Information sheet

Macropod harvesting licence

In this document, macropod means a kangaroo or wallaroo able to be harvested under the harvest period notice, and harvester means the holder of a macropod harvesting.

**Licence application**
Application forms must be completed in accordance with the information requested on the form. Ensure all information is correct and legible. Please write on the application form using BLOCK LETTERS.

Applicants for a macropod harvesting licence must be at least 18 years of age and must have completed the Firearms Competency Certification (firearms accuracy test) and the macropod harvesting TAFE course, required by the Department of Environment and Science (DES).

Firearms Competency Certification must be current (within 12 months of the date of application). However, if an applicant was licensed within the previous harvest period, the applicant will not have to renew their Firearms Competency Certification (firearms accuracy test).

All new applicants (never before licensed) must purchase a harvester record return book.
An applicant cannot begin harvesting until the harvest period begins and they have received their licence and tags.

**Fees, forms and information**
For current fees, forms and information please visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) and search for ‘kangaroo harvesting’.

The Department of Environment and Science has a new user-friendly digital platform for managing macropod services allowing macropod licence holders to apply for licences, pay fees, and order tags.

**Properties**
Individual properties are not listed on the licence; however, this does not give the holder of a licence the right to enter any property for the purpose of taking wildlife without the landholder’s consent.

It is a licence condition that harvesters obtain and carry written landholder consent before harvesting. Landholder consent forms can be obtained from DES. A separate landholder consent form is required for each property harvested and must be carried at all times when operating under the licence and produced to authorised officers when requested to do so. Officers are routinely checking harvesters’ return details and harvesting activities with landholders to ensure compliance.

If a property has changed ownership, it is the responsibility of the harvester to obtain permission from the new landholder. Landholders have the right to stop harvesting operations and access on their property at any time.

**Licensed premises**
Licences will state the licensed premises and its location. The licensed premises is a place where harvesters may keep dead macropods prior to sale, and where record/return books are kept when not undertaking harvesting activities. Licensed premises must be in Queensland. The licensed premises may be different from the licensee’s residential address.

An applicant with a residential address in New South Wales must also supply DES with an address in Queensland that will be the licensed premises for the licence. This cannot be a PO Box.

**Tag applications**
To harvest macropods, harvesters require a macropod harvesting licence for macropods and valid tags, however harvesters do not need to have tags to hold the licence. Once licensed, harvesters may apply for tags at any time during the harvest period.
The total quantity of tags issued for the harvest period will not exceed the harvest quota for that species/zone. There are three species open to harvest and three harvest regions (zones) in Queensland. These zones are described in the Harvest Period Notice. It is necessary to regulate tag distribution to ensure the maximum amount of a quota is available to be harvested. It is important to minimise the number of tags issued that may potentially never be used in the harvest. Specific tags are issued for each species and zone and are colour-specific for each species. Tags are available in minimum lots of 50 tags per species/zone.

A harvester’s tag allowance is the maximum number of tags which can be ordered for one species and zone (for example, e-grey central zone). This is based on the previous harvest period tag use. Harvesters will fall into one of three tag allowance classifications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag allowance classification</th>
<th>Qualifying harvest (total harvest for previous harvest period)</th>
<th>Tag allowance (Max tags per species/zone combination)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level I</td>
<td>&lt; 500</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level II</td>
<td>500–2000</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level III</td>
<td>&gt; 2000</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New entrants and harvesters whose previous year’s tag use was less than 500 will be Level I. From the onset of licensing these harvesters may order up to 150 tags per species/zone combination (this is subject to restrictions applicable to low quota species/zone combinations).

For example, a new entrant might order 150 central zone wallaroo tags, 50 central zone red tags and 50 central zone e-grey tags.

Progression to Level II occurs when a harvester demonstrates a harvest of 500 macropods during a harvest period. In a similar manner a harvester who demonstrates a harvest of 2000 macropods within a harvest period, and progresses to a Level III tag allowance, may then order up to 1000 tags per species/zone. Harvesters must apply in writing to increase their tag allowance.

A tag allowance will remain valid for the next harvest period but during the following harvest period it may reduce or increase as a result of the harvest effort demonstrated during that year. The effect of a reduction in allowance would not be reflected until the following harvest period.

**Subsequent tag applications**

To ensure fair and equitable access to tags, subsequent tag applications will be conditional upon the premise that at the time of application a harvester may only hold a number of unused tags that is equal to or less than 50 per cent of their tag allowance. This will be assessed via an applicant declaration.

For example: a harvester has a Level I tag allocation of 150 tags. The harvester wishes to order more central zone (CZ) red kangaroo tags; to do so the harvester must not be holding more than 75 red CZ tags (i.e. half of 150).

In the same manner, a harvester with a Level III tag allowance will need to be holding less than or equal to 500 tags of a species/zone before they are entitled to order more.

For example: a harvester with a Level III allowance has exactly 500 unused red CZ tags. The harvester is able to order no more than 1000 more red CZ tags. The harvester would then have 1500 red CZ tags. The harvester would have to use at least 1000 tags before they would be able to order more red CZ tags.

**General tag information**

If requesting that you or another person collect tags/return books, permission must be given in Macropods Online during the order process or written on the tag application form or a written request must be attached to the form. Similarly, for items to be sent to an address different to the address on the licence, please add these details via Macropods Online during the order process or fill out the appropriate section in the application form.

Tags can be ordered online via Macropods Online under ‘Order Items’ or by email or postage. Sufficient time should be allowed for processing and postage when applying for tags.

Harvesters should also note:

- tags are only valid for the harvest period printed on the tag
- tags must be attached in increasing numerical order by the serial number on each tag
• returned tags are not eligible for credit or refund. In addition, if it becomes necessary, the chief executive may give a lawful notice directing a person to return unused tags without refund
• defective tags must be reported and returned to the DES Charleville office—do not to attempt to attach tags with any other device.

Applicant declaration
The tag application form requests the applicant to provide their tag allowance and the number of unused tags on hand. There will be planned and random compliance audits on tag applications. Applications will be compared to harvester and dealer returns to ascertain the number of tags on hand at the time of application. Returns that indicate a person has given false information in the tag application will be investigated.

Macropod tags remain the property of the state. More importantly, since 1 January 2010, each macropod tag represents a quota unit—a macropod that may be harvested commercially.

Return of operations
Harvester return of operations must be completed and given to the department within 14 days after each month. Or submitted via Macropods Online.

A ‘nil’ return is required even if no macropods were harvested in a particular month. A ‘nil’ return is the same as the usual harvest return, except that ‘NIL RETURN’ should be written in large letters across the middle of the return page. This can also be done on Macropods Online. Harvesters have an obligation to record all particulars when they sell, give away or move dead macropods or within 24 hours after the macropod was taken whichever occurs first. If submitting returns online this will need to be done in accordance with the above described timeframe.

Once a return book is issued to a harvester in hard copy, no other harvester can use that book.

Harvesting of macropods
Harvesters must understand and comply with the licence requirements and obligations under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and subordinate legislation. The Nature Conservation Act 1992, Nature Conservation (Macropod Conservation) Plan 2017, and Harvest Period Notice are the main pieces of legislation that regulate the harvest. Links to these Acts and subordinate legislation are available on the DES website.

Harvesters must carry the following when conducting activities under their licence:
• Landholder consent forms
• Macropod harvesting licence
• Record and return of operations book
• Photo identification.

Harvesters must sell carcasses or skins during the same harvest period in which the macropod was taken and must only sell to commercial wildlife licence holders (dealers, processors or tanneries) in Queensland.

Weight and size requirements for carcasses or skins is outlined in the relevant Harvest Period Notice.
In line with the Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export—Commerially Harvested Macropods 2018–22, DES has committed to regulate the commercial buying of non-head-shot (NHS) macropods. It is unlawful to sell, or give away carcasses or skins that contain a bullet wound to the body.

While it has always been necessary to harvest macropods in a humane manner, it is a licence condition that licence holders must abide by the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes. Copies of the code can be obtained for the Charleville DES office.

Licence holders found to have breached the requirements of the Act or licence conditions may be issued with a penalty infringement notice, which incur demerit points and fines. Accumulation of more than 10 demerit points within a three-year period may result in a licence being cancelled or suspended.

General information
Loss of licence or record and return book can be reported to DES’s Charleville office as soon as possible. Change of details can be updated in Macropods Online.

If you have any questions regarding licence applications, please contact the DES Charleville office on (07) 4530 1254.

Please note: this document is provided for guidance only. It is not provided in substitution of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017 or any other regulations.