

Information sheet

Harvesting Licence for harvesting macropods

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 harvesting licence for macropods.

Licence application

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) has an online digital platform for managing environmental services and transactions. Macropod harvesters can apply for permits, submit returns and order macropod tags on [Macropods Online](#). Find out [more information about Macropods Online](#).

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

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 and has harvested more than 100 macropods in the previous 12 months, the applicant will not have to renew their Firearms Competency Certification (firearms accuracy test).

An applicant must hold a current approved weapons licence. An approved licence needs to be a Category B (centrefire rifle) as a minimum. For licence holders who do not intend to harvest for commercial purposes RE1 and SC1 Condition Code for their Firearms Licence is acceptable. However, for those licence holders who intend to sell macropods Weapons Licencing advise they must have an AC3 Condition Code.

An applicant cannot begin harvesting until the harvest period begins and they have received their licence and tags.

Fees and information

For current fees and information please visit www.qld.gov.au and search for 'kangaroo harvesting'.

Licence and tag applications can now be ordered via the department's online system called Online Services.

For information on Online Services and to register visit <http://www.des.qld.gov.au/onlineservices>. Click Register on the right hand side.

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 DESI. 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 must be 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 DESI 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 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 five harvest 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 zone 2). This is based on the previous harvest period tag use. Harvesters will fall into one of two tag allowance classifications:

Tag allowance classification	Qualifying harvest (total harvest for previous harvest period)	Tag allowance (Max tags per species/zone combination)
Level I	500–2000	500
Level II	> 2000	1000

New entrants will be Level I. From the onset of licensing these harvesters may order up to 500 tags per species/zone combination (this is subject to restrictions applicable to low quota species/zone combinations).

For example, a new entrant might order 500 Zone 1 wallaroo tags, 500 Zone 1 red tags and 500 Zone 1 e-grey tags.

Progression to Level II occurs when a harvester demonstrates a harvest of 2000 macropods within a harvest period, and then may order up to 1000 tags per species/zone. Harvesters must apply via email or 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 500 tags. The harvester wishes to order more Zone 1 red kangaroo tags; to do so the harvester must not be holding more than 250 Zone 1 red tags (i.e. half of 500).

General tag information

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
- Since 1 January 2010, each macropod tag represents a quota unit—a macropod that may be harvested commercially.
- 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 DESI Charleville office—do not to attempt to attach tags with any other device.

Applicant declaration

The tag application requests the applicant to provide their tag allowance and the number of unused tags on hand. There is a stop prompt reminder if the number of unused tags is more than 50 per cent of the applicant's tag allowance.

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.

Return of operations

Harvester return of operations must be completed and submitted to the department within 14 days after each month.

A 'nil' return is required even if no macropods were harvested in a particular month.

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 (Animals) Regulation 2020*, *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 website.

Harvesters must carry the following when conducting activities under their licence:

- Landholder consent forms
- Harvesting Licence for harvesting macropods
- Access to Online services for Return details
- Photo identification.

Harvesters must sell carcasses or skins during the same harvest period in which the macropod was taken, and must only sell to dealer licence holders (standard, meat 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—Commercially Harvested Macropods 2023-2027, the department has committed to regulate the commercial sale of non-head-shot (NHS) macropods. It is unlawful to keep, sell, use 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 legislative requirement 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 office.

Licence holders found to have breached the requirements of licence conditions, the Act or subordinate legislation 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

A change of address, loss of licence or tags should be reported to the Charleville office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding licence applications, please contact the Charleville office on (07) 4530 1254 or mmp@des.qld.gov.au.

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.