

Changes to licences to harm kangaroos for 2019

The NSW Government has approved changes to licences to harm kangaroos to reduce kangaroo numbers as a part of a package of drought relief measures.

The changes to licence conditions were introduced on 8 August 2018.

From 1 January 2019, new limits on the number of kangaroos that may be culled under a licence to harm kangaroos will apply.

Changes to licence conditions

The changes to licence conditions introduced on 8 August 2018 include:

- previous and current licence holders can apply for licences over the phone
- more shooters may operate under each licence, and shooter details are provided to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) after culling operations, rather than with the licence application
- removal of the use of carcass tags and the 'shoot and let lie' licence condition to reduce biosecurity risks
- allow landholders and shooters to use carcasses for non-commercial purposes.

View the [new licence conditions for licences to harm kangaroos \(PDF 51KB\)](#).

In addition, the NSW Government has announced extensions to the [commercial kangaroo harvest zones](#) in South East NSW. This is expected to occur during 2019.

[Local Land Services](#) will assist landholders by facilitating connections with licensed harvesters and experienced volunteer recreational shooters.

Read the [frequently asked questions](#) about the changes to licences to harm kangaroos.

Limits on kangaroo culls per licence for 2019

The maximum limits per non-commercial licence for 2019 are based on updated kangaroo population estimates and commercial harvest quotas for 2019 as published in the [Kangaroo Management Plan 2019 Quota Report](#).

The updated kangaroo population estimates indicate an overall decrease in grey and red kangaroo populations in New South Wales. As a result, commercial harvesting has been suspended for grey and red kangaroos in the Cobar kangaroo management zone and red kangaroos in the Tibooburra zone.

Limits for non-commercial licences for 2019 have been set for the four species subject to commercial harvesting (eastern grey, western grey, red and wallaroo) for each [kangaroo management zone](#) in New South Wales.

In kangaroo management zones where harvesting has been suspended, new non-commercial licences will only be granted where the landholder provides evidence of kangaroo-related damage and will be subject to significantly lower limits.

These changes come into effect for licences granted on or after 1 January 2019.

If you are unsure of your kangaroo management zone, you can contact your [local NPWS office](#).

If you are unsure about the species that are causing damage on your property, seek advice from your local NPWS office. Our [website](#) contains information and pictures of kangaroo and wallaby species.

Limits on kangaroo culls per licence, by species

1. Eastern grey kangaroos

| Zone | 21-40 ha | 41-100 ha | 101-500 ha | 501-5000 ha | 5001+ ha |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Cobar | To be assessed on a case-by-case basis | | | | |
| Lower Darling, Bourke, Griffith | 25 | 50 | 125 | 250 | 250 |
| All other zones | 25 | 50 | 125 | 250 | 500 |

2. Western grey kangaroos

| Zone | 21-40 ha | 41-100 ha | 101-500 ha | 501-5000 ha | 5001+ ha |
|-----------------|--|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Cobar | To be assessed on a case-by-case basis | | | | |
| All other zones | 25 | 50 | 125 | 250 | 250 |

Red kangaroos

| Zone | 21-40 ha | 41-100 ha | 101-500 ha | 501-5000 ha | 5001+ ha |
|--------------------|--|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Tibooburra & Cobar | To be assessed on a case-by-case basis | | | | |
| All other zones | 25 | 50 | 125 | 250 | 250 |

3. Wallaroos

| Zone | 21-40 ha | 41-100 ha | 101-500 ha | 501-5000 ha | 5001+ ha |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Armidale, Glen Innes, Upper Hunter | 10 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 50 |
| All other zones | 25 | 50 | 75 | 100 | 200 |

Please note:

- for properties 1–20 hectares in size, non-commercial licence culling limits will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

- for all other kangaroo and wallaby species, non-commercial licence culling limits will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Limits and conditions for small properties

Kangaroo culling on or near small properties and roads may pose a risk to the safety of people and livestock on neighbouring properties.

The following arrangements apply to ensure the risk is managed:

- the number of kangaroos that can be culled on properties of 20 hectares or less will be determined on a case-by-case basis but will not exceed the limits set for properties between 20 and 40 hectares
- licences issued to properties of 20 hectares or less will include a condition requiring notification to local police and neighbours before commencing culling
- this condition may also be included on licences for larger properties that are adjacent to smaller properties or rural communities.

Apply for a licence

There are two ways to make an application to your local NPWS office:

1. Complete an application form for a licence to harm kangaroos and submit with any required documentation to your local NPWS office by email, post or in person.
2. If you have been granted a licence to harm native animals in the past few years, you may provide the information required in the application form by phone to your local NPWS office.

Note: If you intend to harm protected animals other than kangaroos, you will need to use a different application form. See licence to harm protected native animals other than kangaroos.

Linking landholders to professional and volunteer shooters

Local Land Services (LLS) is establishing a register of licensed commercial harvesters, and professional and experienced volunteer recreational shooters who are willing to assist landholders to manage kangaroos.

Landholders who wish to obtain contact details of a shooter in their region can go to the Local Land Services website for more information and register online.

Licensed commercial harvesters and professional and experienced volunteer recreational kangaroo shooters will be advised of the opportunity to be included on this register and be invited to apply online.

The register will be progressively added to over time as shooters contact Local Land Services and submit their details. Find out more about the register.

Non-commercial kangaroo shooters' best practice guidelines

The NSW Department of Primary Industries Game Licensing Unit has developed a comprehensive best practice guide for shooters wanting to be involved in non-commercial kangaroo culling.

The Volunteer Non-Commercial Kangaroo Shooters Best Practice Guide covers critical aspects of safe and humane kangaroo culling including legislative requirements, kangaroo species identification, firearm calibres and projectiles, marksmanship and shot placement, disease identification and handling game meat.

The guide will be provided to all landholders and shooters participating in non-commercial kangaroo culling.

Animal welfare

All shooters must comply with the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes.

Compliance with the Code is intended to ensure kangaroos are killed in a way that minimises pain and suffering.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 applies to harming kangaroos in New South Wales. Compliance with this Act is monitored and enforced by the NSW Police Force, the RSPCA NSW and the Animal Welfare League NSW.

Record keeping and returns

You must record the number and species of kangaroos harmed under your licence and the names and firearms licence details of all shooters and provide these records to your local NPWS office within seven days of the expiry of your licence.

There are two ways to provide your records to your local NPWS office:

1. Complete the record sheet you received when you were granted your licence and submit it to your local NPWS office by email, post or in person.
2. Call your local NPWS office and provide the records over the phone.

New licences may not be granted unless records have been provided for previous licences.

Public register

Go to the [public register of licences to harm](#) to view information about the licences granted by NPWS that authorise harm to protected animals, including kangaroos.