



Queensland
Government

Office of the
Minister for Primary Industries
and Fisheries

References: 08910/09

2:0 AUG 2009

Ms Michele Rice
Manager
Ministerial Correspondence Unit
thepremier@premier.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Rice

I refer to the request of 6 August 2009 for advice on items of correspondence you have received concerning the formation of the Kangaroo Industry Development Committee (KIDC) and the role of the committee in supporting the adjustment of the commercial kangaroo harvesting industry.

It is suggested that the following could form the basis of a reply.

"The kangaroo is a widely recognised Australian icon that is also the foundation of an important commercial industry that supports regional communities across Australia. The Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia reports that the commercial kangaroo industry provides over 4000 jobs and contributes approximately \$270 million annually to regional economies.

Kangaroo numbers in Australia have increased substantially over recent decades due to a decrease in natural predators and increased availability of pastures and water. Based on scientific advice commercial harvesting of the dominant kangaroo species has been determined to be an ecological sustainable means of managing Australia's kangaroo population.

Three macropod species are commercially harvested in Queensland for sustainable management and conservation purposes. This includes the eastern grey kangaroo, red kangaroo and wallaroo. The commercial harvesting of kangaroos in Queensland is strictly monitored and controlled by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) under the *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2005*.

The Wildlife Trade Management Plan for Export - Commercially Harvested Macropods (2008-2012) is administered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. This legislation prescribes how the commercial harvesting of kangaroos will be achieved in a sustainable and conservative manner.

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The industry operates under an annual quota system limiting the number of animals that can be sustainably harvested. Aerial surveys are conducted annually to determine the kangaroo population with the harvest quota typically being set at between 10 to 20 percent of the population. A harvest period is issued by DERM and outlines the start and finish date of a harvest season. This period is continuously monitored and reviewed and can be adjusted to accommodate varying factors such as drought.

In Queensland a licence or permit is required for the commercial or recreational harvesting of kangaroos. To obtain a licence the applicant is required to complete a TAFE training course and firearms competency training. Harvesting can only take place on properties where prior approval has been obtained and the information is recorded on the licence.

The commercial kangaroo industry operates under a national code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies. This code outlines the minimal standards of humane conduct that is mandatory under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*. The code is reviewed every 5 years and was reviewed and endorsed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council on 7 November 2008.

It is also a requirement under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (ACPA)* that commercial harvesting be conducted in a humane manner without cruelty.

The KIDC brings together industry representatives, researchers, government, educators and regulatory bodies to support the industry adapt to changed circumstances following the suspension of access to the Russian market from 1 August 2009.

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, in conjunction with other agencies, is coordinating a response to ensure the impact of these changes to industry and regional communities is minimised. The committee will investigate whole of industry issues and strive to find long-term sustainable solutions."

I trust that this information will enable you to frame a suitable reply.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Kadlo
Principal Advisor

Nadia Cecil

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 May 2010 11:30 PM
To: The Premier
Subject: Kangaroo Meat Campaign

Dear Premier Bligh,

I was recently made aware of your government's plan to fund a campaign to promote kangaroo meat to Australians. I'm appalled that the Queensland government would support an industry that kills joeys by decapitation, or smashing their heads against tow bars. If more Queenslanders knew that your government supports this cruel industry I'm sure they would be equally appalled. Why also does your government see fit to promote to Australians a product Russia banned due to ongoing contamination? And finally, I question the merits of using taxpayer funds to prop up an unsustainable industry, which threatens to wipe out our national icon.

Rather than encouraging Australians to eat kangaroos, I urge you to put this funding into training the workers from the kangaroo industry for more humane and sustainable jobs, such as environmental care, or tourism.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

RTI RELEASED

PREMIER'S BRIEFING NOTE

MN = 114246

To: THE PREMIER
 Date: 4 June 2010
 Subject: Kangaroo Meat export to Russia – an update

Tracking No. TRA10163
Approved / Not Approved / Noted
Premier
Date
Date Action Required by:
Requested by:
(if appropriate)

• RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Premier:

- Note the activities being undertaken to re-open the Russian market for kangaroo meat.

• KEY ISSUES

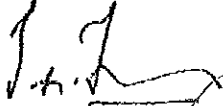
- The Queensland kangaroo industry exported an estimated \$25 million dollars worth of meat during 2008 with 61 percent value derived from the Russian market during this period.
- The kangaroo industry provides an important source of regional employment and contributes significantly to rural communities and economies across Queensland.
- The Queensland Government, committed to ensuring a sustainable and profitable future of the industry, convened the Kangaroo Industry Development Committee (KIDC) on 28 July 2009.
- As a result of the KIDC a series of initiatives have been delivered to assist the industry to adjust to the changed market conditions.
- Following the Russian market suspension the Queensland Government made the Rapid Response Team available to provide assistance to retrenched industry workers.
- Industry consultation forums were held in six regional centres across Queensland during October 2009, providing an opportunity for government to engage harvesters and field depot operators on measures to be implemented to assist in regaining market access and enhance industry practice. These forums were well received.
- During a trade mission to Russia in 2009 the Premier affirmed Queensland's ability to provide a good quality, safe kangaroo meat product, and discussed the industry's commitment to finding long-term solutions to the identified problems.
- DEEDI partnering with industry has undertaken a market investigation into the opportunities for kangaroo product exports, this included a study of the Chinese market.
- The KIDC identified the industry skilling and training needs required to meet customer expectations into the future. These have since been adopted in a National Training Initiative funded by the Commonwealth. This initiative is currently being rolled out to kangaroo harvesting areas throughout Australia;
- DEEDI economists developed a cost benefit analysis to investigate proposed and current product traceability systems. This paper was presented at the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economic Society Conference in February 2010. The economists also investigated the cost of production for harvesters and field depot operators to assess the affordability of a potential new traceability system for the industry.

Action Officer: Peter Smith Area: FATQ Telephone: 3239 3275	Director: Devinka Wangosekera	General Manager: Rob Whiddon	Associate DG: Mark Bermingham
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PREMIER'S BRIEFING NOTE

Tracking No. TRA10163

- In April 2010 agencies of the Australian Government prepared a submission for the Russian Government which showed the changes being undertaken to the kangaroo harvesting system and records of monitoring of products through the system. There has not yet been a response from the Russian authorities.
 - The Queensland Government has contributed \$61,000 in funding to conduct a Radio Frequency Identification Device trial to assess the practicality and efficiency of this new potential traceability system for the wild game sector.
 - Effective communication with whole of industry has been identified as an issue. DEEDI is in the process of addressing this concern with the redevelopment of kangaroo information on the DEEDI website and the release of an industry newsletter titled 'KangaNews'.
 - The Queensland Government continues to work with the kangaroo industry to address all identified issues. Importing countries are continually updated on the progress being made within the kangaroo industry and I am confident that a market for kangaroo product will open in the near future.
- **CONSULTATION**
- Ms Kimberley Percival, Policy Officer, Animal Industries, DEEDI
- **BACKGROUND**
- The Russian Authorities suspended the importation of kangaroo products from Australian processing facilities on 1 August 2009 due to issues with product verification. This resulted in a significant loss of \$8 million in revenue from exported kangaroo meat during 2009

 Ian Fletcher Director-General	Comments (UT)
Ken Smith Director-General	Comments (Premier or DG)

Action Officer: Peter Smith Area: FATQ Telephone: 3239 3276	Director: Devinka Wenigesekera	General Manager: Rcu Whiddon	Associate DG: Mark Birmingham
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