



Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia

Facts about the Australian
commercial kangaroo
industry – June 2021

Document tendered by
Mr Dennis King
Received by
A. Chung
Date: 15/06/2021
Resolved to publish Yes / No





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- Australia has mandatory licensing, tagging and reporting

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- The industry has not negatively impacted populations
- The environmental impact of the industry is comparatively low

Animal Welfare

- Humane harvesting practices are evidence-based

K-Leather

- All kangaroo skin exports come from sustainable sources

Misconceptions

- Common criticisms are based on misconceptions

Who are the KIAA?

- The Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia (KIAA) represents about 90% of the commercial kangaroo industry.
- It is committed to being:
 - **Sustainable**
 - **Humane**
 - **Accountable**
 - **Valuable**
- Our members sell high-quality and responsibly-sourced meat and leather products that only come from sustainable wild kangaroo populations – **never threatened species**.
- The kangaroo industry is worth more than \$200 million to the Australian economy and employs more than 3,000 people.

kangarooindustry.com



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DISCOVER
AUSTRALIA'S
KANGAROO INDUSTRY

GET THE FACTS



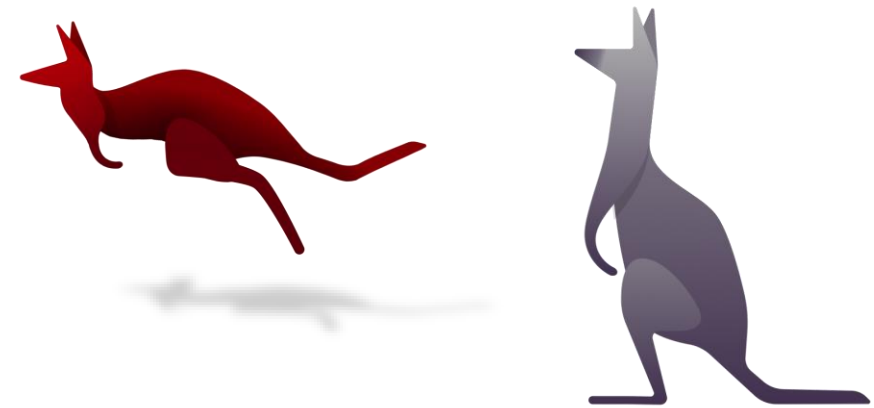
Australia's commercial kangaroo industry

Australia is a vast country, home to more than 40 million kangaroos. Local and plentiful, they are part of who we are and what we do.

All kangaroo and wallaby species are protected by law in Australia. Their populations are constantly monitored and managed by state and federal governments to ensure their survival and preserve the biodiversity of our land. For six abundant and non-threatened species including the eastern grey kangaroo and grey kangaroos, the commercial industry has emerged as a responsible alternative to conservation culling to ensure sustainable and efficient management.

Kangaroo management is necessary to their survival

- Australia has around 50 species of kangaroos and wallabies (macropods) across the vast country.
- All kangaroos and wallabies are protected under *[The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 \(EPBC Act\)](#)*.
- The populations of only **six abundant and non-threatened** species must be sustainably managed as a conservation measure.
- Overpopulation of these species in certain areas leads to:
 - Overgrazing and food shortages
 - Mass starvation events
 - Loss of biodiversity
 - Damage to pastoral land
 - Increased road accidents
 - More instances of non-commercial and illegal culling



Commercial harvesting plays an important role in conservation

- The commercial industry is the responsible way to manage kangaroo numbers because:
 - the animals remain in their natural habitat;
 - the industry can be tightly regulated and monitored;
 - the meat and skins - that would otherwise be discarded - are turned into valuable products; and
 - it provides jobs for thousands of Australians including many Indigenous people.
- **Without a commercial harvest, government and non-commercial culling would still occur.**

“The animal welfare impacts of ‘commercial harvesting’—when compliant with the relevant code of practice—are generally lower for targeted animals than for other management methods.”

– Dr Trudy Sharp, 2020, *[The Australian kangaroo industry: male-only harvesting, sustainability and an assessment of animal welfare impacts](#)*



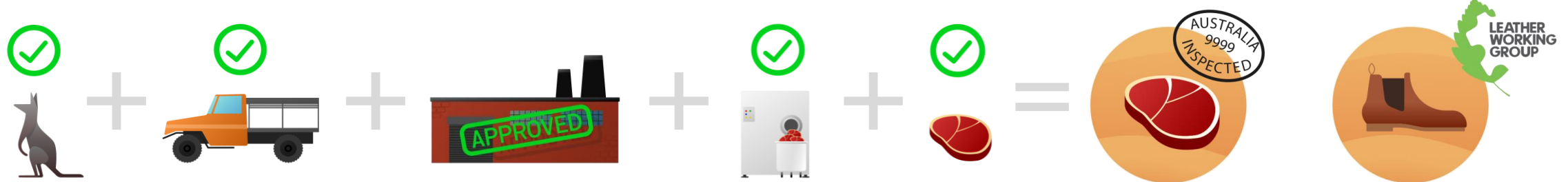
GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

Governments oversee kangaroo management

- Each of Australia's states and territories are responsible for the conservation of their unique mix of species and ecosystems.
- The six states:
 - measure kangaroo and wallaby populations;
 - develop their own kangaroo management plan;
 - allow commercial harvesting of specific species in restricted areas;
 - set the parameters for a commercial harvest including annual harvest quotas;
 - **set failsafe triggers** to halt or restrict the harvest; and
 - regulate and audit the industry.

Australia has mandatory licensing, tagging and reporting

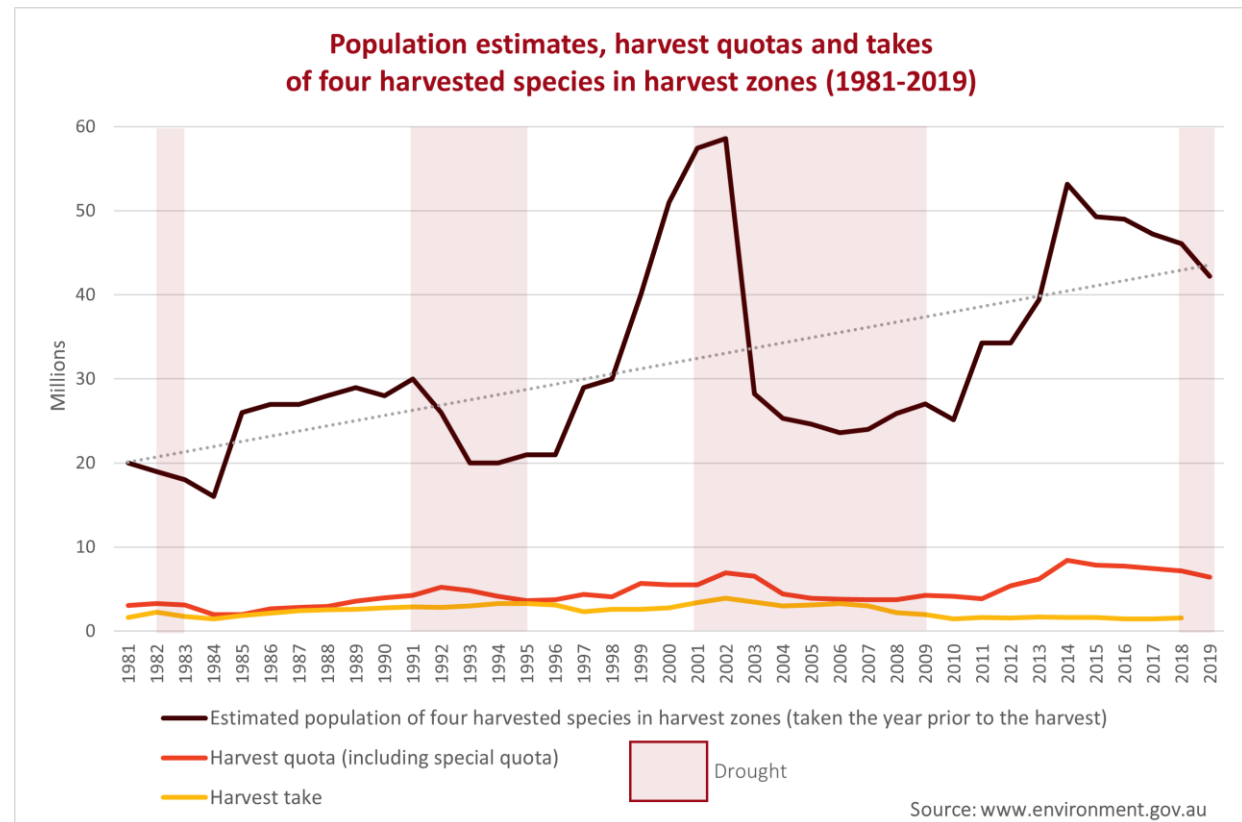
- Every kangaroo harvested for the commercial industry can be individually traced back to the paddock ([traceability procedure](#)).
- Data is collected at every step and reviewed closely by government agencies to guarantee all conservation, animal welfare and hygiene standards are upheld.
- The commercial industry upholds some of the strictest food standards in the world.
- Every export consignment for kangaroo products is [accompanied by documents](#), which confirm the species and attain to its legality and accountability.



SUSTAINABILITY

The industry has not negatively impacted populations

- After more than 30 years of commercial harvesting under government management programs, there have been **no adverse long-term impacts** on kangaroo populations.
- Harvest quotas are set at about 15% of the total population of these few abundant species and actual harvest numbers have been consistently lower.



SUSTAINABILITY

The environmental impact of the industry is comparatively low

Total Impact



Impacts per material component, divided by production stages

Polyurethane (PU) synthetic leather



Kangaroo leather (100%)



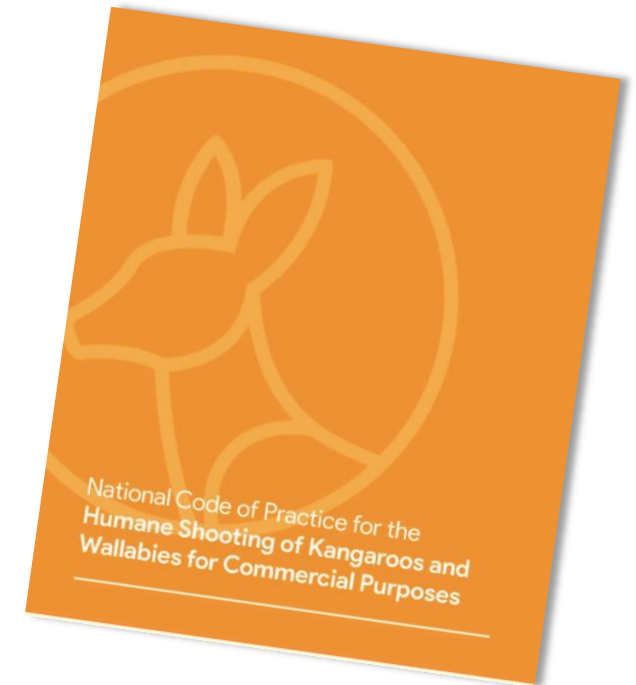
- Kangaroo products are an environmentally-friendly choice:
 - Kangaroos are abundant and sustainable.
 - Kangaroos have one-third the carbon footprint of sheep and cattle.
 - The commercial industry uses less energy and water than other meat industries.
 - Kangaroo leather is more **durable** than synthetic leathers.



ANIMAL WELFARE

Humane harvesting practices are evidence-based

- Australia has a National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes that the industry must follow.
- The Code was developed in consultation with Australia's leading kangaroo and animal welfare scientists, animal welfare groups, governments, the kangaroo and pastoral industries and the general public.
- Commercial harvesters are **skilled and qualified professionals** that must pass a proficiency test every five years to receive their licence.
- State governments carry out **regular inspections in the field and on plant** to ensure every kangaroo harvested for the commercial industry is done so humanely in line with the Code.
- The World Organisation for Animal Health awarded Australia the highest level of competency (Level 5) for animal welfare after an independent assessment in 2015.



K-LEATHER

All kangaroo skin exports come from sustainable sources

- Kangaroo leather is the strongest and lightest natural leather available and is, therefore, commonly used in sporting apparel.
- All kangaroo skin exports are accompanied by permits and documentation that prove they **do not come from threatened populations**.
- Brands and consumers can find out how their leather was made by looking for the [Leather Working Group](#) (LWG) rating. It is an international environmental audit standard developed by major brands, retailers, product manufacturers, leather manufacturers, chemical suppliers and technical experts.



MISCONCEPTIONS

Common criticisms are based on misconceptions

Misconception	Fact
The commercial industry is killing endangered species.	We don't harvest threatened species and the harvest is adjusted annually to safeguard populations.
Kangaroos are killed to make leather.	Hides are a byproduct of the meat industry, which would otherwise be discarded.
Australia is hiding world's largest wildlife "massacre" or "slaughter".	Kangaroos must be managed as a conservation measure similarly to deer in North America and Europe. All quota and harvest data is publicly available.
Governments are not accurately counting populations.	The latest scientific methods are used to survey populations. Estimates are conservative.
Kangaroos are cruelly killed.	The humane harvest methods outlined in the Code are based on the most recent scientific evidence.
The industry kills joeys (kangaroo young).	Dependent young are euthanased if they lose their mother to prevent a prolonged death.
Kangaroos are shot at night to hide the harvesters' actions.	Kangaroos are often harvested at dusk because it is when they graze.
Harvesters cannot shoot accurately in the dark.	Skilled harvesters use firearms with telescopic views and spotlights made for the conditions.
Kangaroo meat is not safe to eat.	All kangaroos are inspected by third-party assessors before being passed for human consumption. The meat also undergoes micro-biological testing.
Kangaroo products are the result of animal "trafficking".	All kangaroo products sold at home or abroad come from the legal and regulated commercial harvest.



Thank you

Contact

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