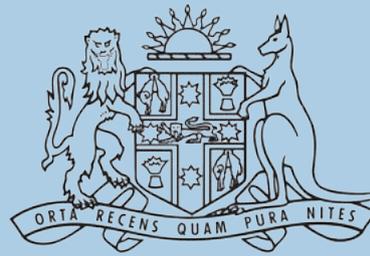




Local Land
Services
Western



Western Lands Advisory Council

Western Region

Kangaroo Management Workshop

Snapshot



How can we best work together to manage kangaroos for a sustainable, viable and resilient Western Division?

Cobar, September 2016

Western Region Kangaroo Management Workshop

The Western Region Kangaroo Management Workshop was an initiative of the Western Lands Advisory Council (WLAC) with support from Local Land Services Western Region.

With the increasing pressure from unsustainably high kangaroo populations in areas of the Western Division, and the subsequent negative impact on pastoralism and ecosystems, WLAC and Local Land Services Western Region recognised the need to bring together key stakeholders with the goal of developing a more collaborative way of addressing the issue.

The workshop objectives were to:

1. Update stakeholders on current legislation and review processes, current kangaroo statistics and Kangaroo ecology
2. Identify factors and drivers that influence kangaroo numbers such as water, feed and fencing.
3. Provide recommendations on practical and achievable approaches to kangaroo management including commercial harvesting and on-farm management practices.
4. Develop a Western Division position on sustainable kangaroo management for submission to the NSW Government and review bodies.
5. Improve collaboration and co-operation between stakeholder groups and individuals.

Forty-two people attended the workshop, representing 19 different organisations. Ten of the attendees were landholders. Eleven priority actions were developed with specific time-frames and drivers.

The workshop enabled the various stakeholders to develop a common understanding of the issues and have a voice in designing positive actions. There is a strong level of commitment from the workshop attendees to continue working together towards finding both short and long-term solutions.

DAY 1

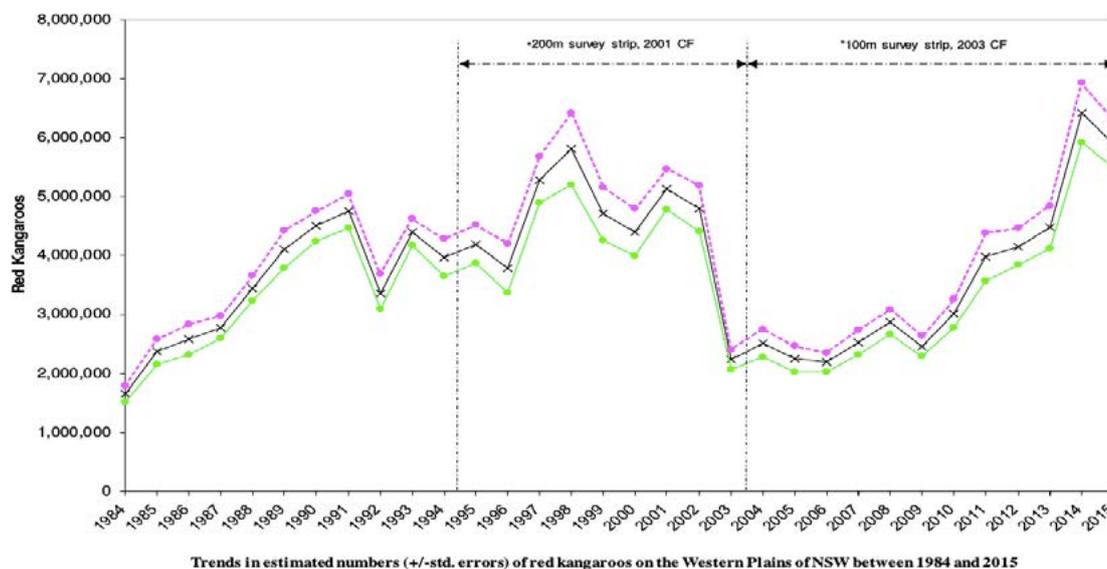
Workshop presentations – what is the current situation?

1. Landholder perspective: challenges, impacts, ideas – landholder panel

There is a huge resource going to waste. Decisions made at the top affect our livelihoods and businesses.

2. Kangaroo ecology and population dynamics – Dr Steve McLeod (DPI)

It is not known what impact the change to a male-only harvest will have on population size and rate of increase of kangaroo populations.



Graph 1: Trends in the estimated number of Red Kangaroos on the Western Plains of NSW.

DAY 1

Workshop presentations – what is the current situation?

3. Impacts on pastoralism – Dr Ron Hacker (Consultant)

The impact of kangaroos to pastoralists is the limitation they impose on the capacity of those landholders to manage for improved land condition, and therefore carrying capacity.

4. Animal welfare – Dr Tanya Stephens (AVA)

Worked with a kangaroo shooter in Coonamble and was impressed by how humanely [the animal] was killed, and the use of the whole animal.

It is important to understand the difference between animal rights and animal welfare.

5. Cluster exclusion fencing – Amy Gunn (Local Land Services Western Region)

There is no silver bullet for pest animal management. Strategic and regular action using a suite of techniques is the key.

6. Landholder perspective – TGP exclusion fencing – landholder panel

If we can change the image of kangaroo management collectively, we will see conservation benefits.

7. Commercial harvesting program and legislative reforms – Stephen Wolter (OEH)

The primary goal of the NSW commercial kangaroo harvest management plan is to ensure that the commercial harvest of kangaroos is ecologically sustainable.

8. Non-commercial kangaroo management – Alison Gibbons and Melissa Giese (OEH)

We are not managing populations so much as minimising impacts in the non-commercial program.

9. Industry perspective – Ray Borda (Macro Meats)

Kangaroos are magnificent and unique animals and should be held in the greatest respect.



"If we can change the image of kangaroo management collectively, we will see conservation benefits."

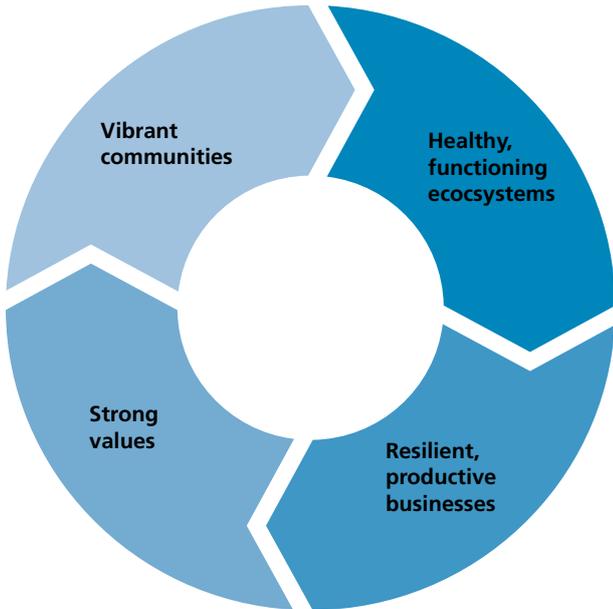
"Kangaroos are a great resource, we need to promote products better and educate the public, but we also need to address the short term issues."

DAY 2

Co-creating the way forward

Session 1: Looking Forward – how do we want the future to be?

What does a sustainable, viable, resilient Western Division look like?



In that ideal world, what would our kangaroo management look like?



Session 2: Designing the future – what are the most important issues to resolve?

What topics, issues or questions must we now address to create the future that we want?

- Influencing policy.
- Representing views.
- Involving Aboriginal perspectives.
- Improving public awareness and public image.
- Developing markets.
- Refining legislation and licensing.
- Developing management tools and techniques.

Session 3: Getting into action – how will we make it happen?

What are the specific, measurable, realistic actions that need to happen in the next 12 months?

1. Report to the WLAC on workshop outcomes.
2. Convene a Working Group that will have input into the current policy reforms.
3. Create an independent panel to advise government on the Kangaroo Industry.
4. Organise an Indigenous Kangaroo Forum.
5. Develop a promotions program to improve public perceptions and relations.
6. Establish a marketing campaign to help access “new audiences”.
7. Develop new markets for kangaroo products.
8. Investigate options for inter-agency management to meet “special circumstance conditions” for kangaroo management licensing.
9. Increase the number of wholesale licences.
10. Develop and define an economic analysis tool (calculator) for fencing options.
11. Implement alternative on-farm kangaroo management options and techniques.



“There is a huge resource going to waste. Decisions made at the top affect our livelihoods and businesses”

“If we can change the image of kangaroo management collectively, we will see conservation benefits.”

For a copy of the full workshop report visit our website or contact your nearest Local Land Services office.

Local Land Services Western Region
www.ils.nsw.gov.au/western
1300 795 299



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