Grey kangaroo management programme

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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GREY KANGAROO MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Grey Kangaroo Management Programme, introduced in 1971 by the Department of Fisheries and Fauna, is designed to ensure the long-term conservation of the grey kangaroo, while at the same time recognising the right of the landholder to protect his primary production from damage.

Listed opposite are the shires where a limited open season on the grey kangaroo has been proclaimed; these are shires in which grey kangaroo populations are reasonably secure and where conflict with agriculture is likely to be continuous. The open season is referred to as “limited” because of the following restrictions placed upon it:—

- Grey kangaroos may be taken only by the owner or occupier of the land on which they are found, or by an agent appointed in writing by the owner or occupier. This now includes employees, members of the owner’s family, and also licensed part-time shooters.
- Where the land is virgin land or land held under pastoral lease, the owner or occupier or his agent (including part-time shooters) shall not take any grey kangaroos unless he has first obtained a damage license.
- The kangaroos shall be taken only on land which is being actively farmed and on which the kangaroos are causing damage.
- The person taking the kangaroos shall notify the nearest warden of fauna as soon as practicable after he has started taking kangaroos.
- The warden may, if after an inspection of the property he considers it necessary, prohibit the further taking of kangaroos on that property until the owner or occupier obtains a damage license.
- Skins or carcasses may not be sold unless damage tags have been issued.

The introduction of licensed part-time shooters is the major amendment to the original programme. Many reports have been received by the Department of Fisheries and Fauna indicating a build-up of grey kangaroos in the South-West, causing problems for farmers and creating road hazards. Licensed part-time shooters can now carry out cropping on behalf of farmers who have damage problems. Also, where excess grey kangaroos are found on uncleared land, part-time shooters will shoot under the authority and direction of the Department of Fisheries and Fauna. It is thought that this should reduce both problems to reasonable proportions.

As a natural consequence of the introduction of part-time shooters there could be a need for chillers in rural areas. The Department of Fisheries and Fauna will allow the licensing of these, but only in areas where they can be closely supervised.

One of the points which has arisen after examination of the programme is that some individual farmers are not fully aware of the requirements of the regulations. The action a farmer should take if he is suffering damage is shown in the flow chart.

The programme and any amendments are the result of informed discussion (and subsequent agreement) between officers of the Department of Fisheries and Fauna, members of the Agriculture Protection Board and the Western Australian Wildlife Authority. Four farmers represent the interests of the rural community in these bodies. The programme is flexible in that amendments may be made in the light of subsequent information or should conditions alter to any great extent.
THE SHIRES WHERE A LIMITED (RESTRICTED) OPEN SEASON HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED

Albany
Augusta-Margaret River
Boddington
Boyup Brook
Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Carnamah
Chapman Valley
Coorow
Collie
Cranbrook
Dandaragan
Dalwallinu
Donnybrook-Balingup
Denmark
Dundas
Esperance
Gnowangerup
Greenough
Irwin
Kojonup
Kondinin
Koorda
Kulin
Lake Grace
Manjimup
Mingenew
Morawa
Mount Marshall
Mukinbudin
Mullewa
Nannup
Narembeen
Northampton
Nyabing-Pingrup
Perenjori
Plantagenet
Ravensthorpe
Three Springs
Wandering
West Arthur
Westonia
Williams
Yilgarn

All that part of the Shire of Merredin east of the Vermin-Proof Fence.