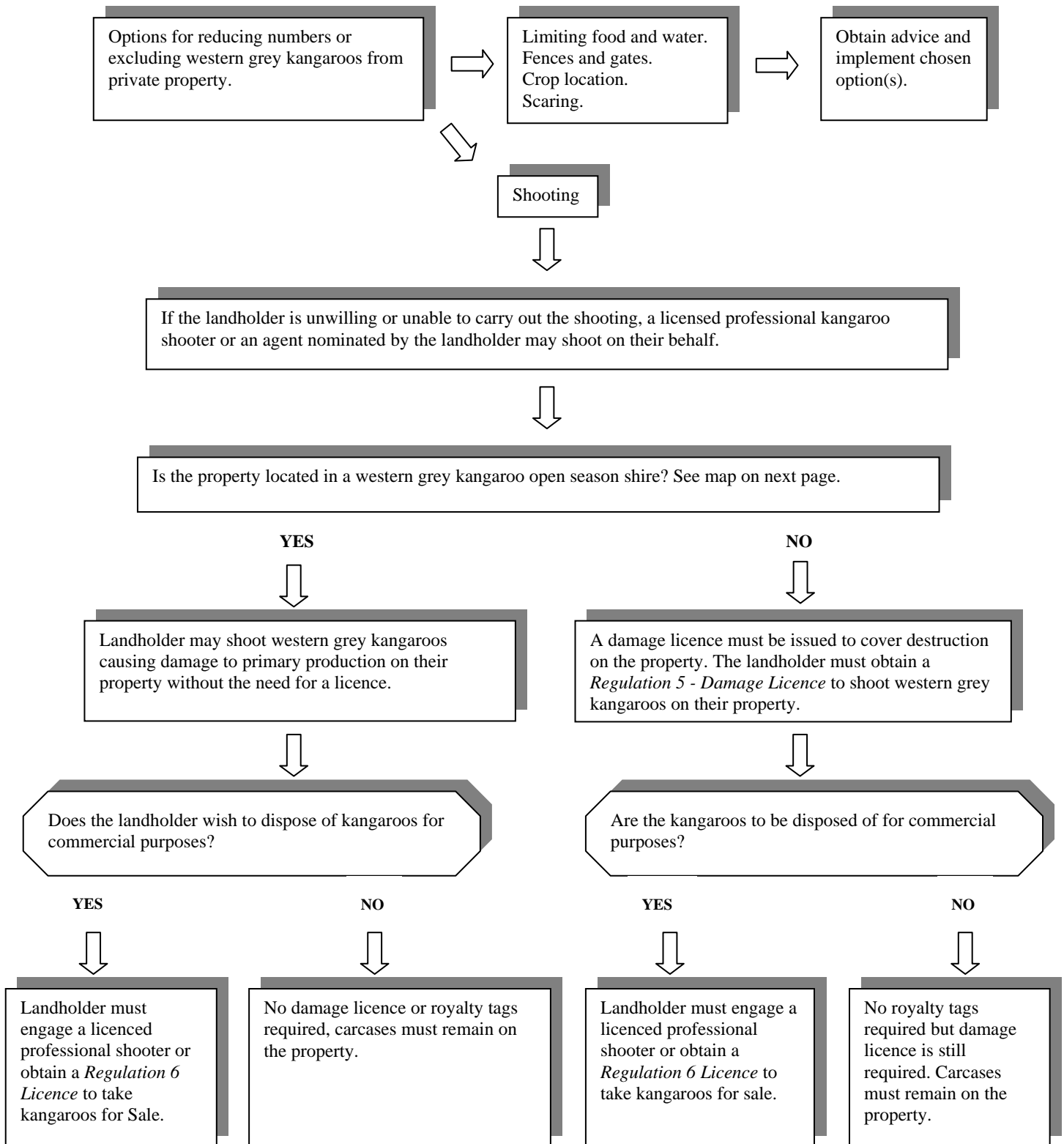


OPEN SEASON AREAS (SHADED) FOR WESTERN GREY KANGAROOS ARE WITHIN THE SHIRES OF:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 ALBANY | 18 DUNDAS | 35 MT MARSHALL |
| 2 AUGUSTA-MARGARET RIVER | 19 ESPERANCE | 36 MUKINBUDIN |
| 3 BEVERLEY | 20 GINGIN | 37 MULLEWA |
| 4 BODDINGTON | 21 GNOWANGERUP | 38 NANNUP |
| 5 BOYUP BROOK | 22 GREENOUGH | 39 NAREMBEEN |
| 6 BRIDGETOWN-GREENBUSHES | 23 IRWIN | 40 NORTHAMPTON |
| BW BROOKTON (WEST) | 24 JERRAMUNGUP | 41 PERENJORI |
| 7 BUSSELTON | 25 KENT | 42 PLANTAGENET |
| 8 CARNAMAH | 26 KOJONUP | 43 RAVENSTHORPE |
| 9 CHAPMAN VALLEY | 27 KONDININ | 44 TAMBELLUP |
| 10 CHITTERING | 28 KOORDA | 45 THREE SPRINGS |
| 11 COLLIE | 29 KULIN | 46 WANDERING |
| 12 COOROW | 30 LAKE GRACE | 47 WEST ARTHUR |
| 13 CRANBROOK | 31 MANJIMUP | 48 WESTONIA |
| 14 DALWALLINU | ME MERREDIN (EAST) | 49 WILLIAMS |
| 15 DANDARAGAN | 32 MINGENEW | 50 YILGARN |
| 16 DENMARK | 33 MOORA | |
| 17 DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP | 34 MORAWA | |

AND THAT PART OF THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN EAST (ME) OF THE VERMIN PROOF FENCE.
 AND THAT PART OF THE SHIRE OF BROOKTON WEST (BW) OF THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY LINE.

Options for managing western grey kangaroos on private property.



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Further Information

Contact your local office of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
See the Department's website for the latest information: www.dec.wa.gov.au.



Department of Environment and Conservation
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