

Factsheet 3: Commercial kangaroo industry

The commercial kangaroo industry is an important part of the Australian agricultural economy, creating jobs and income for many people, particularly in remote and rural communities. It also plays an important role in kangaroo management. The animal welfare impacts of commercial harvesting, when compliant with the national code of practice, are considered to be generally lower for targeted kangaroos than for other kangaroo management methods, according to the study [*Australian kangaroo industry: male-only harvesting, sustainability and an assessment of animal welfare impacts.*](#)

Kangaroo Industries Association of Australia (KIAA) is the peak representative body for the commercial kangaroo industry, making up 90 per cent of the kangaroo meat and hide processing sector in Australia.

Quick facts

1. The commercial industry supports only code-compliant harvesting to ensure best practice with respect to animal welfare and sustainability. All KIAA members comply with all wildlife conservation and health and safety standards.
2. Kangaroos are harvested for meat and the skins are turned into leather.
3. Only four abundant species of kangaroo are permitted to be harvested in Australia.
4. State governments monitor and manage kangaroo populations. They set annual harvest quotas, which have been set around 15 per cent of the surveyed population for the last decade. Within this period, the commercial industry has harvested about one-quarter of that quota.
5. Commercial shooters must pass a proficiency test before they are licensed to shoot kangaroos to ensure accuracy.
6. Every kangaroo harvested for the commercial industry can be individually traced through government regulated tagging and reporting systems to ensure any kangaroos shot inhumanely or by individuals outside the commercial industry are NOT sold domestically or internationally.
7. Kangaroo carcasses undergo independent inspections before being passed fit for human consumption.
8. The industry is assisting regulators where possible to reduce the cases of illegal non-commercial shooting.