

Queensland Commercial Macropod Management Program

Annual Report 2017

Prepared by: Environmental Services and Regulation, Department of Environment and Science

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March 2018

Preface

This annual report summarises the activities of the Commercial Macropod Management Program in Queensland for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. In accordance with the Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export—Commercially Harvested Macropods 2013–2017, the report addresses:

- actual harvest by zone and species compared to quota
- harvest sex ratio, average carcass weights and skin take
- any special quota used
- non-commercial harvest mortality
- compliance statistics
- unusual circumstances
- research and experiments
- program improvements.

For the 2017 harvest period, 1029 commercial wildlife harvesting licences for macropods, commonly known as harvester licences were issued. There were 83 commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods, commonly known as dealer's licences, nine commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods (meat processing) and two commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods (tanning) current. Data from dealer returns, entered up to 18 February 2018, indicates that there were 868,129 macropods commercially harvested, representing 26.4 % of the overall quota. The harvest was predominantly for carcasses used for both human consumption and pet food.

No quota was exceeded for any species in any zone in 2017. The highest percentage use of quota was for common wallaroos in the central zone at 37.1%. In all harvest zones, the percentage of the population used for each species was less than 5%.

The commercial harvest is typically biased towards males due to their generally larger size and weight when compared to females. For 2017, the harvest for each species was biased towards males by 94% or greater.

During the 2017 harvest period, the department issued seven infringement notices and 44 warning notices for offences relating to the commercial macropod harvest.

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1. Background

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) administers the harvest in accordance with the following overarching goal: 'to provide for the sustainable use of macropod species covered by the plan, in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development' (Anon 2017).

There are three main aspects to the program:

- monitoring populations
- setting quotas
- managing the harvest.

Three species can be commercially harvested in Queensland:

- red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*)
- eastern grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*)
- common wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*).

These commercially harvested species are abundant over a broad area of Queensland and Australia. None of these species are listed as threatened under state or Commonwealth legislation; all are listed as 'least concern' wildlife under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006.

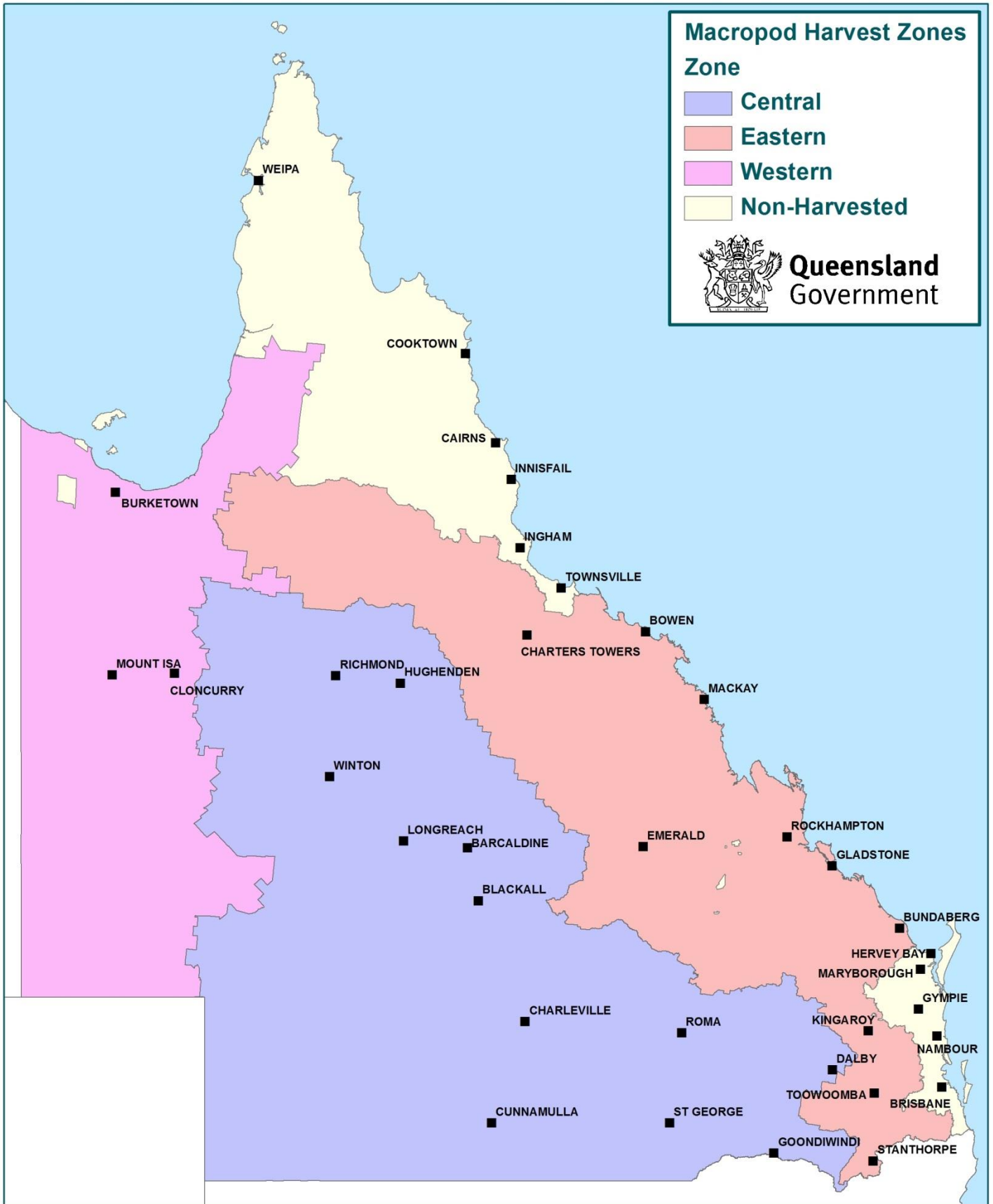
The harvesting of these macropods is regulated through the:

- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
 - Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2017
 - Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006
 - Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006
 - Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017.
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Queensland Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export—Commercially Harvested Macropods—2018–2022
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
- *Food Production (Safety) Act 2000*.

Management of the harvest is facilitated via quotas that set the number of animals that can be taken. Quotas are largely based on population estimates derived from annual aerial surveys of the commercially harvested species. Quotas are set for each species for four harvest zones (Figure 1):

- non-harvest zone (quota zero)
- eastern harvest zone
- central harvest zone
- western harvest zone.

Figure 1 – Queensland harvest zones in 2017



Quotas are calculated using a fixed proportion of the estimated macropod populations within the harvest areas. Proportions are adjusted for each species across the harvest zones in relation to the margins of error present in population estimates derived from the aerial surveys. The maximum proportions used for each species are 15% of the populations for eastern grey kangaroos and common wallaroos and 20% of the population for red kangaroos for the central zone. For the eastern and western zones, where survey effort is less extensive when compared to the central zone, the more conservative maximum proportion of 10% is applied for all three species.

These sustainable-use harvest proportions are based on research and modelling undertaken by Caughley et al. (1987) and Hacker et al. (2002) and are currently accepted by the scientific community, state and Australian governments, for determining state quota limits.

This annual report summarises the activities of the Commercial Macropod Management Program for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. In accordance with the Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export—Commercially Harvested Macropods—2013–2017, the report will address:

- actual harvest by zone and species compared to quota
- harvest sex ratio, average carcass weights and skin take
- any special quota used
- non-commercial harvest mortality
- compliance statistics
- unusual circumstances
- research and experiments
- program improvements.

All macropod species are ‘protected animals’ in Queensland under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006. The Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006 provides for the licensing of a range of activities in relation to the commercial harvesting of macropods in Queensland.

Macropods can only be taken in accordance with the Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export—Commercially Harvested Macropods—2013–2017 and the Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2005 under a licence issued by the department.

The harvest is controlled by the use of self-locking numbered plastic tags with a unique colour code for each species and year. The following applies to the use of tags:

- Tags are issued to a specific harvester and are not transferable to any other harvester.
- Tags must be securely attached to the skin of every macropod commercially harvested.
- A tag can only be removed from the macropod skin during the skin tanning process at a licensed tannery.
- The tags are self-locking and tamper-evident.
- The tags are individually numbered and of a different colour for each consecutive year and species.
- A fee (fixed by regulation) is charged for the sale of tags.

Record and return of operations are submitted to the department by harvesters and dealers at regular periods. Harvest statistics from returns are used to monitor and manage the harvest.

2. Harvest management

For the 2017 harvest period, 1029 commercial wildlife harvesting licences for macropods, commonly known as harvester licences were issued. There were 83 commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods, commonly known as dealer's licences, nine commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods (meat processing) and two commercial wildlife licences for dead macropods (tanning) issued.

All licences were issued in accordance with legislative requirements and within regulatory timeframes.

Tags were limited to the quota amount for each species in each zone to ensure no over-harvest occurred. The highest number of tags sold as a proportion of quota was 45.1% for common wallaroos in the central zone. The actual harvest for this species in this zone was 37.1% of available quota. Statistics on the harvest and tag sales are updated monthly and made available to the public via the department's website. This assists the industry to monitor the harvest and tag availability.

Table 1—Tag sales and harvest for 2017

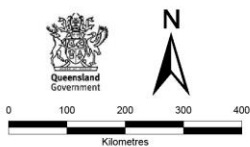
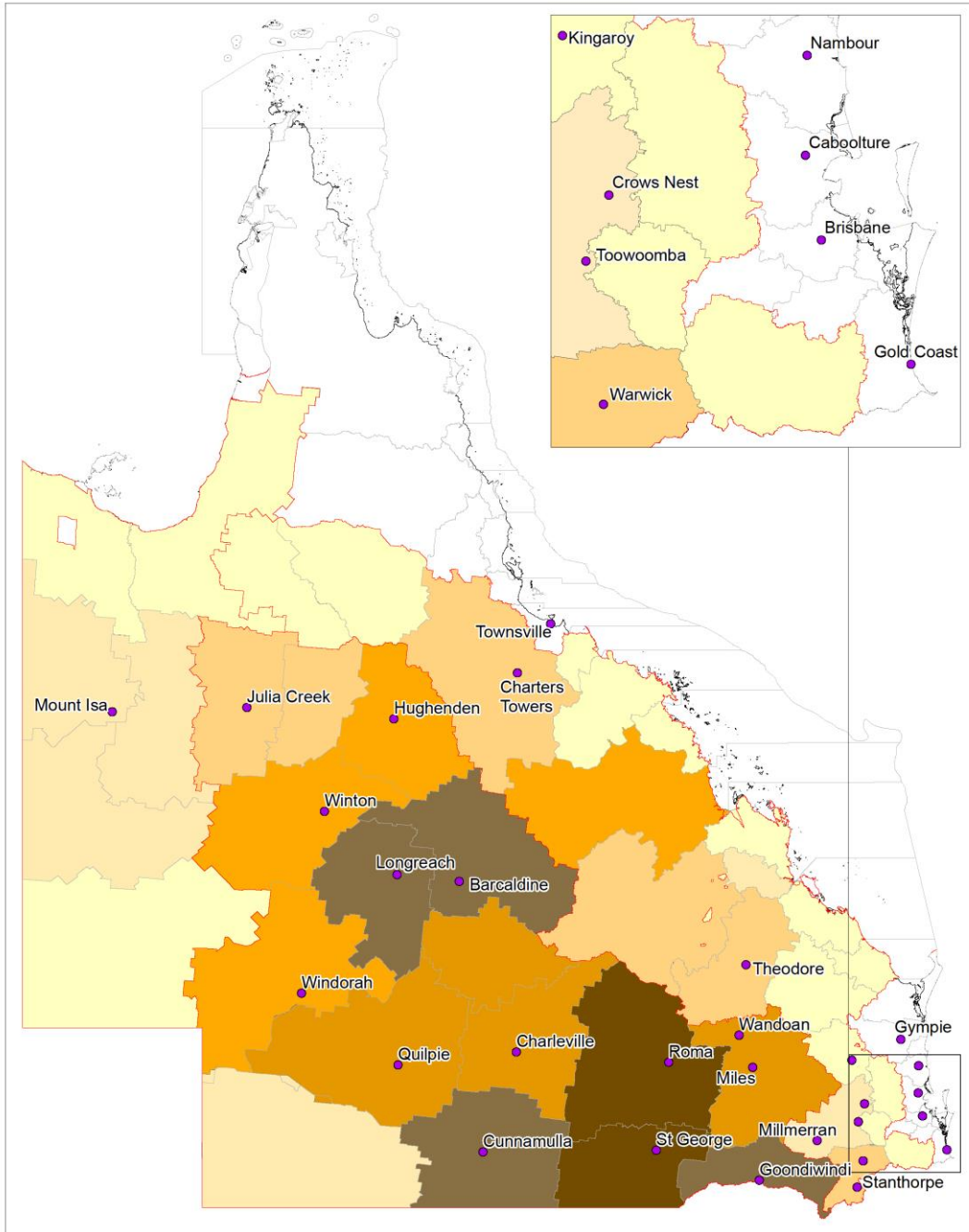
Tag categories by zone	2017 quotas	Tags sold		Reported harvest	
		Number of tags	% of quota	Number of macropods	% of quota
Central zone					
Eastern grey kangaroo	1,216,800	497,800	40.9%	438,222	36%
Red kangaroo	1,027,500	297,950	29%	248,000	24.1%
Common wallaroo	330,850	149,300	45.1%	122,815	37.1%
Eastern zone					
Eastern grey kangaroo	587,400	55,700	9.5%	44,322	7.5%
Red kangaroo	14,500	3,650	25.2%	1,735	12%
Common wallaroo	55,250	7,500	13.6%	3,815	6.9%
Western zone					
Red kangaroo	48,600	9,550	19.7%	7,911	16.3%
Common wallaroo	4,700	1,800	38.3%	1,309	27.9%
Total	3,285,600	1,023,250	31.1%	868,129	26.4%

To ensure harvesters have fair and equitable access to the finite number of tags available, the program regulates the distribution of tags. This is done by establishing a tag allowance for each harvester and ensuring the tags are being used before further tags are ordered.

3. Harvest

The data from dealer returns, entered up to 18 February 2018, indicates that there were 868,129 macropods commercially harvested, representing 26.4% of the overall quota. The commercial harvest of macropods does not occur evenly across the harvest zones. The majority of harvesting occurs in the central harvest zone (Figure 2). Of the 868,129 animals harvested, there were 257,646 red kangaroos, 482,544 eastern grey kangaroos and 127,939 common wallaroos harvested (Figure 3).

Figure 2—Relative amount of commercial harvesting occurring in each local government area during the 2017 harvest period

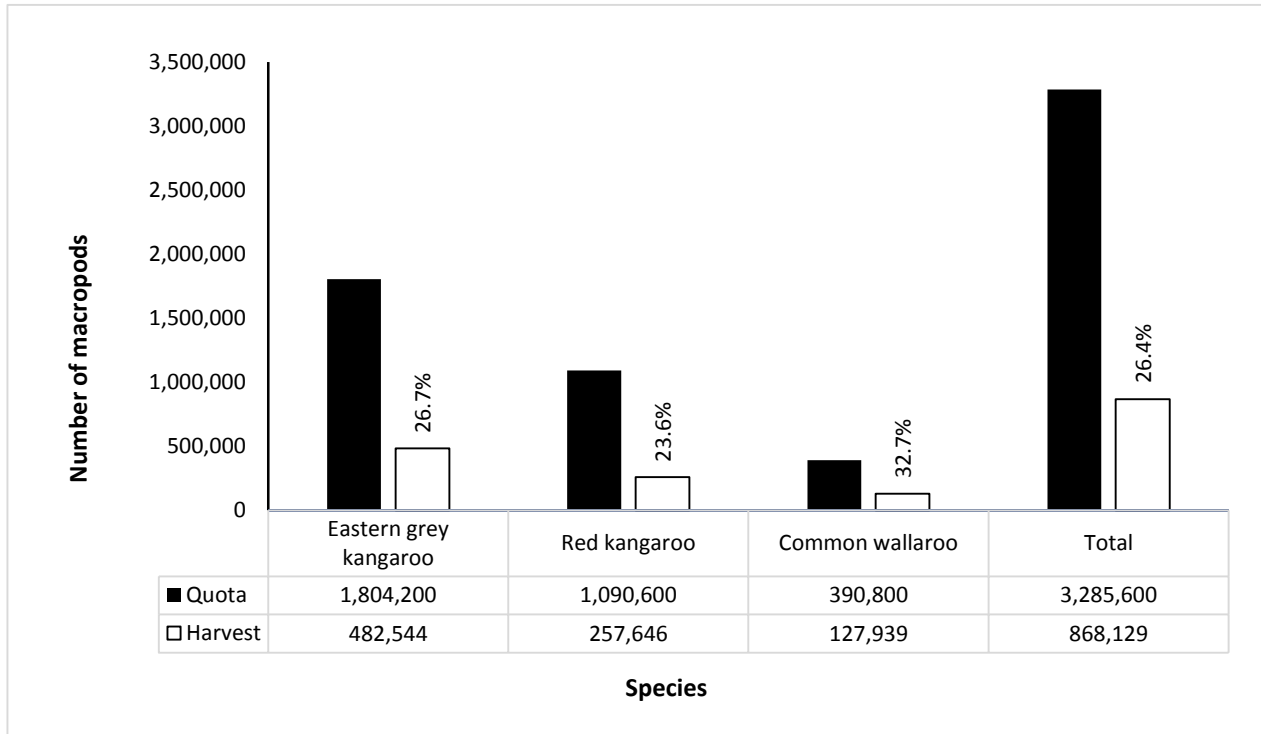


Total Macropod Harvest 2017

0 - 500	10,001 - 30,000	100,001 - 140,000
501 - 5,000	30,001 - 60,000	Harvest Zones
5,001 - 10,000	60,001 - 100,000	QLD LGA Boundaries

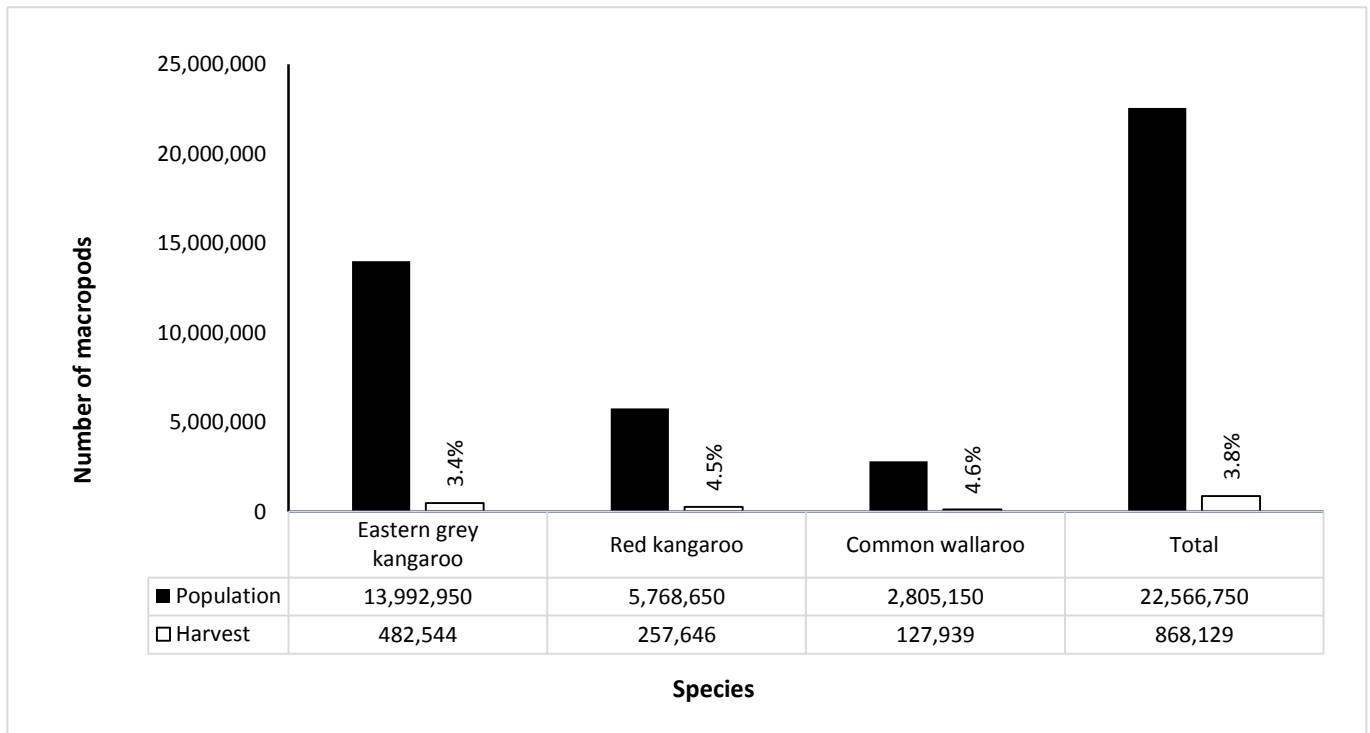
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 Date: 14/02/2018

Figure 3—Total number of macropods harvested in 2017 compared to quotas



For all three commercially harvested species the percentage of the population harvested in 2017 was only 3.8% of the 2016 estimated population (Figure 4). For common wallaroos, 4.6% of the estimated population in the harvest area was harvested, while 4.5% of the estimated population of red kangaroos and 3.4% for eastern grey kangaroos was harvested.

Figure 4—Percentage of the 2016 estimated population harvested in 2017



Tables 2–5 contain detailed summaries of the commercial harvest in 2017. Quotas for each species in each zone were not exceeded in 2017. The highest percentage of quota used was for common wallaroos in the central zone at 32.7%. In all harvest zones the percentage of the population harvested for each species was below 5%.

Table 2—Total harvest in 2017

Species	Population estimate 2016	Quota 2017	Harvest take 2017	% quota used 2017	% population harvested 2017
Red kangaroo	5,768,650	1,090,600	257,646	23.6%	4.5%
Eastern grey kangaroo	13,992,950	1,804,200	482,544	26.7%	3.4%
Common wallaroo	2,805,150	390,800	127,939	32.7%	4.6%
Total	22,566,750	3,285,600	868,129	26.4%	3.8%

Note: population estimates are based on aerial surveys conducted in 2016, which were used to set the 2017 quota. Harvest figures are based on data available 18 February 2018.

Table 3—Harvest of red kangaroos in 2017

Zone	Population estimate 2016	Quota 2017	Harvest take 2017	% quota utilised 2017	% population harvested 2017
Central	5,137,600	1,027,500	248,000	24.1%	4.8%
Eastern	145,200	14,500	1,735	12%	1.2%
Western	485,850	48,600	7,911	16.3%	1.6%
Total	5,768,650	1,090,600	257,646	23.6%	4.5%

Note: population estimates are based on aerial surveys conducted in 2016, which were used to set the 2017 quota. Harvest figures are based on data available 18 February 2018.

Table 4—Harvest of eastern grey kangaroos in 2017

Zone	Population estimate 2016	Quota 2017	Harvest take 2017	% quota utilised 2017	% population harvested 2017
Central	8,111,850	1,216,800	438,222	36.0%	5.4%
Eastern	5,873,850	587,400	44,322	7.5%	0.8%
Western	7,250	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	13,992,950	1,804,200	482,544	26.7%	3.4%

Note: population estimates are based on aerial surveys conducted in 2016, which were used to set the 2017 quota. Harvest figures are based on data available 18 February 2018.

Table 5—Harvest of common wallaroos in 2017

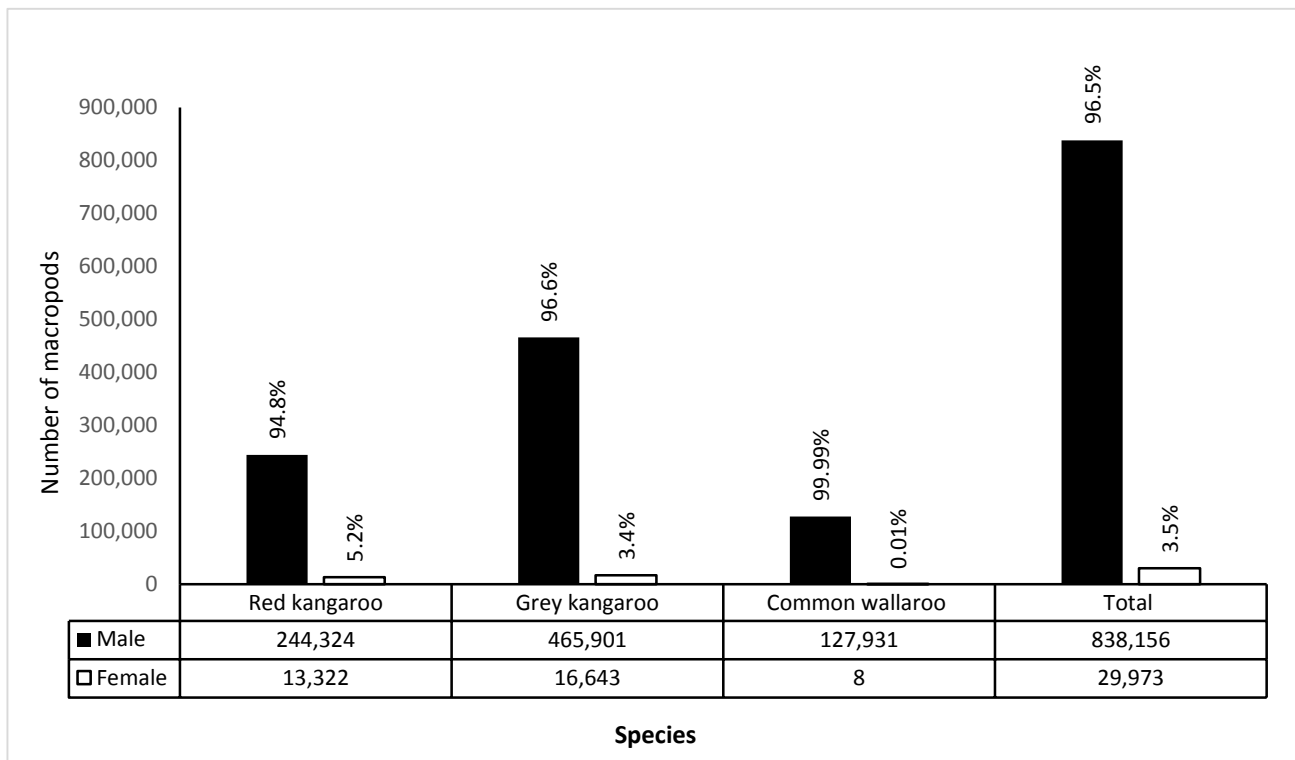
Zone	Population estimate 2016	Quota 2017	Harvest take 2017	% quota utilised 2017	% population harvested 2017
Central	2,205,600	330,850	122,815	37.1%	5.6%
Eastern	552,500	55,250	3,815	6.9%	0.7%
Western	47,050	4,700	1,309	27.9%	2.8%
Total	2,805,150	390,800	127,939	32.7%	4.6%

Note: population estimates are based on aerial surveys conducted in 2016, which were used to set the 2017 quota. Harvest figures are based on data available 18 February 2018.

3.1 Harvest sex ratio

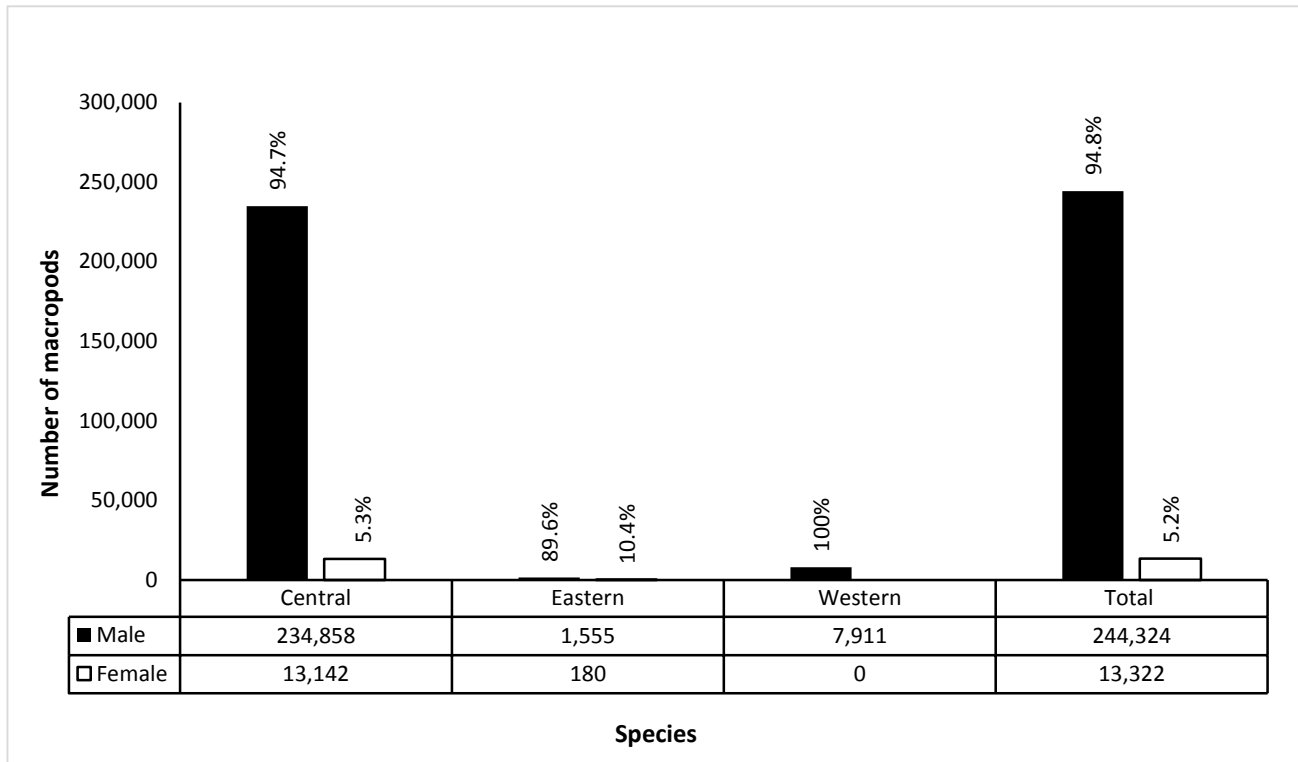
The commercial harvest is typically biased towards males due to their generally larger size and weight when compared to females. For 2017, the harvest for each species was biased towards males by 94% or greater (Figure 5). Females composed less than 4% of the overall harvest.

Figure 5—Sex ratio of harvested macropods in 2017 for all harvest zones combined



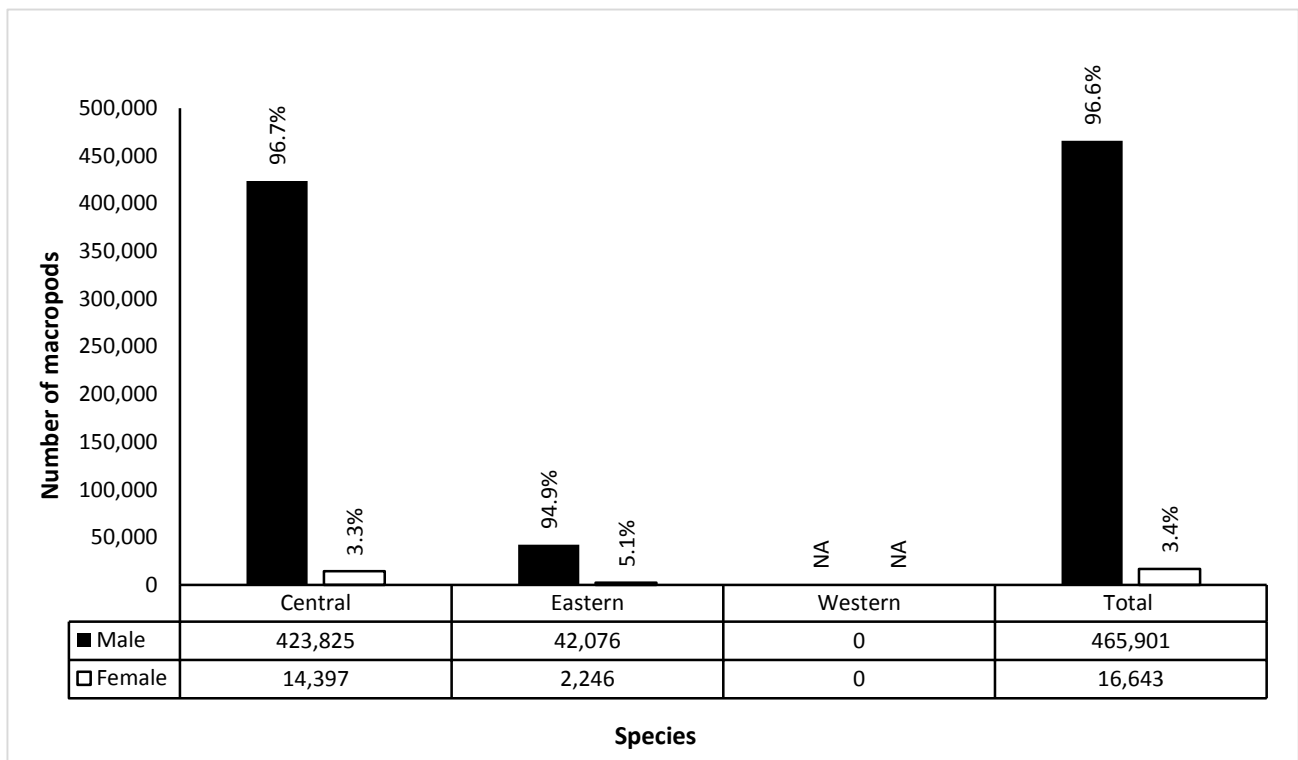
For red kangaroos, the highest percentage of females harvested was in the central zone at 5.3%. The overall take of females for this species was also 5.2% of the harvest (Figure 6).

Figure 6—Sex ratio of harvested red kangaroos in 2017



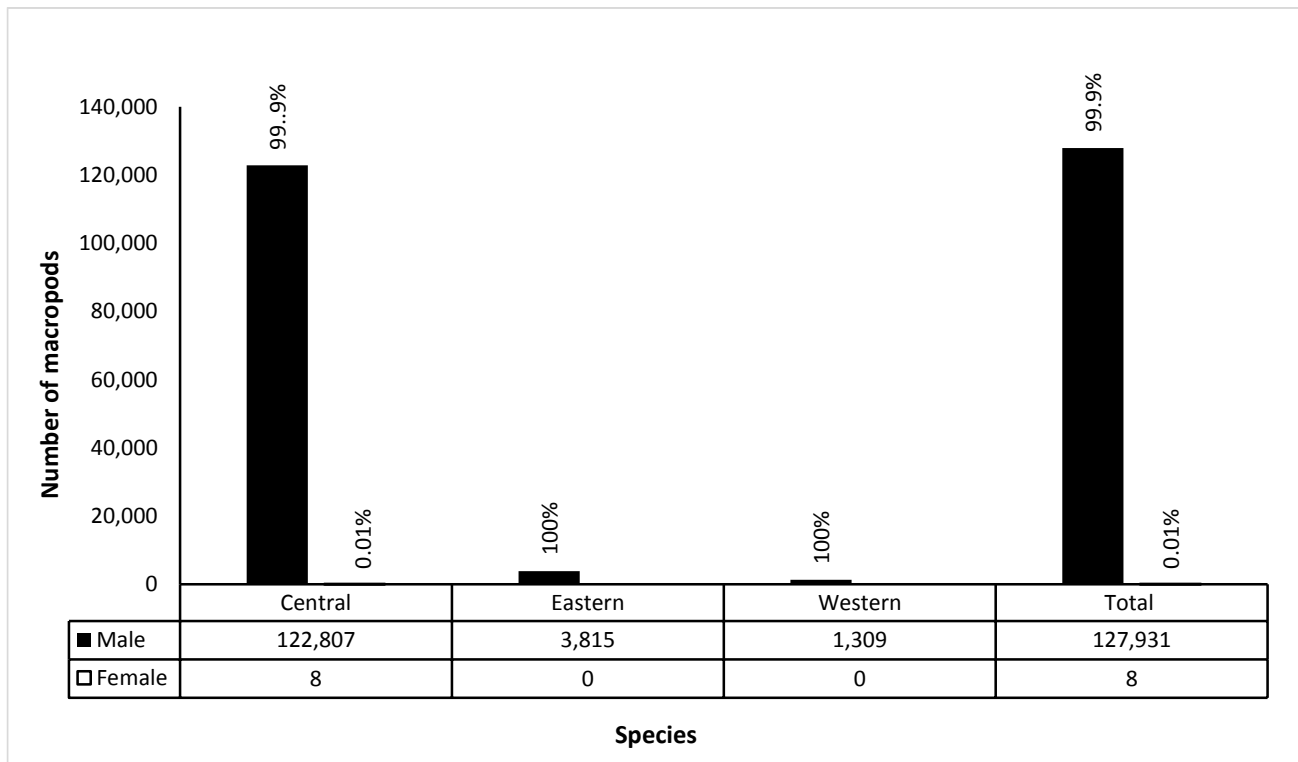
For eastern grey kangaroos the greatest percentage take of females was 5.1% in the eastern zone. Overall for this species, females comprised 3.4% of the harvest (Figure 7).

Figure 7—Sex ratio of harvested eastern grey kangaroos in 2017



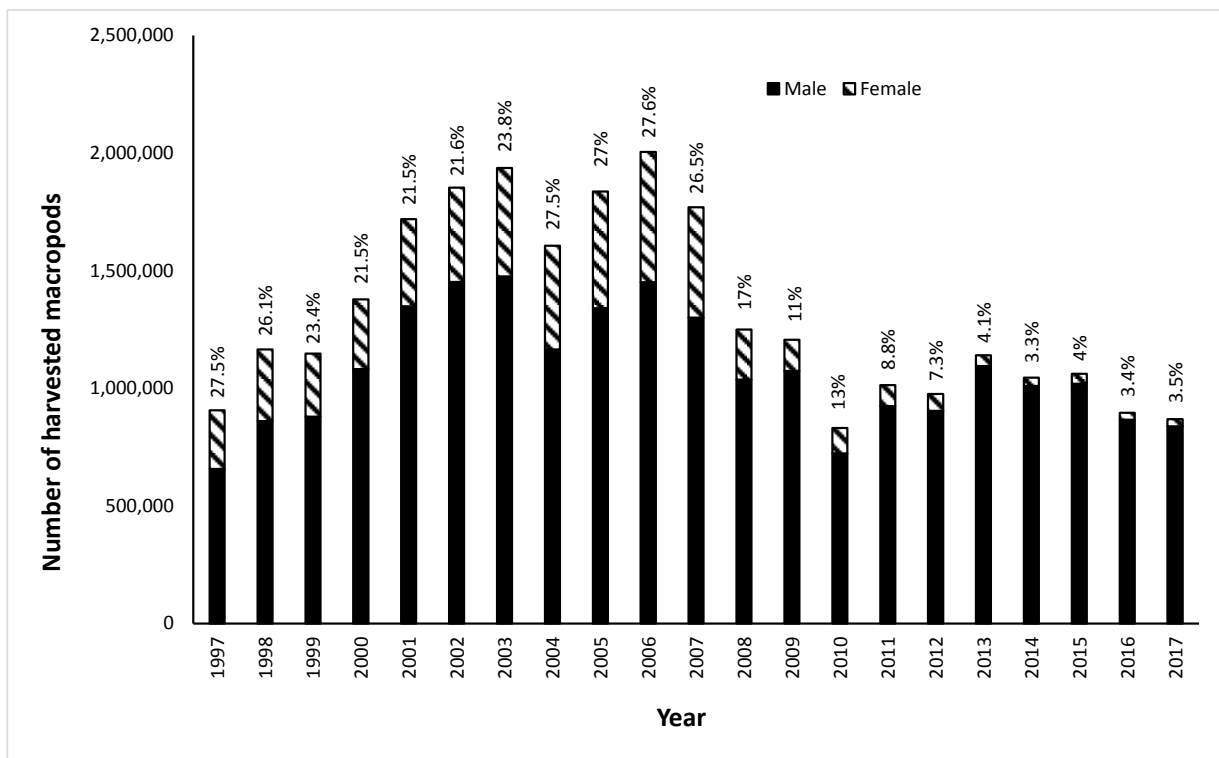
For common wallaroos the percentage of the harvest containing females was the lowest amongst the three commercially harvested species at an overall total of less than 0.01%. The highest take for females was eight animals from the central zone (Figure 8).

Figure 8—Sex ratio of harvested common wallaroos in 2017



The proportion of the commercial harvest comprising females in 2017 was less than 4%. The harvest of female macropods has been decreasing since 2007 (Figure 9).

Figure 9—Queensland commercial macropod harvest sex ratio trend 1997 to 2017 (percentage of female harvest shown)



3.2 Carcass and skin harvest

The commercial harvest of macropods in Queensland is predominantly for meat products used for human consumption and pet food. The majority of macropod skins utilised for leather and fur products are sourced from harvested carcasses. Less than 2% of the commercial take were harvested for their skins only in 2017 (figures 10–13). The largest skin only harvest in 2017 was for grey kangaroos in the central zone at 4,694 followed by red kangaroos in the central zone at 4,143.

Figure 10—Macropod skin and carcass harvest for Queensland in 2017

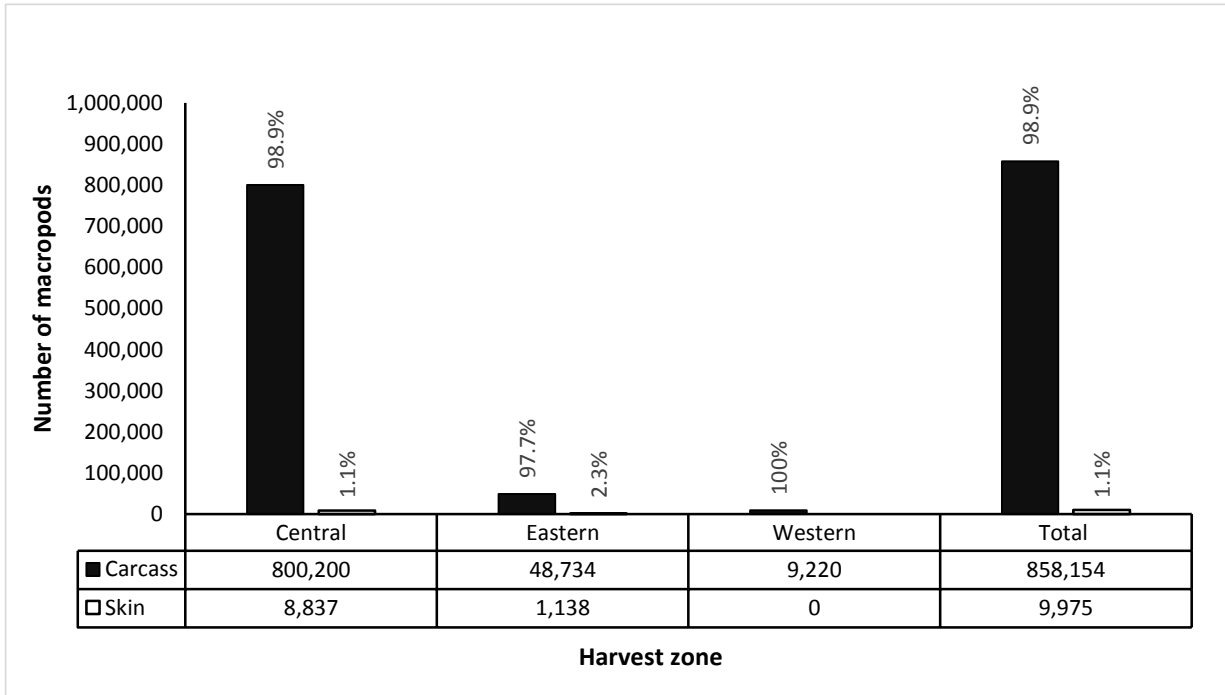


Figure 11—Skin and carcass harvest of red kangaroos in 2017

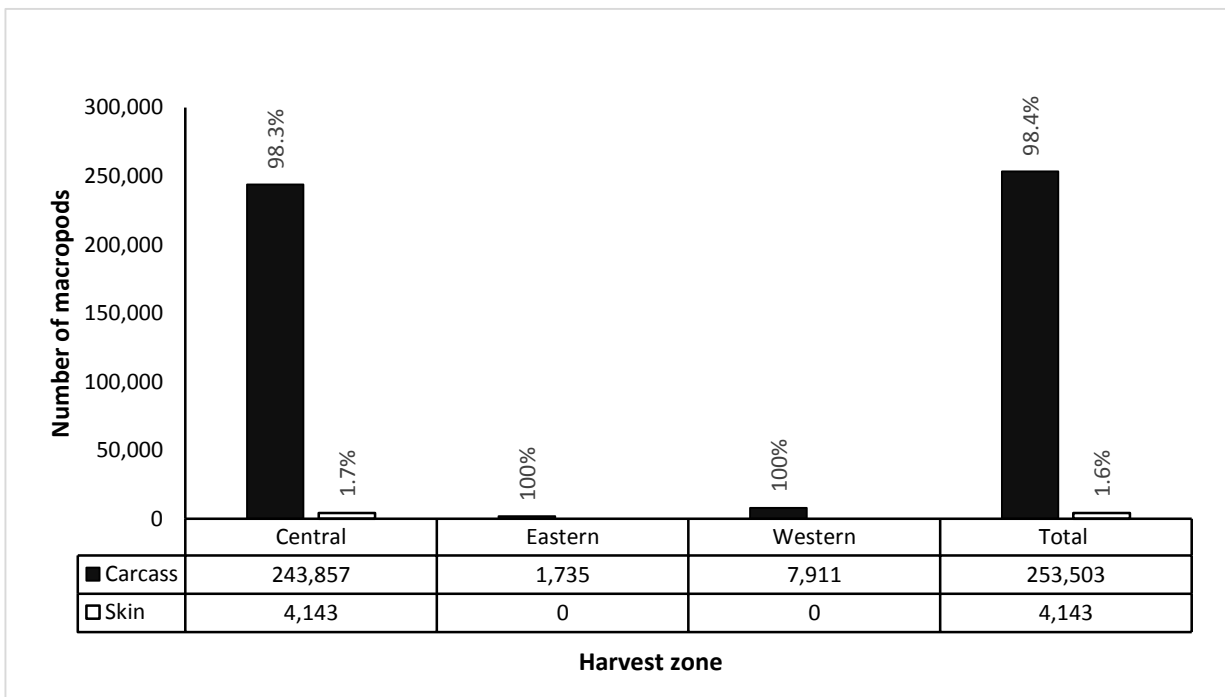


Figure 12—Skin and carcass harvest for eastern grey kangaroos in 2017

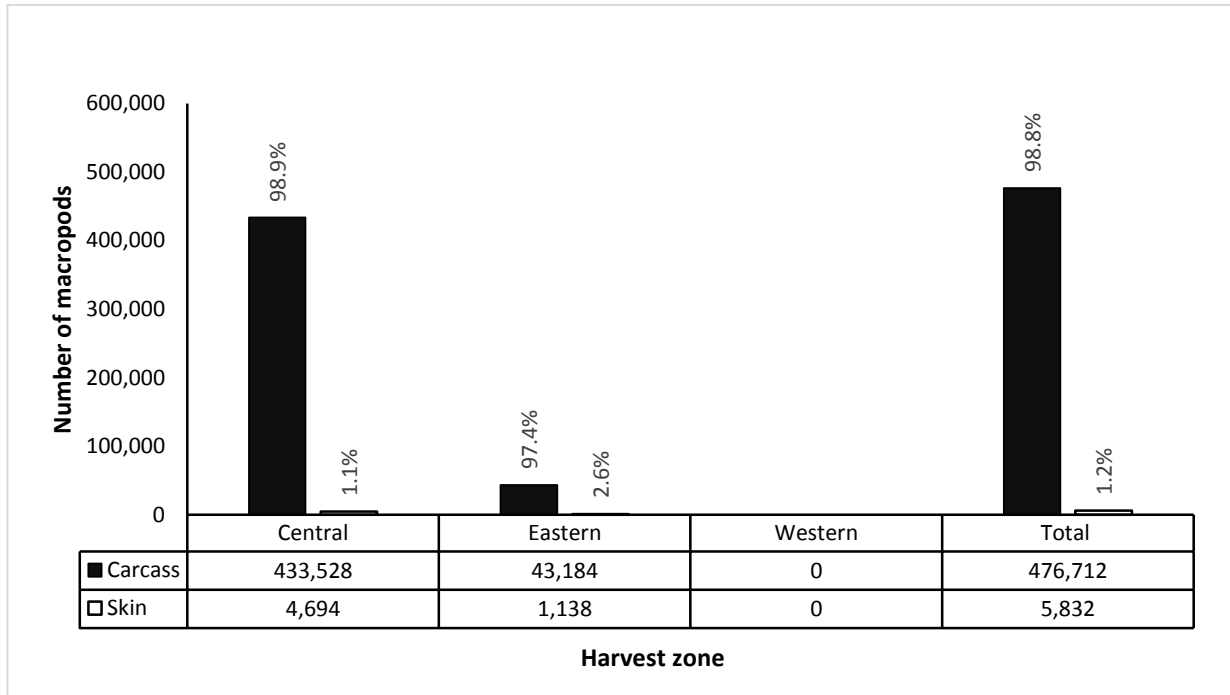
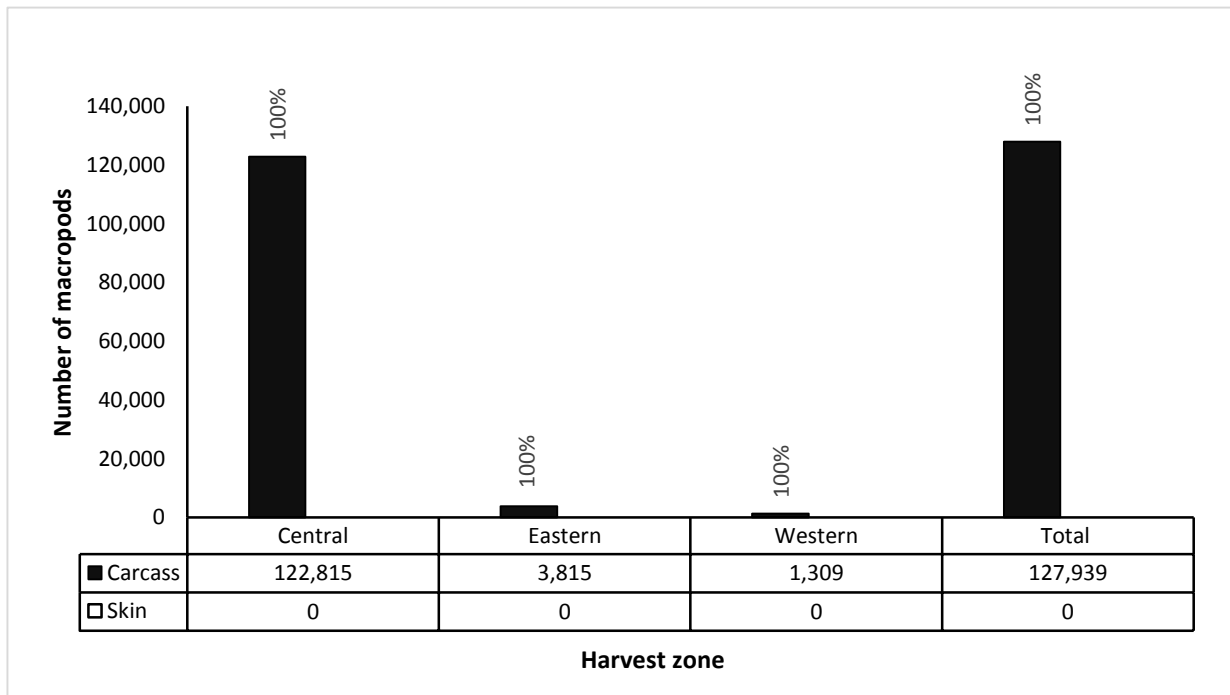


Figure 13—Skin and carcass harvest for common wallaroos in 2017



3.3 Average weight

The average carcass weights per harvest zone and species are shown in figures 14 to 17. Carcass weights have fluctuated slightly in the past eight years in each harvest zone with no significant increases or decreases having occurred in that time. The minimum weight of a fully dressed carcass as defined in the harvest period notice was 13 kilograms (kg) during the 2017 harvest period. A number of dealer sites have established a minimum weight requirement between 16kg and 18kg. This is driven by economic reasons with efficiencies gained in processing heavier carcasses. Regular inspections of dealer sites and monitoring minimum carcass weights ensure the minimum weight requirement is met. Where carcasses are found that breach the minimum weight requirements, both the harvester and dealer may be issued warning or infringement notices and fined.

Figure 14—Average weight of Queensland male macropod carcasses 2010–2017

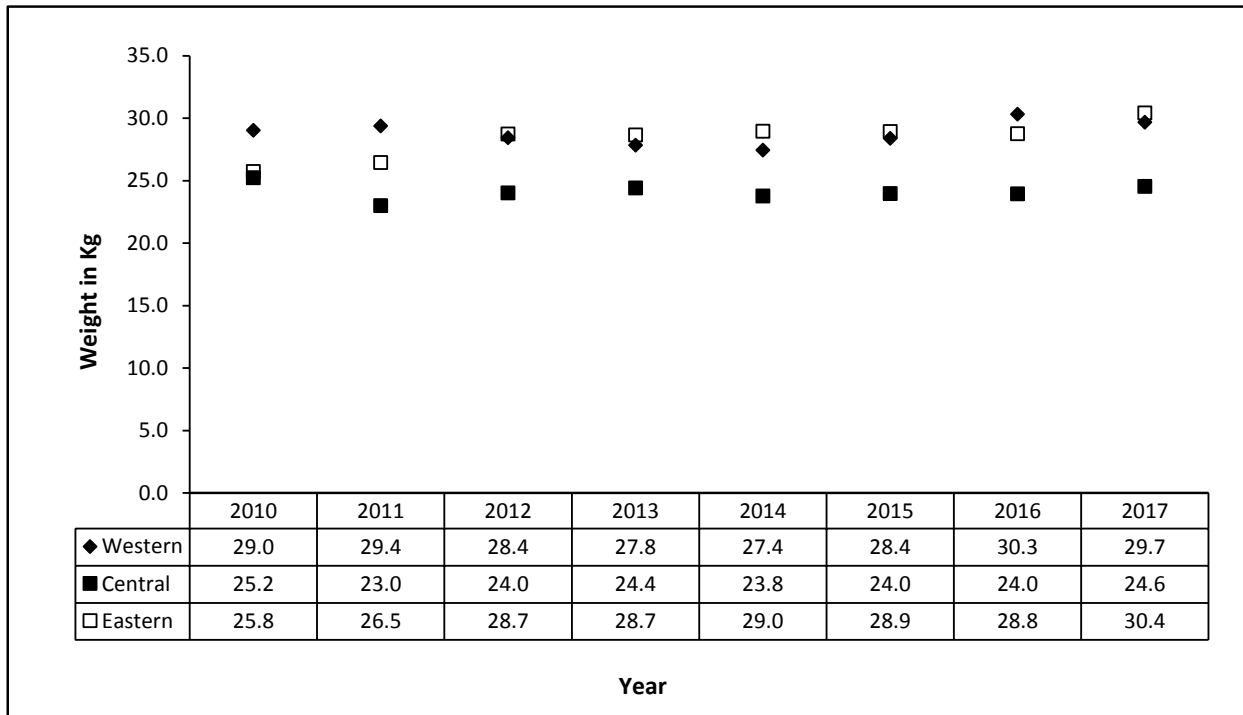


Figure 15—Average weight of Queensland female macropod carcasses 2010–2017

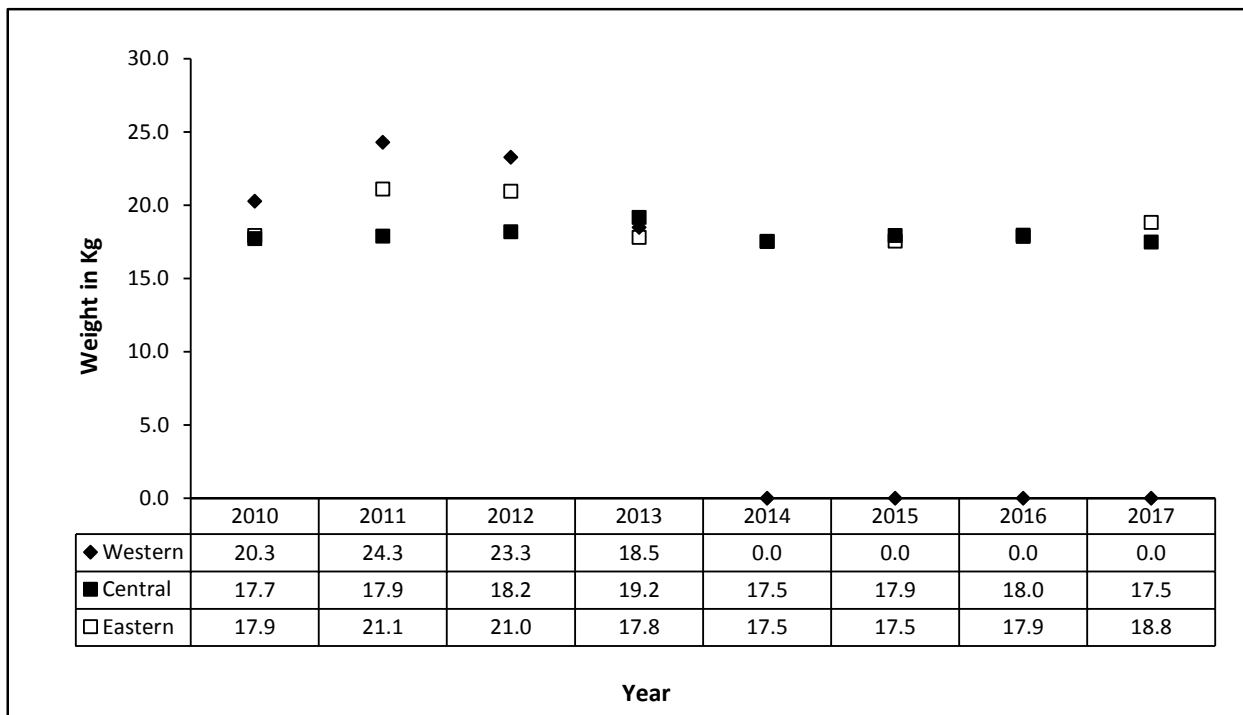


Figure 16—Average carcass weight for male macropods harvested in 2017

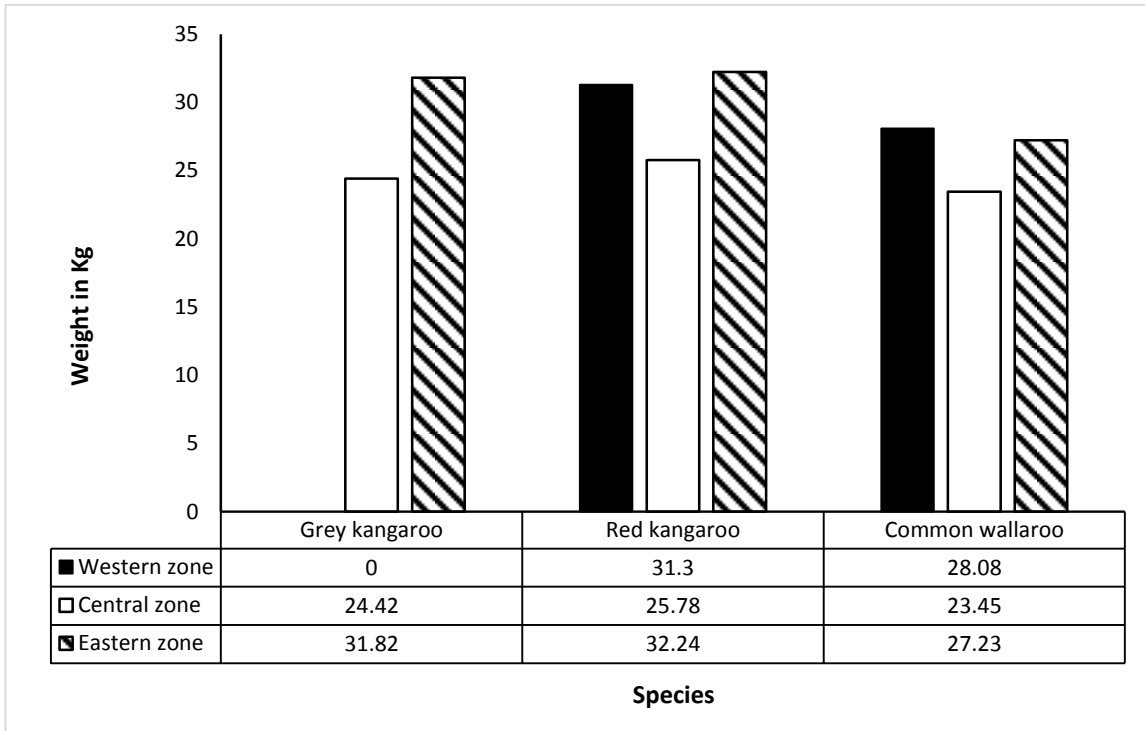
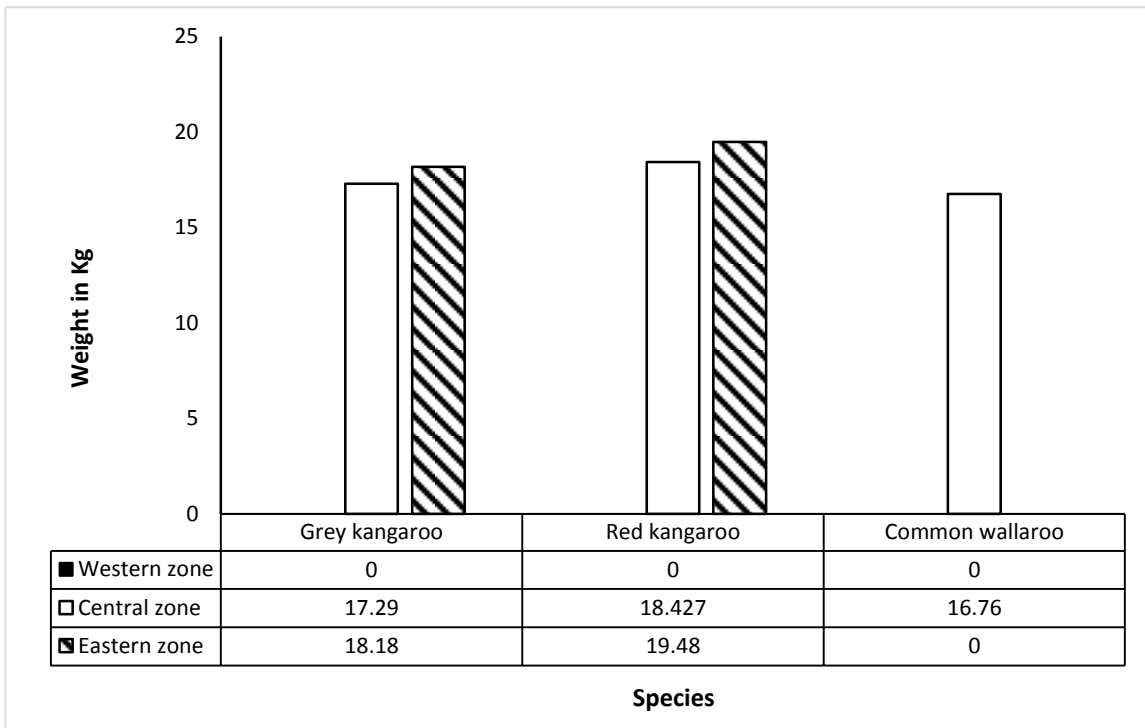


Figure 17—Average carcass weight for female macropods harvested in 2017



4. Special quotas

A special quota can only be considered once the commercial harvest quota for a particular species has been reached in a harvest zone. Situations where a special quota may be considered include where there is a high macropod population density in a particular area or where adverse weather conditions such as prolonged drought are having a detrimental effect on macropod health. No special quotas were set in 2017.

5. The extent of non-commercial harvest mortality

There are many forms of macropod mortality outside of the commercial harvest. It is possible for the department to collect and report data on two forms of non-commercial harvest mortality which can be considered when determining commercial quotas. These are damage mitigation permits (DMPs), and disease outbreak mortality.

6. Damage mitigation permits

DMPs are issued by the department where macropods are causing demonstrable damage to primary production. The issuing of these permits is limited to a maximum of 2% of the population estimate for each species. It is a condition of the permit that macropods are taken in accordance with the requirements of the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-commercial Purposes.

Consistent with the Queensland Government’s policy of assisting landholders manage macropods where they are causing loss to agricultural production, the proportion of the estimated population for each species available for DMPs increased from 1% to 2% in 2015. Whilst drought conditions continue across Qld the following arrangements for DMPs remain:

- Lethal DMPs are issued for up to 12 months.
- The need for an on-site inspection has been removed during the current drought declared period.
- DES Wildlife Assessment staff have been assigned to deliver a seven-day turn around on macropod DMPs.
- Information has been made available on the department’s website to assist landholders to complete applications and understand the DMP process more efficiently.

The total take under this permit system remains below the allowable quota (Figure 18). For comparative purposes, a summary of the macropods taken under DMPs for each species for 2008–2017 is outlined in Figure 19.

Figure 18—Macropod quota and take for damage mitigation permits in 2017

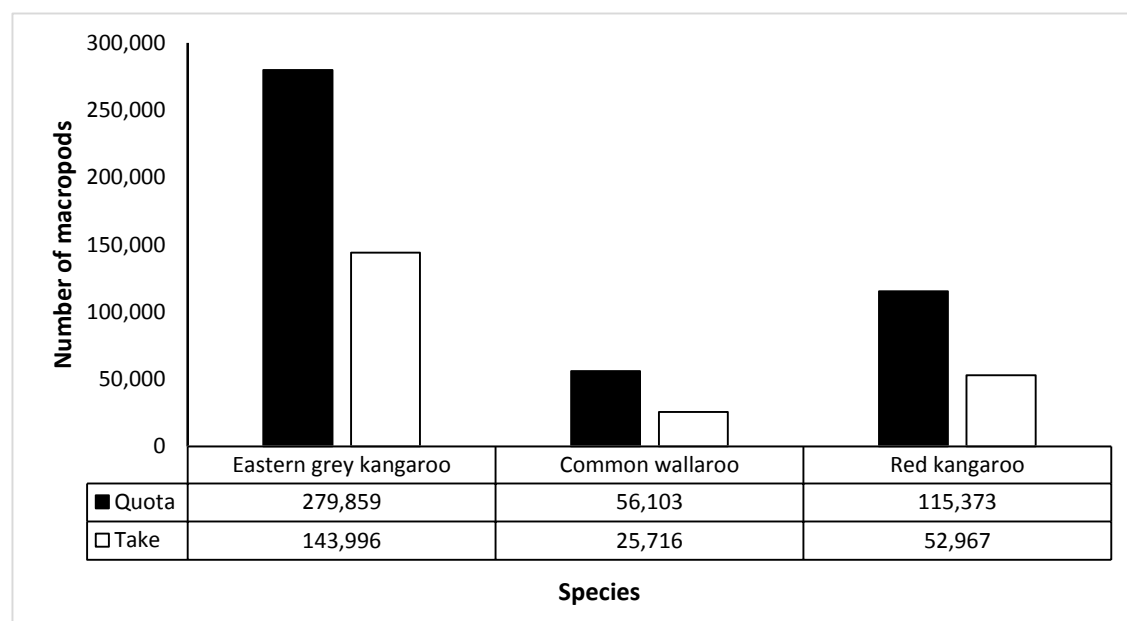
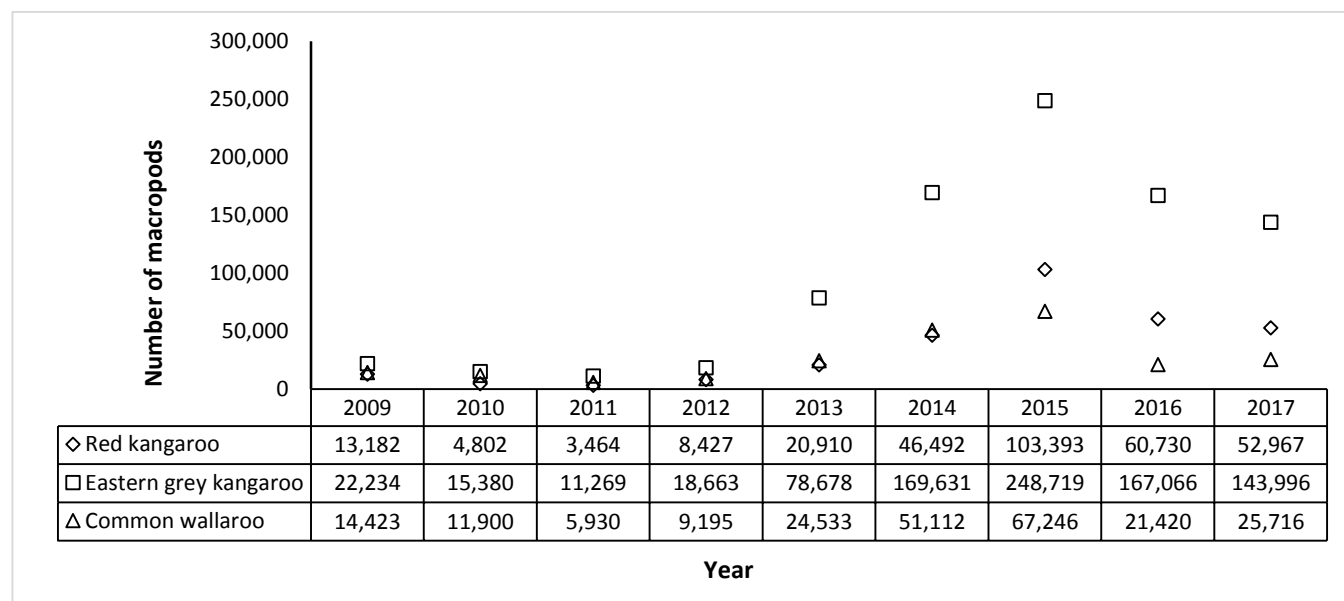


Figure 19—Macropods taken under damage mitigation permits 2008–2017



7. Disease outbreak mortality

No reports of disease outbreaks in macropods across Queensland were reported during 2017.

During spring of 2016 Wildlife Health Australia received reports of post-rainfall related macropod deaths around Tibooburra in NSW and Longreach in Qld. Biosecurity Queensland responded with property inspections in the Longreach and Thargomindah areas but no significant evidence was found to warrant a full investigation. The last reported event of this kind prior to 2016 occurred in 2010 where a full investigation reported only a small area affected.

8. Long-term population, quota and harvest trends

Since 1991, the Queensland Government has conducted an annual program of aerial surveys by helicopter to directly monitor populations of the three macropod species covered by the Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export—Commercially Harvested Macropods 2018–2022. These surveys occur over 22 representative monitor blocks across the state and are utilised to obtain population estimates that inform the quota.

2011 marked the first year that a correction factor of 1.85 was applied to population estimates for common wallaroos in Queensland. Prior to 2011 a conservative correction factor of 1.2 was used for common wallaroos. Current harvesting rates (quotas ranging from 10 to 20% of population estimates) are considered sustainable. None of the three commercially harvested species has shown a consistent decline in abundance since 1992 (Figure 19) which would necessitate a reassessment of the harvest take and species conservation status. Whilst no consistent declines have been observed, the macropod populations in Queensland have fluctuated over time. Of these species, the eastern grey kangaroo is consistently most abundant across the harvest zones, followed by the red kangaroo. Common wallaroos are the lowest even after the new correction factor was introduced in 2011. All three species occur in numbers of over 1,000,000 across the harvest zones.

Figures 20–23 below outline data on the three commercially harvested macropod species pertaining to population, quota and harvest for the years 1992–2017. Harvest data in these graphs is the combined commercial harvest and damage mitigation take. It should be noted that harvest quotas are calculated from population estimates based on aerial surveys conducted in the previous year to the harvest. Combined population estimates, quota and harvest data have been used for the period post-regionalisation to enable comparison with data collated prior to this period. As quotas are set as a constant proportion of the populations, they fluctuate as populations fluctuate, however, numerous factors influence harvest rates for commercial macropods. These include population levels, market forces, environmental conditions and access by harvesters. As a consequence, there is no clear pattern or trend in the proportion of the quota harvested since 1992.

Figure 20—Estimated macropod populations in the Queensland commercial harvest zones 1992–2017

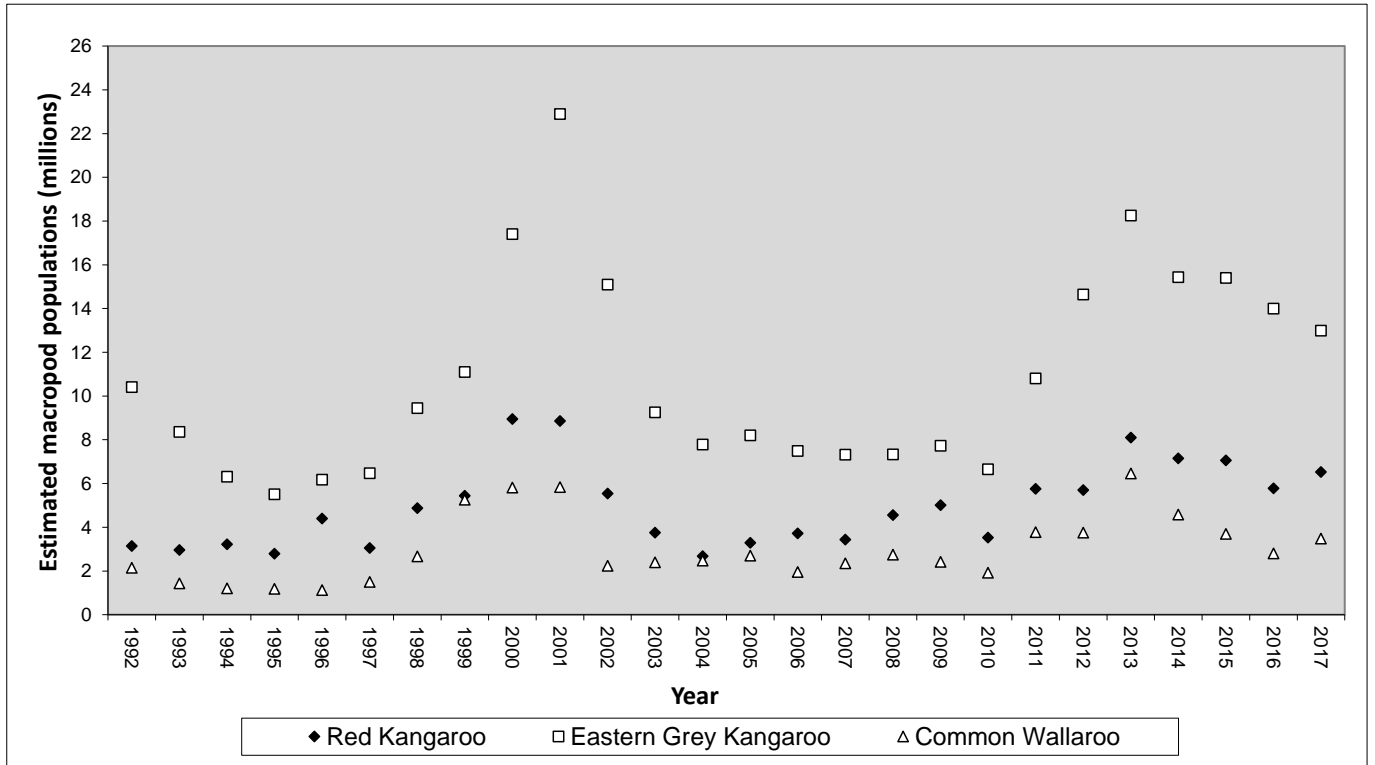


Figure 21—Long-term estimated population (\pm SE), commercial harvest quota and combined harvest data (commercial harvest + DMPs) for the red kangaroo.
Note: Commercial harvest quotas are based on survey estimates from the previous year

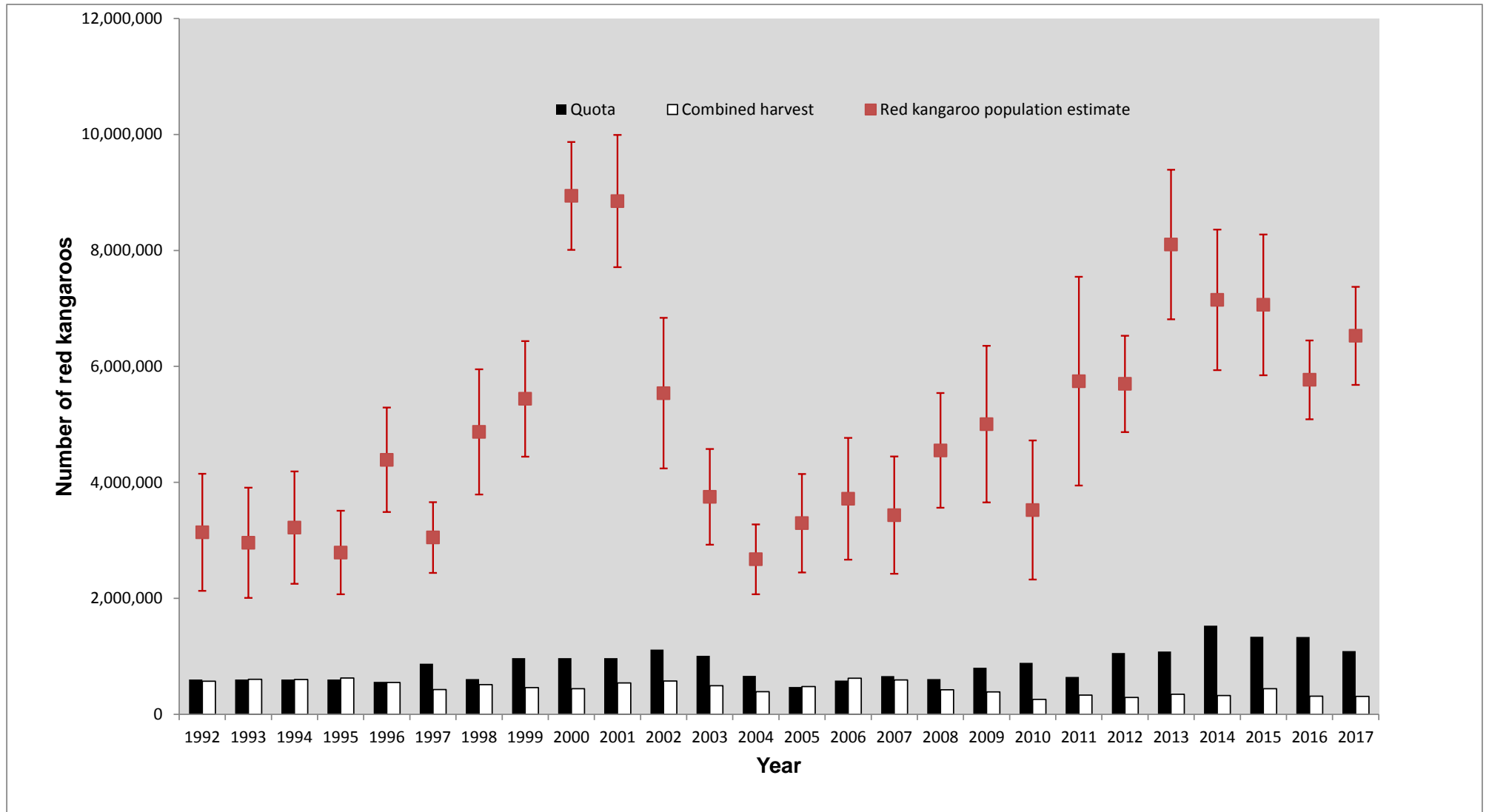


Figure 22—Long-term estimated population (\pm SE), commercial harvest quota and combined harvest data (commercial harvest + DMPs) for the eastern grey kangaroo Note: Commercial harvest quotas are based on survey estimates from the previous year

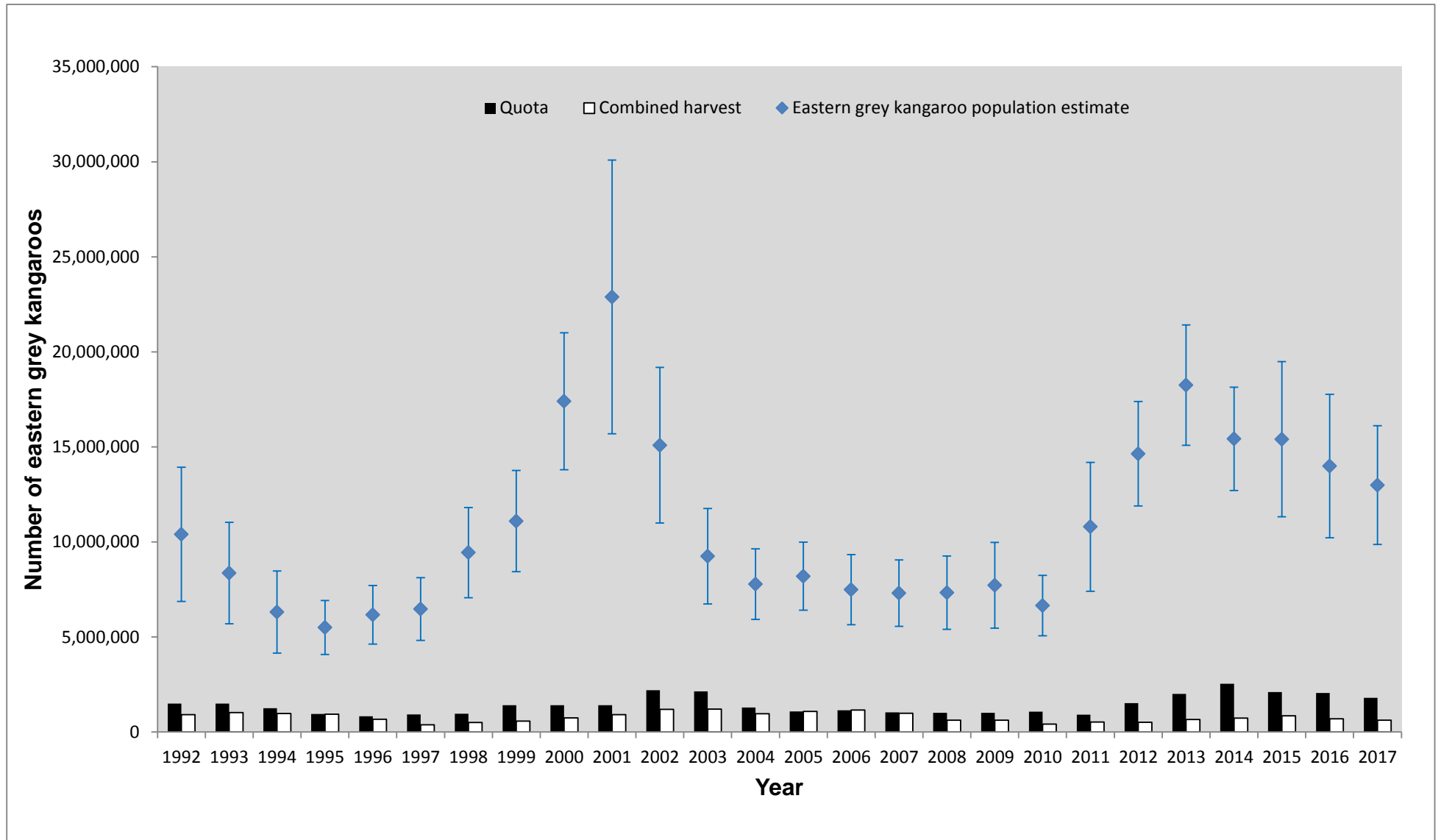
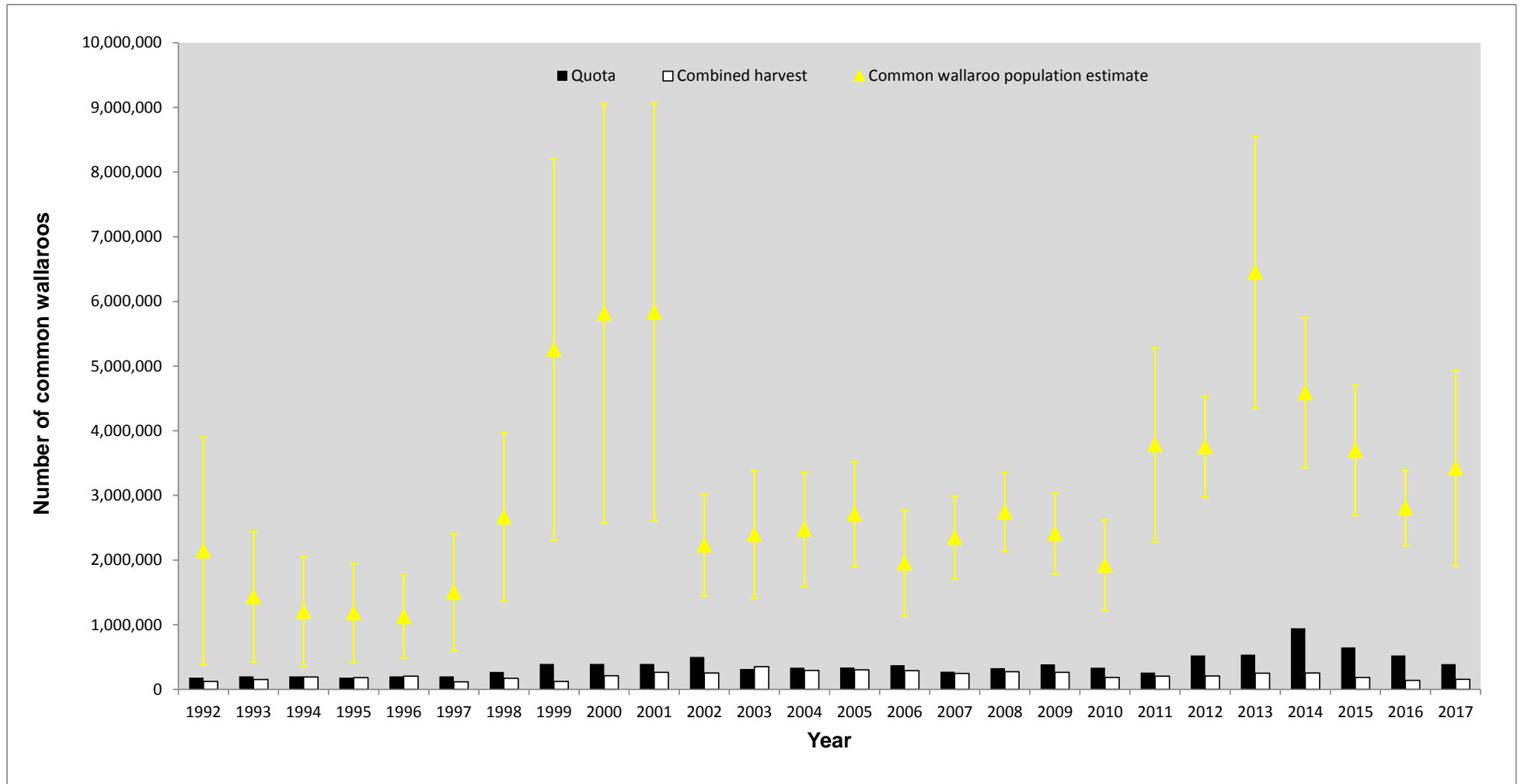


Figure 23—Long-term estimated population (\pm SE), commercial harvest quota and combined harvest data (commercial harvest + DMPs) for the common wallaroo
 Note: Commercial harvest quotas are based on survey estimates from the previous year



9. Compliance

During the 2017 harvest period, inspections of dealer sites, processor sites and harvesters were completed state wide. Overall compliance was considered good. Inspections were targeted towards higher risk sites.

The commercial harvest of macropods in Queensland requires compliance, investigation and enforcement resources. Compliance activities are conducted both infield and through desktop auditing. There are two compliance officers authorised under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* within the Macropod Management Unit. The majority of commercial macropod harvest field compliance activities are undertaken by these officers; however the department undertakes collaborative compliance work with wildlife rangers, the Queensland Police Service, and Safe Food Production Queensland (SFPQ).

Other compliance activities are conducted by the macropod management unit including licence audits, harvest return analysis and entry, report compilation and licence application assessment. Licensees are assessed at time of application against suitability criteria. These include accrual of 10 or more demerit points, convictions against the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* or any other matters relevant to the person's ability to carry out the activities authorised by the licence in a competent and ethical way.

Compliance priorities for the 2017 harvest period were:

- Harvesters hold the appropriate licence.
- Ensure macropods are correctly tagged with a valid 2017 harvest period tag.
- Ensure macropods are tagged with the correct species/zone tag.
- Ensure non-head-shot macropods are not traded.
- Ensure compliance with the National Code of Practise for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes 2008.
- Ensure harvesters produce/carry valid written landholder consent as per licence conditions.
- Ensure timely, complete and accurate harvest returns from dealers.

The integrity of a quota relies upon the premise that tags are not reused or applied to the wrong species or used in the wrong harvest zone. To objectively and adequately demonstrate effective compliance levels, an inspection target of 1% of the overall harvest; with 10% of the sample inspected at a detailed level has been established.

9.1 Inspections

The department conducted both programmed and unannounced inspections of harvesters, dealers and processors. During the 2017 harvest period, officers conducted 57 licensed dealer site inspections as well as nine licensed processor site inspections and 28 harvester inspections. Other complaints and evidence of non-compliance were also investigated.

Throughout the harvest period, inspection targets were a minimum of 1% of the harvest being visually inspected and 0.1% of the harvest being inspected in detail. The inspection targets of 1% and 0.1% were met, with 2% of the harvest visually inspected and 0.23% of the harvest inspected in detail (Table 6).

All operating processor sites were inspected during the 2017 harvest period.

In addition to planned inspections, compliance officers investigate reports of illegal harvesting to the fullest extent possible.

Table 6—Inspection targets

	Inspection target	Inspections conducted
Visual inspection—1% of overall harvest	8,681 – (1%)	17,570- (2% of harvest)
Detailed inspection of 0.1% of harvest	868 – (0.1%)	2,026- (0.23% of harvest)

9.2 Compliance and enforcement measures

Breaches of legislation are subject to enforcement action such as warning notices, fines, licence cancellation and prosecution.

Enforcement action is taken in accordance with the department's enforcement guidelines. Written warnings or infringement notices are given at the discretion of compliance officers, in accordance with the department's enforcement guidelines and in consultation with the Manager. Decisions on possible prosecutions involve consultation with the Manager and department's litigation division.

During the 2017 harvest period, a total of seven infringement notices and 44 warning notices were issued (Table 7). No licences were cancelled for breaches of legislation during the 2017 harvest period.

EHP officers did not seize any items for breaches of the Act during the 2017 harvest period.

Officers investigated instances of non-head-shot kangaroo carcasses originating in Queensland and reported from processing works located in Queensland and South Australia. These investigations resulted in three infringement notices being issued.

Table 7—Detail of offences during 2017

Dealer	PIN	Warning
Buy or accept macropods tagged in contravention of Act.	0	3
Fail to give return for each period/by prescribed time.	0	3
Keep/use lawfully taken protected wildlife without lawful authority.	0	1
Harvester		
Fail to properly attach a tag immediately after macropod is dressed.	1	0
Attach a tag to wildlife of a species other than the species for which the tag is supplied or approved.	0	1
Attach a used tag to wildlife.	2	0
Fail to comply with condition of authority.	1	8
Fail to comply with conditions of harvest period notice.	3	0
Fail to comply with weight requirement in harvest period notice for macropod taken for meat only or meat and skin.	0	1
Fail to properly attach a tag immediately after macropod is dressed.	0	4
Failure to have record complete, accurate, legible and in ink. CWHL	0	1
Failure to have record complete, accurate, legible and in ink. CWL	0	1
Failure to keep record at prescribed place.	0	8
Failure to record relevant particular within prescribed time.	0	3
Failure to show authority or identification without reasonable excuse.	0	6
Sell or give away macropod after prescribed time.	0	2
Sell/give Macropod to person other than of prescribed class of person.	0	2
Total	7	44

10. Unusual circumstances

2017 was the warmest year on record for Queensland with many areas of the harvest zones recording the highest mean temperatures. Minimum temperatures through winter were also the highest on record for many areas. Although widespread rain across the harvest area in 2016 brought reprieve to the previous years of drought extremely dry conditions returned during 2017. Below average rainfall was recorded for most of central and western parts of the state. The majority of the macropod harvest zones remained drought declared throughout most of 2017.

11. Research and experiments

The Macropod management unit facilitated and assisted a joint research project undertaken with Biosecurity Queensland. The project compared the efficacy of a commercial drone based wildlife survey with the established helicopter surveys conducted by the macropod unit. The results of this research will be submitted for publication in a peer reviewed journal during 2018. The unit also trialled imaging hardware for the automated counting of macropods in collaboration with the CSIRO. This work will continue during 2018.

During 2017 the macropod management unit continued assisting the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia assess the RooSafe mobile web application. This research is ongoing and is also expected to be completed in 2018.

The department continues to respond to requests for data from researchers and other stakeholders as they arise.

12. Program improvements

During 2017, the department implemented a new web based licencing system across all business units called Connect. This project delivers a licencing database with online capabilities for customers. Whilst a paper based system of applying for licences and tags is still available over 200 macropod management unit clients created Connect accounts during the second half of 2017.

The Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017 commenced 1 September 2017 replacing the *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2005*. Whilst there was no change to overall policy both structural and administrative changes were made to improve regulating the harvest of macropods in Queensland.

- Structural changes designed to streamline the Macropod Conservation Plan and remove regulatory duplication, primarily:
 - combining the 'Commercial wildlife harvesting licence' and 'Recreational wildlife harvesting licence' into a renamed 'Macropod harvesting licence'; and
 - removing the 'Commercial wildlife licence (mobile)' for dead macropods as there had been no requirement for this licence by the harvest industry;
- Administrative changes to improve the regulation of the harvest included:
 - Applicants must be 18+ and hold firearms licence to apply for harvesting licence
 - Only licensee is permitted to kill joeys, relevant person no longer permitted
 - Relevant person is no longer permitted to transport carcasses/skins to dealer site. Only the licensee is permitted.
 - Harvesters are able to sell until midday the day after the HP ends or other time if specified in the HP notice.

Full details of the new plan can be found at:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/wildlife-permits/macropods-fees>

13. References

- Anon. 2011. Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export – Commercially Harvested Macropods – 2012–2017. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service; Brisbane.
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Appendix 1

Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export—Commercially Harvested Macropods 2018–2022, performance indicators

Aim	Action	Performance indicator	Progress in 2017
Aim 1. Manage and administer commercial operators via licensing.	Action 1.1 All relevant activities are licensed in accordance with the applicable Queensland legislation and department policy.	1.1.1 All licences across Queensland are assessed, processed and issued appropriately in accordance with Queensland legislation.	Achieved.
		1.1.2 Databases are maintained to ensure licensee information is current and accurate.	Achieved.
	Action 1.2 —Licence conditions are applied where required.	1.2.1. Licence conditions are imposed on licences where required and in accordance with Queensland legislation.	Achieved.
		1.2.2. Information notices explaining conditions and rights of review are provided with all licences with licence conditions.	Achieved.
Aim 2. Monitor macropod populations and set quotas.	Action 2.1. Populations within the commercial harvest zones will be estimated annually based on aerial surveys.	2.1.1. Macropod population estimates are obtained annually via aerial surveys throughout the life of this plan.	Achieved.
		Action 2.2. Commercial macropod harvest quotas will be set in accordance with the provisions of this plan.	2.2.1. All commercial macropod harvest quotas are set in accordance with the provisions of the plan.
	2.2.2. The Commonwealth Government is advised of commercial harvest quotas for the following calendar year by 30 November.	Achieved.	
	2.2.3. If Commonwealth approval is required for quotas set above the rates specified in this plan as part of an adaptive management experiment, such approval is obtained before the additional quota is implemented.	NA	
	2.2.4. The quota report is made available to the public via the department's website.	Achieved.	
	Action 2.3. Special macropod harvest quotas will be set in accordance with the provisions of this plan.	2.3.1. Special macropod harvest quotas are set and utilised in accordance with the provisions of this plan.	NA
	Action 2.4. Macropod populations will be monitored indirectly throughout the life of this plan.	2.4.1. Where a harvest zone showed greater than 40 per cent female harvest, then appropriate management action would be taken.	NA
	Action 2.5. Annual population estimates for commercially harvested macropod species will be assessed against predetermined trigger	2.5.1. Where an estimated population for a population estimate region within the Central harvest zone falls below a set trigger point of 1.5 standard deviations below the long term average for that region then the harvest quota will be reduced for that region in the next calendar year.	NA

Aim	Action	Performance indicator	Progress in 2017
	points in each population estimate region.	2.5.2. Where an estimated population for a population estimate region within the Central harvest zone falls below a set trigger point of two standard deviations below the long-term average for that region then the harvest quota will be further reduced or suspended for that region in the next calendar year.	Achieved.
		2.5.3. Where an estimated population in the Western or Eastern zones falls below a set trigger point of 1.5 standard deviations below the long term average then the harvest quota will be halved for that zone in the next calendar year. When the estimated population exceeds a trigger point of two standard deviations below the long term average for that zone then the harvest quota will be suspended for that zone in the next calendar year.	Achieved.
Aim 3. Ensure humane treatment of commercially-harvested macropods.	Action 3.1. The department will work with TAFE Queensland South West or other accredited provider to ensure that all potential harvesters are competent to achieve the standards set out in the code of practice before being issued a license.	3.1.1. All successful applicants for harvester's licences have completed the approved training course and the approved shooting test.	Achieved.
		3.1.2. Approved course of training is reviewed and revised if necessary during the life of this plan.	Achieved.
		3.1.3. The code of practice is provided to all new applicants when they receive their licence and is available on the department website.	Achieved.
	Action 3.2. The department will monitor compliance with the code of practice by commercial macropod industry operators.	3.2.1. All licensees who are found to have breached licence conditions in relation to animal welfare are issued with warning notices, PINs or are prosecuted as appropriate.	Achieved.
	Action 3.3. The department will contribute to nationally-focused research in improving animal welfare outcomes, if requested.	3.3.1. Research proposals from universities and other research institutions concerned with the welfare aspects of the commercial harvest of macropods are considered during the life of this plan. Assistance to such research will be provided where appropriate.	Achieved.
Aim 4. Monitor macropod industry compliance.	Action 4.1. The department will undertake both regular and opportunistic monitoring of compliance by commercial macropod industry operators.	4.1.1. A minimum of one per cent of harvested macropods are inspected by departmental staff to ensure compliance with Queensland legislation and licence conditions.	Achieved.
		4.1.2. During the life of this plan all macropod processing works in Queensland are inspected by department staff annually and dealer sites are inspected opportunistically to ensure compliance with Queensland legislation and licence conditions.	Achieved.
		4.1.3. During the life of this plan, harvester's vehicles loaded with macropod carcasses are inspected opportunistically to ensure compliance with Queensland legislation and licence conditions and the results of these inspections are documented.	Achieved.

Aim	Action	Performance indicator	Progress in 2017
	Action 4.2. Activities not in accordance with Queensland legislation and Queensland Wildlife Trade Management Plan 2018–22 will be investigated and where an offence has been committed, and it is appropriate, prosecute.	4.2.1. Reports of unlicensed activities and activities in breach of legislation are investigated to the fullest extent possible, and where sufficient evidence is available offenders are issued with warning notices or PINs or prosecuted as appropriate.	Achieved.
	Action 4.3. The accuracy of industry returns will be continually monitored during the life of this plan.	Performance indicator 4.3.1. During the life of this plan, incoming industry returns are scrutinised and discrepancies are investigated and resolved.	Achieved.
	Action 4.4. A compliance database will be maintained to support investigations, inspections and audits.	Performance indicator 4.4.1. A compliance database of investigations, inspections and audits is maintained.	Achieved.
Aim 5. Undertake program reporting and review.	Action 5.1. An annual report on the Queensland Wildlife Trade Management Plan 2018–22 will be prepared and submitted to the Commonwealth.	5.1.1. An annual report on the operation of the Queensland Wildlife Trade Management Plan 2018–22 for each calendar year is submitted to the Commonwealth Government by the end of March of the following year.	Achieved.
		5.1.2. All annual reports prepared during the life of this plan are available on the department's website.	Achieved.
	Action 5.2. The review of this plan will commence no later than 12 months prior to the expiry of this plan in order to assess the success of the plan in achieving its goal.	5.2.1. The Queensland Wildlife Trade Management Plan 2018–22 will be reviewed no later than 12 months prior to the expiry of this plan.	Achieved.
		5.2.2. The success of the current plan in achieving its goal is assessed by measuring the aims against the performance indicators.	NA
		5.2.3. The results of the plan review are presented to the Commonwealth no later than six months prior to the expiry of this plan.	NA
Aim 6. Facilitate adaptive management and research.	Action 6.1. The department will respond to changes as they arise. Changes made to the management program will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.	6.1.1. Changes to the macropod management program will be communicated to relevant stakeholders via the department's website and directly to stakeholders where appropriate.	Achieved.
	Action 6.2. The department will facilitate research into the ecology and harvest management of macropods.	6.2.1. Research proposals from universities and other research institutions concerned with the ecological aspects of the commercial harvest of macropods are considered during the life of this plan. Assistance to such research will be provided where appropriate.	Achieved

Aim	Action	Performance indicator	Progress in 2017
<p>Aim 7. Promote community awareness and participation.</p>	<p>Action 7.1. Relevant public documents will be made available on the department's website.</p>	<p>7.1.1. Throughout the life of this plan, the department's website contains the following information as a minimum standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – current and previous wildlife trade management plans – monthly tag issue and commercial harvest statistics – historical harvest statistics – population survey reports – current population estimates – current commercial quotas – contact information for the Macropod Management Unit – current forms for commercial macropod licences. 	<p>Achieved.</p>
	<p>Action 7.2. Publicly available information will be provided to interested parties on request.</p>	<p>7.2.1. Publicly available macropod management information is distributed to interested parties as soon as practicable after such a request.</p>	<p>Achieved.</p>
	<p>Action 7.3. Where appropriate, relevant macropod management program staff will participate in media interviews and prepare media releases.</p>	<p>7.3.1. Departmental staff participate in interviews with the media where appropriate.</p>	<p>Achieved.</p>
		<p>7.3.2. Media releases are prepared when appropriate for issues of interest to the community such as population surveys and the release of the quota for the next calendar year.</p>	<p>Achieved.</p>
	<p>Action 7.4. Relevant information regarding licensing arrangements will be developed as required and made available to all licensees.</p>	<p>7.4.1. A copy of the current Harvest Period Notice and code of practice is made available to harvesters and dealers throughout the life of this plan to ensure that licensees are aware of relevant licensing requirements and responsibilities.</p>	<p>Achieved.</p>