

KANGAROOS — CULLING

568. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I have received advice through the Minister for Environment's office that there is no "drop and rot" policy in Western Australia in regard to the culling of kangaroos. Currently, when a landowner or their agent legitimately culls kangaroos within the boundaries of their property, it is unlawful for any part of the carcass to be removed from the property for any purpose, including for personal human consumption or pet food, unless by a licensed kangaroo shooter.

- (1) Can the minister explain the genesis of this policy?
- (2) Can the minister advise the common usage name of this policy?
- (3) Can the minister provide a reasonable explanation for why the by-product of culling cannot be utilised away from the property, except by commercial shooters?
- (4) Can the minister advise of any groups, other than commercial shooters, to whom this policy does not apply?
- (5) Is the minister aware that the current policy provides an abundant food source for foxes, wild dogs, feral pigs and other vermin?
- (6) Would the minister consider a "private use" tag system to permit, for personal use only, the removal of a limited number of carcasses from landholders' properties?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The separation of kangaroos taken for damage mitigation on a property into those to be commercially traded and those to be traded has been in place in Western Australia for many decades. This separation is to help ensure kangaroo populations are harvested sustainably and that they are conserved across the landscape. Professional shooters are trained to take kangaroos humanely, and operate under a national code of practice. Also, Australia's ability to export kangaroo products into international markets is dependent on the state meeting national management requirements put in place by the commonwealth government. This includes a requirement for a kangaroo management plan.
- (2) Kangaroos may be harvested commercially or non-commercially. Non-commercial kangaroo harvesting is harvesting restricted to individual properties.
- (3) The vast majority of kangaroos harvested under the management plan are fully utilised, with carcasses being sold as pet meat and for human consumption, and skins being sold for the fine leather trade. Professional shooters' licences can be readily obtained by suitably qualified people with appropriate firearms, including landowners who may choose not to have an outside shooter operate on their property. Movement of by-products from non-commercial kangaroo carcasses provides an avenue for these products to enter trade and to bypass management plan requirements. Any detection of such illicit trade would jeopardise the legitimate professional industry.
- (4) No other groups are able to shoot kangaroos for commercial purposes other than licensed professional shooters.
- (5) Because the carcasses of most of the kangaroos culled are utilised either commercially or by property owners on their own properties, it is considered that the carcasses of kangaroos that have been shot and left to rot is not a significant issue. The state encourages landholders to engage commercial shooters or become commercial shooters themselves to maximise the use of harvested kangaroos.
- (6) Rather than creating a second tier of tags for use by recreational shooters, the preferred option would be for persons who have the appropriate firearms experience and the required category of licensed firearms to apply for professional shooters' licences and to use standard tags.