

Information sheet

Wildlife management

Assistance for landholders: Managing macropods to minimise property damage

General information

Queensland's native wildlife is protected by the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the Act) and its regulations to ensure the conservation of nature. The Act recognises however that in some situations it is necessary to take wildlife, including minimizing damage or loss of property. A damage mitigation permit (culling and dispersal of wildlife) allows a person to take macropods in such circumstances.

What can be done under a damage mitigation permit (DMP)?

This type of DMP is usually issued to the landholder for macropod management on one or more properties managed by that person. It may also be issued to other persons to control macropods with the landholder's permission. Macropod for the purposes of this information sheet means an eastern grey kangaroo, red kangaroo or common wallaroo. In any situation where animals are taken under this type of DMP, the skin and meat cannot be used in any way.

The maximum number of macropods allowed to be culled under a single permit is 1000. The numbers of animals that can be issued in any one permit is limited to ensure that there is fair and equitable access to the quota set by the *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2005* for damage mitigation. This limit of 1000 animals can be applied to one species (e.g. 1000 eastern grey kangaroos) or spread across several species (e.g. 300 eastern grey kangaroos, 300 common wallaroos and 400 red kangaroos).

People authorised to take protected wildlife must ensure that they do so with minimal pain and suffering to the animal and abide by the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for commercial and non-commercial purposes, available via the federal environment website:

www.environment.gov.au

What assistance can I get to manage macropod numbers?

As the landholder you may apply for a DMP in your own name, allowing you to:

- shoot the kangaroos yourself; or
- engage a person or persons who are licensed to use firearms such as a member of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) or a commercial/recreational kangaroo harvester.

If you do not wish to apply for a DMP in your own name, you may provide permission for other persons to apply. This will require them completing the DMP application form with you providing permission for them to operate on your land. As a landholder, you can seek free assistance from members from the SSAA through the SSAA Farmer Assist Program. To register or obtain more information about this program please visit

www.farmerassist.com.au

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Alternatively, you may also seek to have kangaroos taken using other permit types. Assistance could be sought from a holder of a:

- Commercial wildlife harvesting licence for macropods (a professional kangaroo shooter). Commercial harvesters must sell harvested animals to licensed dealers (processors) who then sell meat and skins within Australia and overseas;
- Recreational wildlife harvesting licence for macropods. Recreational harvesters may only take 50 animals in a season and may use the skin and meat for personal use, for example meat for their own dogs.

How to apply for a DMP?

You can access the application form – Damage mitigation permit (culling and dispersal of wildlife) from the Department of Environment and Science (DES) website at www.DES.qld.gov.au

Economic Loss

You will be asked to quantify on your application form the economic loss that you are experiencing as a result of the macropod population on your property. DES accepts that in the broader context of extensive grazing properties, this can be very hard to quantify. A dry sheep equivalent or an estimated cost is adequate.

Non-lethal controls

Similarly in the application form, you will be asked to describe two non-lethal methods that you have tried to discourage macropods from causing damage. Many landholders describe reducing access to watering points, fencing or regular patrols of crops and pastures. DES accepts that in some situations where large extensive grazing properties are concerned, or large areas of crop are impacted, there is no effective non-lethal means of control.

It is also acceptable to list 'providing access to a commercial macropod harvester' as a means of controlling animals that is not DMP related, even though it isn't non-lethal.

How long does it take to get a permit?

DES is committed to a process time of no more than 20 days for a DMP to manage macropod numbers, however is aiming for a turnaround of 7 days during times of drought.

How often can I apply?

There are no restrictions on how many permits you may apply for during a year. A new permit can be applied for as soon as the 1000 animal limit on an existing permit is reached. Once a new permit is issued you will need to provide a return of operation showing that you have recorded the 1000 animals taken under the previous permit at your earliest convenience. Currently, existing DMPs cannot be renewed and you will need to complete and submit a new application each time. To make this easier you may wish to save your old application to your computer so that the same information can be easily resubmitted with new dates. There is no cost associated with an application for this type of DMP.

What records are needed?

Holders of a DMP are required to provide a return of operation every three months that the permit is in force (unless reapplying earlier than the three month period). However, if you choose to seek the assistance of a commercial or recreational wildlife harvesting licence holder and do not have a DMP in your own name, the returns will be submitted by the licence holder.

For further information

Contact Permit and Licence Management on 1300 130 372, GPO Box 2454 Brisbane QLD 4001 or via email at palm@DES.qld.gov.au