

Factsheet 1: How the Code has changed

The development of the 2020 Code involved a comprehensive review of the 2008 Code led by AgriFutures Australia and conducted by leading animal welfare and kangaroo harvesting experts Dr Trudy Sharp and Dr Steven McLeod. New animal welfare research, changes to harvesting strategies and public perception of the kangaroo industry were taken into consideration as well as feedback from all major stakeholders.

The revisions remove any ambiguity and address the minimisation of harm to dependent young, the requirements and qualifications of harvesters and the restrictions on firearms and ammunition.

The 2020 Code includes:

- Standard operating procedures that describe euthanasia and shooting methods.
- New information on how to minimise the suffering of dependent young-at-foot.
- Clearly stated requirements of harvesters that are numbered for easy reference.
- The principle of 'duty of care' whereby the harvester has an obligation to harvest kangaroos and wallabies in a humane manner and must comply with the Code.
- Minimum requirements and conditions for the shooting accuracy testing of harvesters.
- Updated and additional definitions of key terms such as commercial and non-commercial harvesting, euthanasia and unconsciousness.
- Detailed explanations of the euthanasia methods for pouch young and why they are considered to be relatively humane.
- Changes to the range of the 22LR rifle for shooting wallabies and the ammunition.

The 2020 Code sets a benchmark for kangaroo harvesters to follow and provides a basis on which to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills. It can be used to help audit harvesting practices, to inform policy decisions and to educate the general public.