

Shaughn Morgan
Chief Executive

27 July 2006

Ms Nicole Payne
Manager, Kangaroo Management Program
Environment Protection & Regulation Division
NSW Department of Environment and Conservation
PO Box 2111
DUBBO NSW 2830

By e-mail: nicole.payne@environment.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Payne

Re: Kangaroo Management Plan 2007-2011 Submission

The NSW Farmers' Association (the 'Association') welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Kangaroo Management Plan 2007 – 2011. The management of kangaroos is an important issue for the Association, particularly for our members who are located in the Western Division.

The Association supports the existing Kangaroo Management Plan (KMP) 2002-2006 and the current actions that have been carried over to the new KMP and the new actions that have been added. This support is due to the belief that the KMP is a vital tool in maintaining a long term, ecologically sustainable and profitable kangaroo industry.

We welcome the inclusion of the Euro (*Macropus robustus erubescens*) under the new KMP and believe that this inclusion will benefit the industry as a whole, whilst having a minimal negative impact on Kangaroo populations.

There is, however, a concern with the current system for the distribution of the commercial harvest tags. Many of our Western Division members have found that landholders/shooters apply for and buy more tags than they need or can use. Furthermore, many also use them in other zones where all tags are allocated. These actions mean that many landholders are unable to obtain any tags (for their zone) when there is a need for genuine management practices. In addition to this, at the end of that tagging period, it is most often found that only a relatively small proportion of the allocated tags are used.

The Association supports the introduction of a process where landholders/shooters are encouraged to return unused tags and/or penalised for continually purchasing more tags than is foreseeable to use. A 'history of use' system could be used to determine the 'foreseeable use' level. The Association is not questioning the level at which the quota is set, just the method that is used in allocating and distributing the tags to landholders/shooters.

The Association believes that for the kangaroo industry to have long term viability, the actions and practices that are proposed in the new plan should be implemented.

If you have any queries regarding the issues outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact David Moffitt, Senior Policy Manager – Livestock ph (02) 8251 1887.

Yours sincerely

Shaughn Morgan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE