



2024 Annual report on the commercial harvest of kangaroos in Western Australia

This report is provided to the Australian Government as a requirement of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2024–2028* under Aim 6, Action 16, Performance Indicator 26.

July 2025



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Contents

1 Harvest statistics	5
1.1 Red kangaroos	5
1.2 Western grey kangaroos	6
2 Industry compliance	8
3 Unusual circumstances	9
3.1 Rainfall and drought	9
3.2 Disease	13
3.3 Market factors	13
4 Research activity	13
5 Assessment of Management Plan actions against performance indicators	14
Appendices	24

Appendices

Appendix 1 Harvest statistics for PMZs	24
Northern PMZ	25
Central PMZ	27
South-east PMZ	29
South-west PMZ	31

Figures

Figure 1: Total commercial harvest of red and western grey kangaroos and euros (<i>Osphranter robustus</i>) in Western Australia	7
Figure 2. The proportion of quota harvested in the state for red and western grey kangaroos	7
Figure 3. Rainfall deciles for Western Australia for the 2023 calendar year.	10
Figure 4. Rainfall totals for Western Australia for the 2023 calendar year	11
Figure 5. Drought map for Western Australia for the 2023 calendar year	11
Figure 6. Pasture growth in Western Australia for the 2023 calendar year relative to historical records from 1957	12
Figure 7. Map of PMZs for the commercial harvest of kangaroos in Western Australia	24
Figure 8. Proportion of total red kangaroo quota harvested (%) in the Northern PMZ	25
Figure 9. Average carcass weights of male and female red kangaroos harvested in the Northern PMZ	25

Figure 10. Sex ratio (expressed as a percentage) of male to female red kangaroos harvested in the Northern PMZ	26
Figure 11. Proportion of total red and western grey kangaroo quota harvested (%) in the Central PMZ.....	27
Figure 12. Average carcass weights of male and female red kangaroos harvested in the Central PMZ.....	27
Figure 13. Average carcass weights of male and female western grey kangaroos harvested in the Central PMZ	28
Figure 14. Sex ratio (expressed as a percentage) of male to female red and western grey kangaroos harvested in the Central PMZ.....	28
Figure 15. Proportion of total red and western grey kangaroo quota harvested (%) in the South-east PMZ	29
Figure 16. Average carcass weights of male and female red kangaroos harvested in the South-east PMZ	29
Figure 17. Average carcass weights of male and female western grey kangaroos harvested in the South-east PMZ.....	30
Figure 18. Sex ratio (expressed as a percentage) of male to female red and western grey kangaroos harvested in the South-east PMZ.	30
Figure 19. Proportion of total western grey kangaroo quota harvested (%) in the South-west PMZ	31
Figure 20. Average carcass weights of male and female western grey kangaroos harvested in the South-west PMZ	31
Figure 21. Sex ratio (expressed as a percentage) of male to female western grey kangaroos harvested in the South-west PMZ	32

Tables

Table 1. Red kangaroo commercial harvest figures for the 2024 calendar year.	5
Table 2. Western grey kangaroo commercial harvest figures for the 2024 calendar year.....	6
Table 3. Summary of commercial kangaroo industry compliance monitoring in Western Australia for the 2024 calendar year.	8
Table 4. Assessment of Management Plan against performance indicators.	14

1 Harvest statistics

In accordance with the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2024-2028* (Management Plan) under Aim 6, Action 16, Performance Indicator 26, the statistics for Western Australia’s commercial harvest of red (*Osphranter rufus*) and western grey (*Macropus fuliginosus*) kangaroos are presented in Table 1, Table 2, and Figures 1 and 2 below. In 2024, the commercial harvest was 16.6% of the allowable quota for red kangaroos and 39.0% of the allowable quota for western grey kangaroos.

1.1 Red kangaroos

Table 1. Red kangaroo commercial harvest figures for the 2024 calendar year.

Population Monitoring Zone	Number harvested	Sex ratio (% male)	Average male carcass weight (kg)	Average female carcass weight (kg)
Central	2,139	76.6	26.7	15.7
Northern	5,336	70.3	25.3	15.2
South-east	7,356	93.9	24.3	17.8
Totals (WA)	14,831	82.9	24.9	15.7
State quota	89,330			
Proportion state quota harvested	16.6%			

1.2 Western grey kangaroos

Table 2. Western grey kangaroo commercial harvest figures for the 2024 calendar year.

Population Monitoring Zone	Number harvested	Sex ratio (% male)	Average male carcass weight (kg)	Average female carcass weight (kg)
Central	5,855	62.2	24.5	16.0
South-east	4,148	63.1	33.2	24.1
South-west	52,849	60.3	29.5	17.9
Totals (WA)	62,852	60.7	29.3	18.1
State quota	161,100			
Proportion state quota harvested	39.0%			

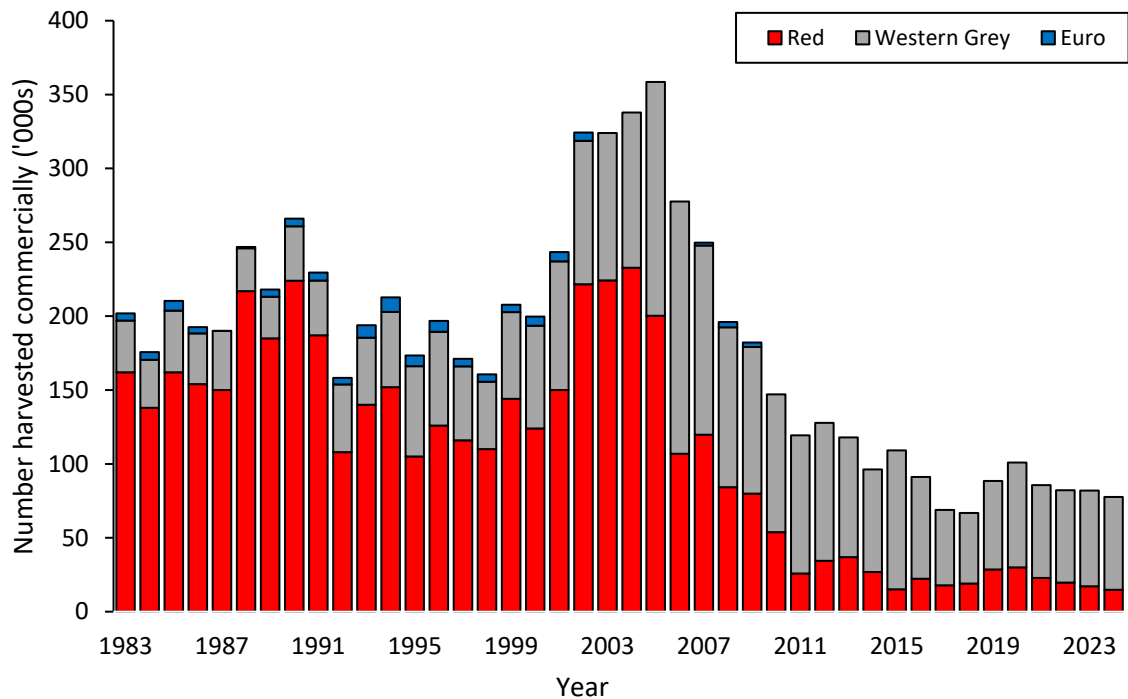


Figure 1: Total commercial kangaroo harvest in Western Australia from 1983 to 2024. Note: there was no commercial harvest of euros (*Osphranter robustus*) from 2003 to 2006 and from 2010 onwards.

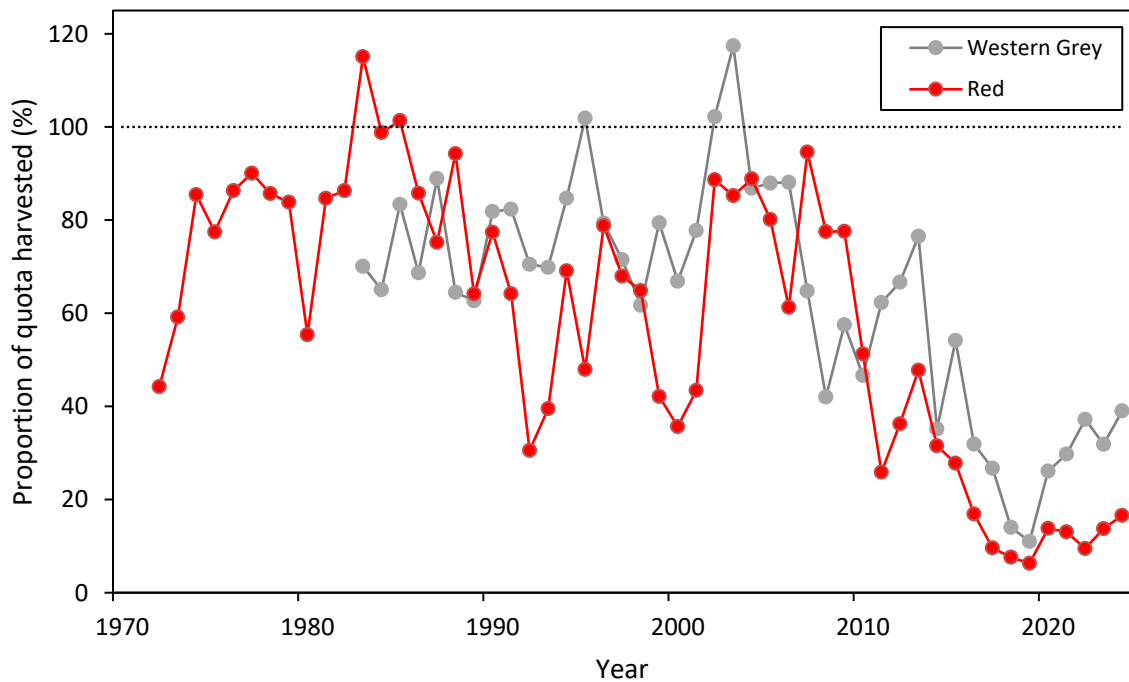


Figure 2. Proportion of the commercial quota of red and western grey kangaroos harvested in Western Australia from 1972 to 2024.

Industry compliance

Table 3. Summary of commercial kangaroo industry compliance monitoring in Western Australia for the 2024 calendar year.

Category	Commercial Activity			
	Regulation 23: Licence to take kangaroos for sale	Regulation 37: Licence to process	Regulation 23 or Regulation 38: Active chiller units*	Regulation 38: Licence to deal in skins
Licences current in 2024	477	39	106	1
Licensees/ premises inspected	15	19	17	1
Alleged offences	28	8	0	0
Type of alleged offence	R.84 contravene licence condition, S.157 unlawful dealing in fauna	S.152 unlawful possession of fauna R.84 contravene licence conditions	-	-
Letters of warning issued	0	0	0	0
Caution notices issued	28	7 (plus 1 infringement)	0	0
Prosecutions initiated	0	0	0	0
Convictions	0	0	0	0
Dismissals	0	0	0	0
Prosecutions pending	0	0	0	0

*Active chiller units are those identified on shooter returns where there is at least one shooting day of effort assigned to that chiller during the year.

3 Unusual circumstances

3.1 Rainfall and drought

Western Australia experienced a notably wetter year across much of the state in 2024, except in the south-west and along the Pilbara coast where rainfall was below average (Figures 3, 4 and 5). Many areas across the kangaroo population management zones (PMZs) recording their hottest year on record, with mean maximum temperatures above average for most of the state. Pasture growth varied across the Central, South-west, and South-east PMZs and was notably low in the South-west (Figure 6). This is expected to have a detrimental impact on kangaroo populations in some Kangaroo Management Areas (KMAs) in the south-west and south-east of Western Australia within the next six to twelve months, and a positive impact on kangaroo populations in KMAs of above average and extremely high pasture growth within the Central and Northern PMZs.

The following is an excerpt of relevant information taken from the annual climate summary for Western Australia published by the Bureau of Meteorology (product code IDCKGC51R0; updated 28 January 2025). The full annual climate summary is available

from <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/wa/archive/2024.summary.shtml>

Rainfall

- Rainfall totals in 2024 were above to very much above average in central and eastern Western Australia, as well as the western parts between Carnarvon and Geraldton.
- Rainfall totals in 2024 were below to very much below average in the south-west of the state and along the Pilbara coast.
- Western Australia's area-averaged rainfall total in 2024 was 460.6 mm, 35% above the 1961–1990 average, the 12th-wettest year on record for all years since 1900.
- It was the wettest year in Western Australia since 2017 (472.6 mm).
- A number of sites in the mid-west, central and eastern state had their highest annual rainfall on record.
- Kalbarri in the Central West District recorded an annual rainfall total of 648.7 mm in 2024, which was over 100 mm more than its previous record set in 1984, as the result of the record high rainfall in June and July.
- A number of sites recorded their annual highest daily rainfall on record.
- Eyre along the coast in the Eucla District had three annual records broken in 2024: the highest daily rainfall on 10 March, the wettest month in March (total 352.4 mm), and wettest year.

Temperature

- Mean maximum temperatures in 2024 were above to very much above average for almost the whole state, with the highest on record along the west coast.
- Many sites near the west coast from Carnarvon down to Busselton had their warmest year on record in terms of annual mean maximum temperatures.
- Western Australia's area-averaged mean maximum temperature was 1.69°C above the 1961–1990 average, the second warmest on record for all years since 1910, behind the record set in 2019 with a warm anomaly of 2.52°C.

- Mean minimum temperatures in 2024 were above to very much above average for almost the whole state, with the highest on record in the state's north-west, the mid-west and central areas.
- Western Australia's area-averaged mean minimum temperature was 1.44°C above the 1961–1990 average, the warmest on record for all years since 1910.
- Many sites in the Pilbara, the South West Land Division and southern Goldfields had their highest annual mean minimum temperature on record.
- Western Australia's area-averaged mean temperature was 1.57°C above the 1961–1990 average, the second warmest on record for all years since 1910, behind the record set in 2019 with a warm anomaly of 1.68°C.
- February 2024 was the hottest February on record for WA. Many sites recorded their annual hottest day (highest daily maximum temperature) on record.
- A number of sites had their warmest night (highest daily minimum temperature) on record.

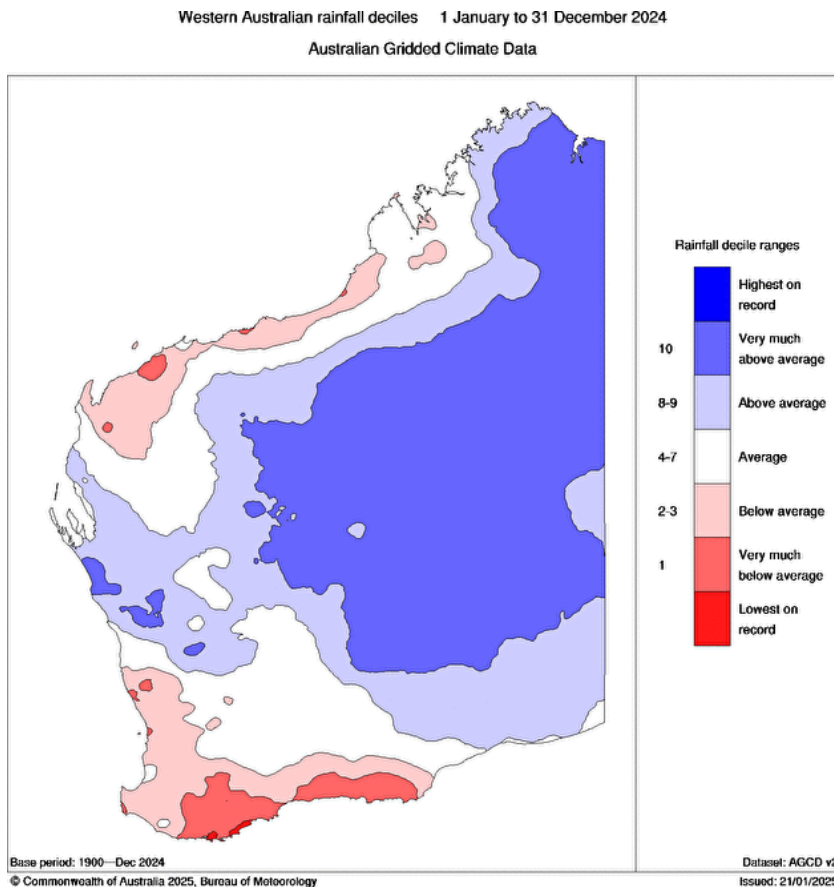


Figure 3. Rainfall deciles for Western Australia for the 2024 calendar year.

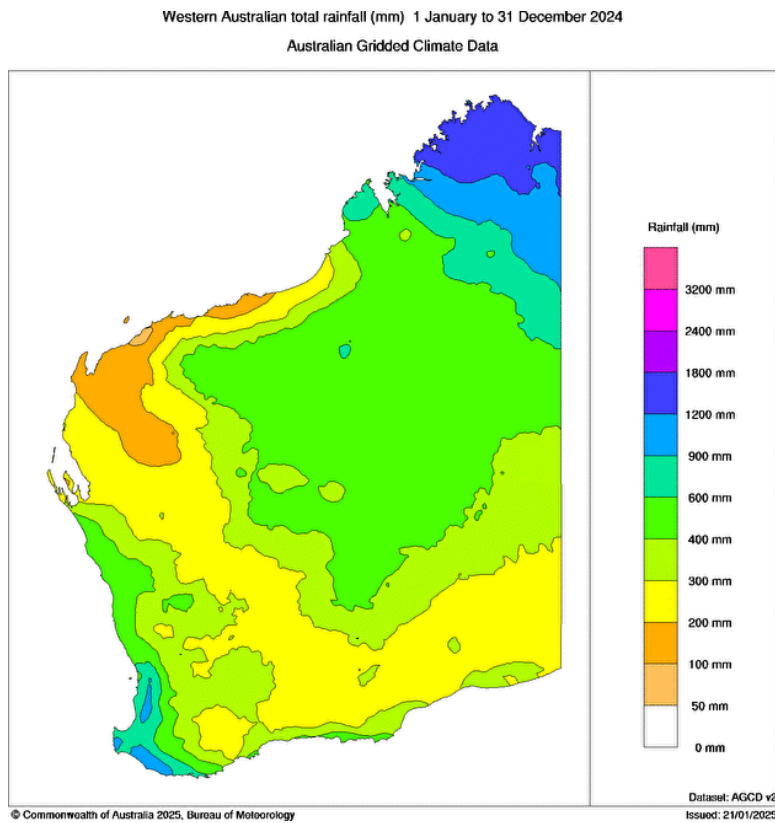


Figure 4. Rainfall totals for Western Australia for the 2024 calendar year.

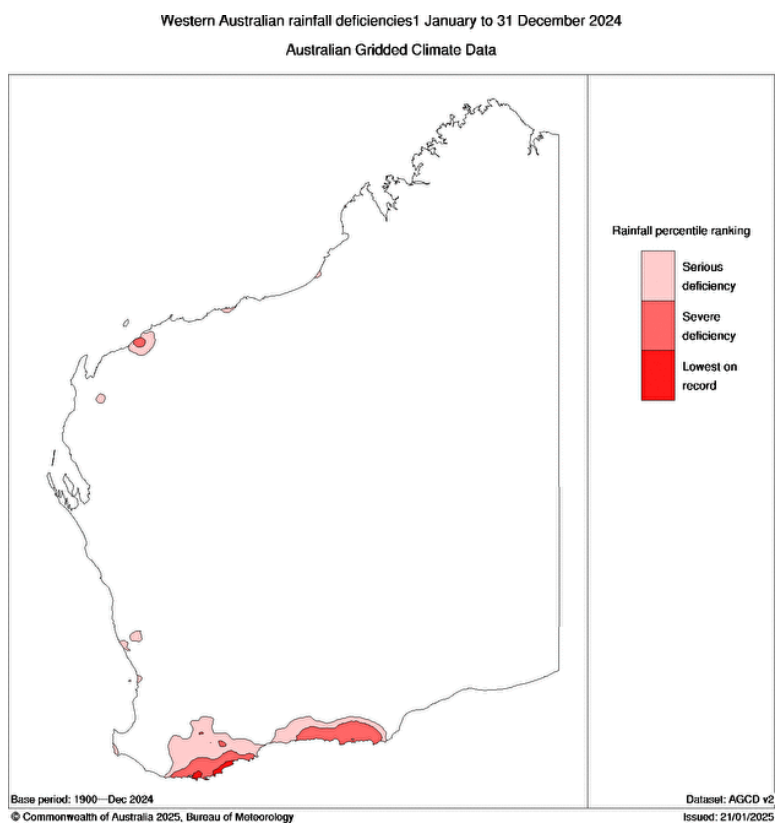
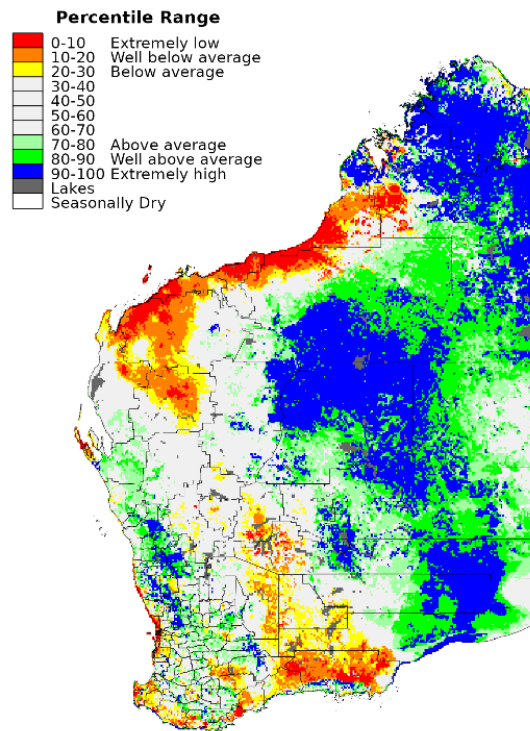


Figure 5. Rainfall deficiency map for Western Australia for the 2024 calendar year.

Pasture Growth Percentile **Relative to Historical Records from 1957 to 2025** **January to December 2024**



Pasture growth includes grasses and crops

www.LongPaddock.qld.gov.au

Figure 6. Pasture growth in Western Australia for the 2024 calendar year relative to historical records from 1957.

3.2 Disease

No significant disease outbreaks were detected or reported in populations of commercially harvested kangaroos in Western Australia in 2024.

3.3 Market factors

Limited demand for carcasses from processors continues to contribute to the significant reduction in active shooting of kangaroos for commercial purposes. There has not been a significant increase in demand across the industry.

4 Research activity

No research or adaptive management experiments related to the commercial harvesting of kangaroos were undertaken or sponsored by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (department) in 2024.

5 Assessment of Management Plan actions against performance indicators

Table 4. Assessment of Management Plan against performance indicators.

Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
1	Licence conditions for the commercial taking, processing and dealing of kangaroos will stipulate that kangaroos cannot be shot, sold or received unless they have been taken in accordance with the Commercial Code.	✓					
2	Copies of the Commercial Code will be made available from the department's website.	✓					See: https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/kangaroo-management-western-australia .
3	The department will participate in and support any revisions to the nationally-endorsed Commercial Code.	✓					There has been no review of the Commercial Code during this reporting period.

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Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
4	All prospective commercial kangaroo shooters must have completed an accredited test of marksmanship and completed accredited vocational training in Game Harvester Skill Set as a prerequisite before being issued with a licence to take fauna for commercial products.	✓					900-80638V01 - Game Harvester Skill Set.
5	Audits of licences issued for commercial activities are conducted annually to ensure licences are being issued appropriately in accordance with relevant legislation and departmental policies.	✓					
6	Databases are maintained to ensure licensee information is current and accurate.	✓					
7	Licence conditions are reviewed as required and amended where necessary.	✓					

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Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
8	Licensees are advised in writing of any changes to licence conditions within one month of such changes being approved by the CEO or delegate.	✓					
9	All active kangaroo processing establishments are inspected by authorised departmental officers annually to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.	✗					48.7% of establishments were inspected in 2024.
10	Inspection of at least thirty percent of active chillers by authorised departmental officers annually to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.	✗					16% of active chillers were inspected in 2024. This performance indicator is very difficult to meet due to the vagrant nature of shooters.
11	Contact is made with at least fifty percent of licence holders to educate and promote industry compliance.	✓					369 of the 623 (59.2%) licensees were contacted by DBCA staff in 2024.

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Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
12	Reports of unlicensed activities and activities in breach of legislation and licence conditions are investigated to the fullest extent possible and, where sufficient evidence is available, offenders are issued with expiation notices or prosecuted as appropriate.	✓					Government has a robust set of guidelines, policies, and procedures for investigating offences and determining compliance action outcomes. This is the standard that should be reflected in the performance indicator.
13	Incoming industry returns are reviewed, and discrepancies are investigated.	✓					
14	A compliance database will be maintained and improved to support investigations and inspections.	✓					A revised compliance database is in development.
15	Aerial surveys are undertaken triennially for the Central, Northern and South-east Population Monitoring Zones (PMZs), and annually for the South-west PMZ. Population estimates are calculated in accordance with the Management Plan.	✗					In 2024, aerial surveys for the Central PMZ and South-west PMZ, did not proceed due to unforeseen logistical circumstances. Population estimates were calculated in accordance with the Management Plan.

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Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
16	Commercial harvest quotas are set in accordance with the Management Plan.	✓					
17	Population Monitoring Zone quotas and the state-wide quotas are never exceeded.	✓					
18	The Commonwealth Government is advised of commercial harvest quotas via a quota report for the following calendar year by 30 November.	✗					The Commonwealth was advised of the commercial harvest quota on 07 April 2024.
19	The quota report will be made available to the public via the department's website.	✓					See: https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/kangaroo-management-western-australia
20	Sudden, sustained or acute changes in the information provided through harvest returns will be investigated to identify possible causes of the change.	✓					

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Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
21	Commercial kangaroo harvest rates will be reduced, or the commercial kangaroo harvest suspended if density estimates reach the thresholds identified in the Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in WA 2024-2028 (Table 2). Any suspensions or reductions will remain in place until surveys or data indicates that kangaroo densities have increased above density thresholds.	✓					
22	Changes to the kangaroo management program will be communicated to relevant stakeholders via the department's website and directly to stakeholders where appropriate.	✓					

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Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
23	During the life of the Management Plan, the department will support research on harvested species of kangaroos or commercial harvest management as appropriate.	✓					
24	All proposals to undertake active adaptive management experiments are reviewed and assessed by the department in accordance with the criteria outlined in the Management Plan.	✓					
25	As a minimum, trends in population estimates, harvest tallies, carcass weights and sex ratios will be analysed annually and published on the department's website in annual and quota reports.	✓					
26	An annual report will be provided to the Commonwealth Government by 31 March of the following year.	✗					The Commonwealth was provided the 2024 annual report on 11 September 2025.

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Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
27	The Kangaroo Management Advisory Committee (KMAC) meets at least once per year to review the progress of the Management Plan in relation to the goal and aims of the plan.	✓					
28	KMAC is provided with annual updates on the commercial harvest and issue of tags issue throughout the life of the Management Plan.	✓					
29	KMAC is provided with other relevant information as required or as necessary throughout the life of the Management Plan.	✓					

Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
30	<p>Throughout the life of the Management Plan, the department's website will contain the following information as a minimum standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current Management Plan; • current quota report; • current annual report submitted to the Commonwealth Government; • information sheets on kangaroo biology and management; • Commercial Code; and • relevant contact information. 	✓					<p>See:</p> <p>https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/kangaroo-management-western-australia</p>
31	Publicly available information on kangaroo management is provided to interested parties as soon as practicable on request.	✓					
32	Relevant departmental staff will participate in interviews with the media where appropriate.	✓					
33	Media releases are prepared for issues of interest to the community when appropriate.	✓					

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Performance Indicator	Description	Year					Comments
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
34	As a minimum, all first time commercial kangaroo licence holders, or those who have not held a valid licence during the term of the current Management Plan, will be provided with an up-to-date information pack to make licence holders aware of relevant requirements and responsibilities.	✓					

Appendices

Appendix 1 Harvest statistics for PMZs

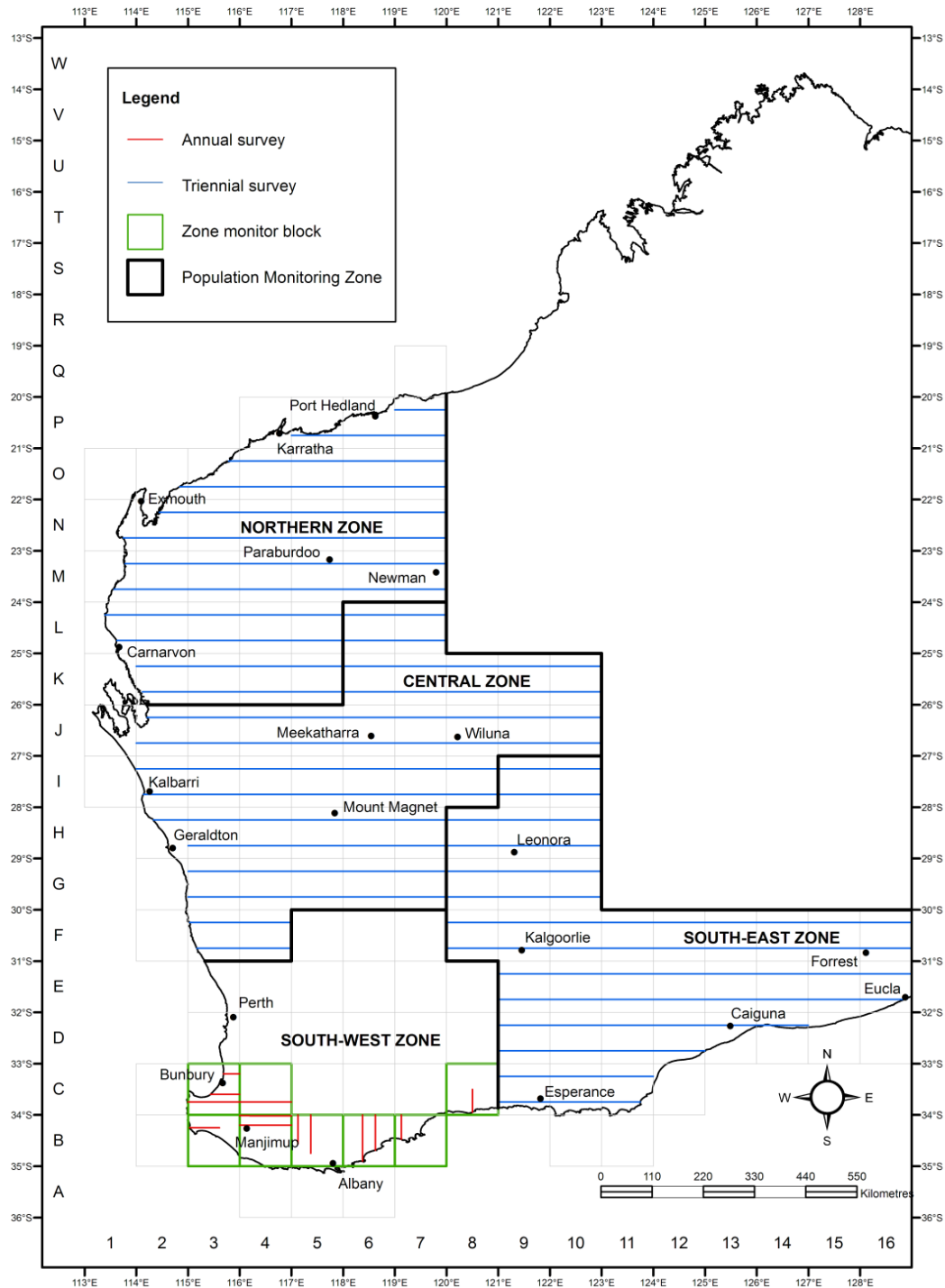


Figure 7. Map of PMZs for the commercial harvest of kangaroos in Western Australia.

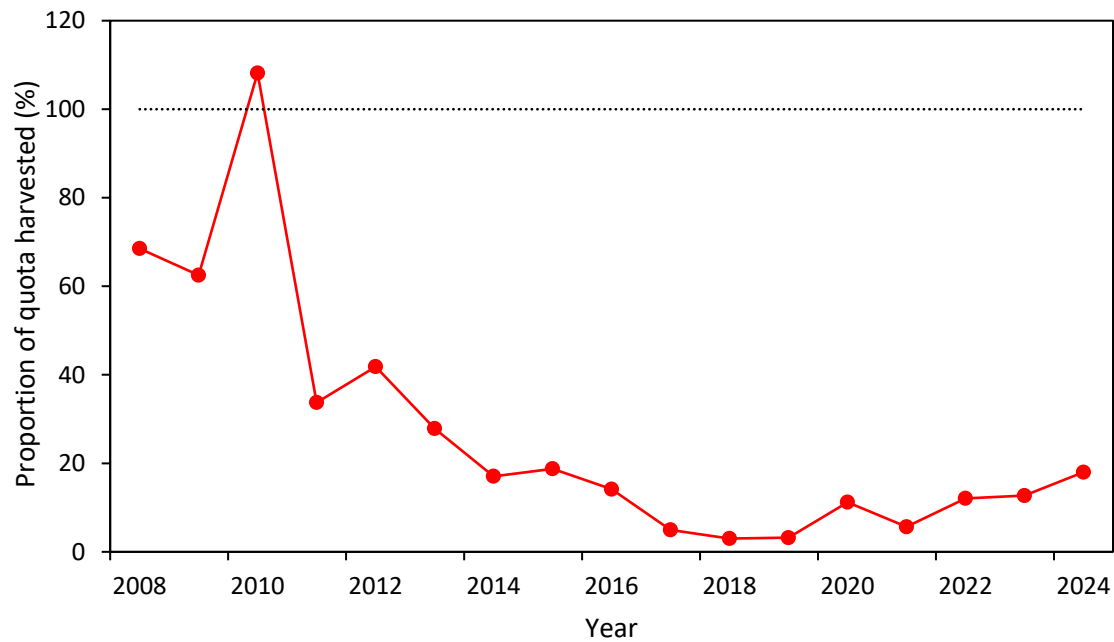
Northern PMZ

Figure 8. Proportion of total red kangaroo quota harvested (%) in the Northern PMZ.

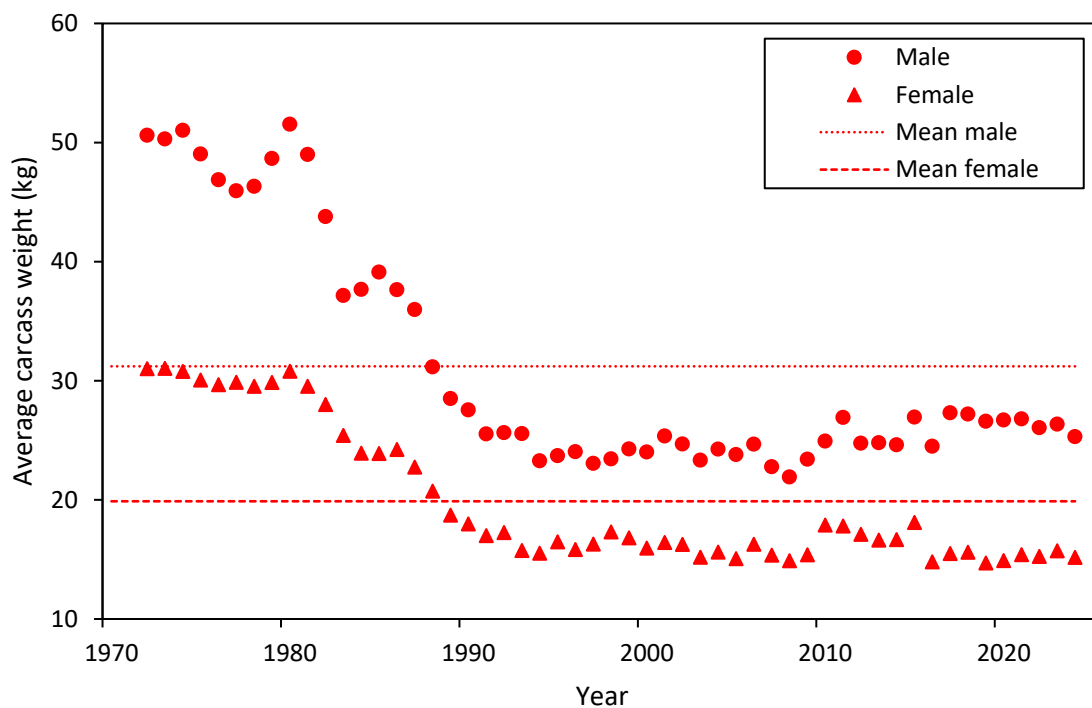


Figure 9. Average carcass weights of male and female red kangaroos harvested in the Northern PMZ. The upper red dashed line represents the average male carcass weight across all years, and the lower red dashed line represents the average female carcass weight.

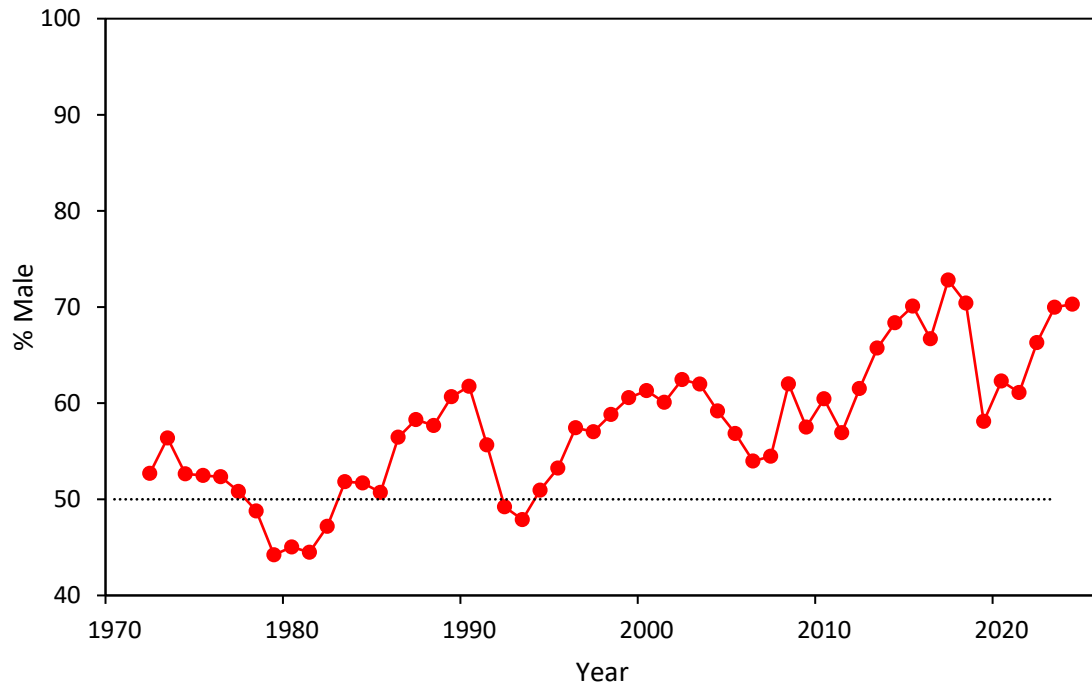


Figure 10. Sex ratio (expressed as a percentage) of male to female red kangaroos harvested in the Northern PMZ.

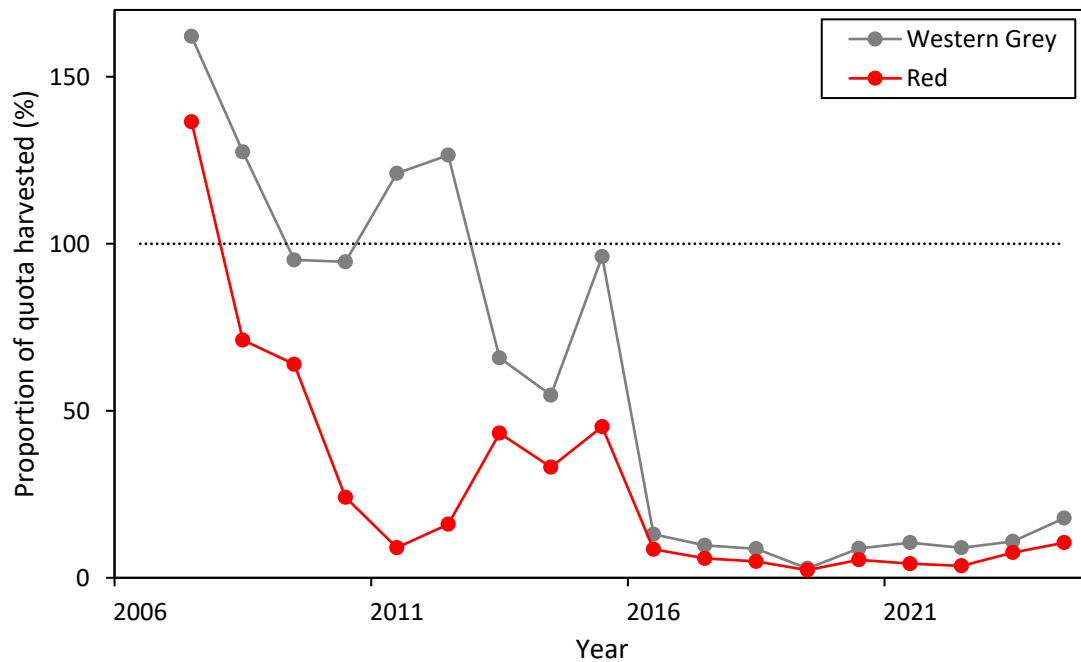
Central PMZ

Figure 11. Proportion of total red and western grey kangaroo quota harvested (%) in the Central PMZ.

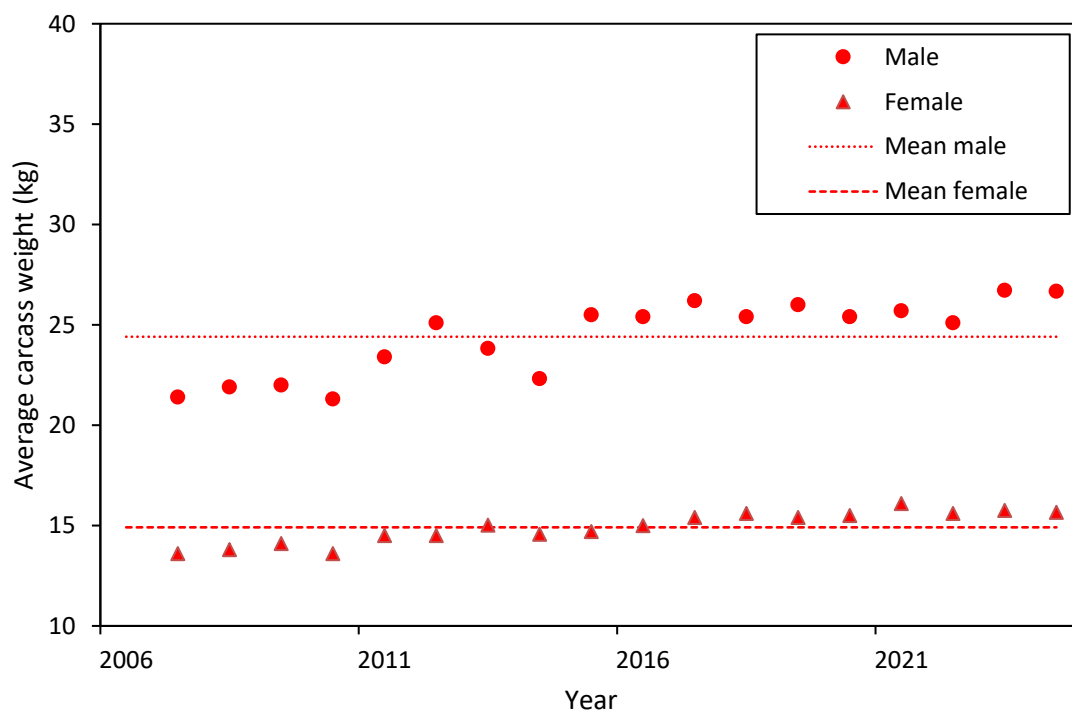


Figure 12. Average carcass weights of male and female red kangaroos harvested in the Central PMZ. The upper red dashed line represents the average male carcass weight across all years, and the lower red dashed line represents the average female carcass weight.

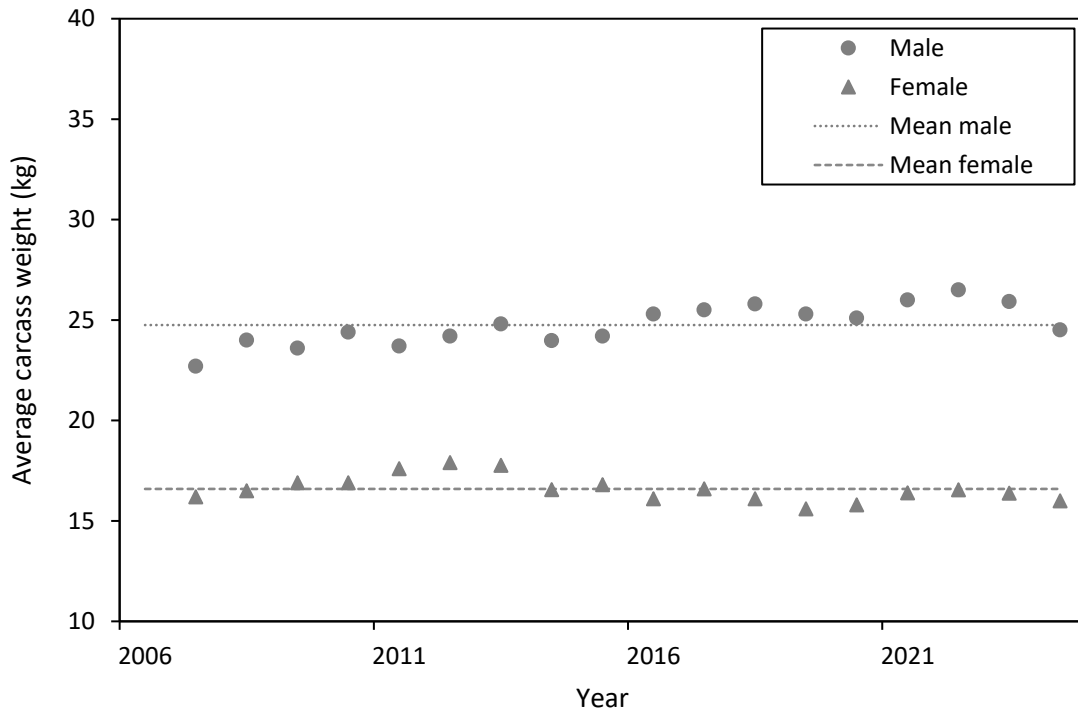


Figure 13. Average carcass weights of male and female western grey kangaroos harvested in the Central PMZ. The upper grey dashed line represents the average male carcass weight across all years, and the lower grey dashed line represents the average female carcass weight.

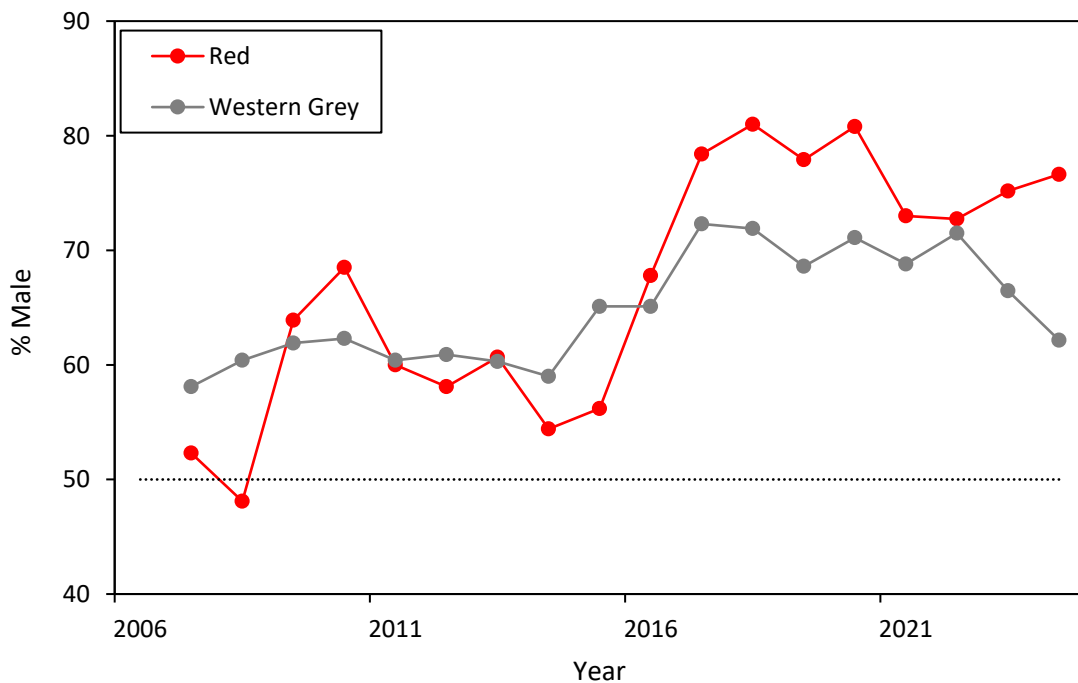


Figure 14. Sex ratio (expressed as a percentage) of male to female red and western grey kangaroos harvested in the Central PMZ.

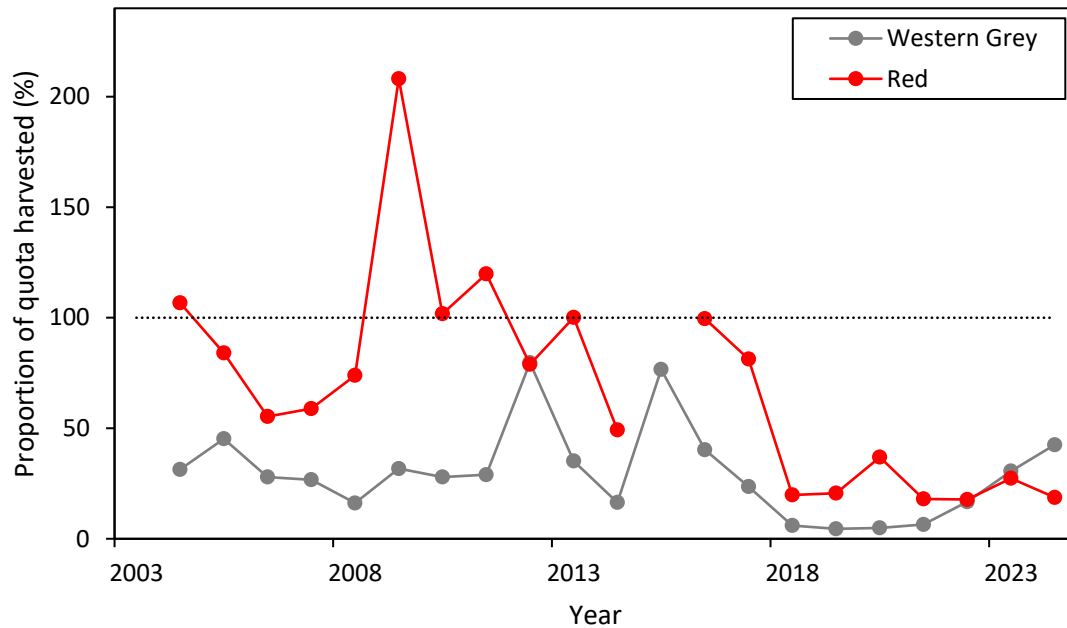
South-east PMZ

Figure 15. Proportion of total red and western grey kangaroo quota harvested (%) in the South-east PMZ. Note: red kangaroos were not harvested in 2015.

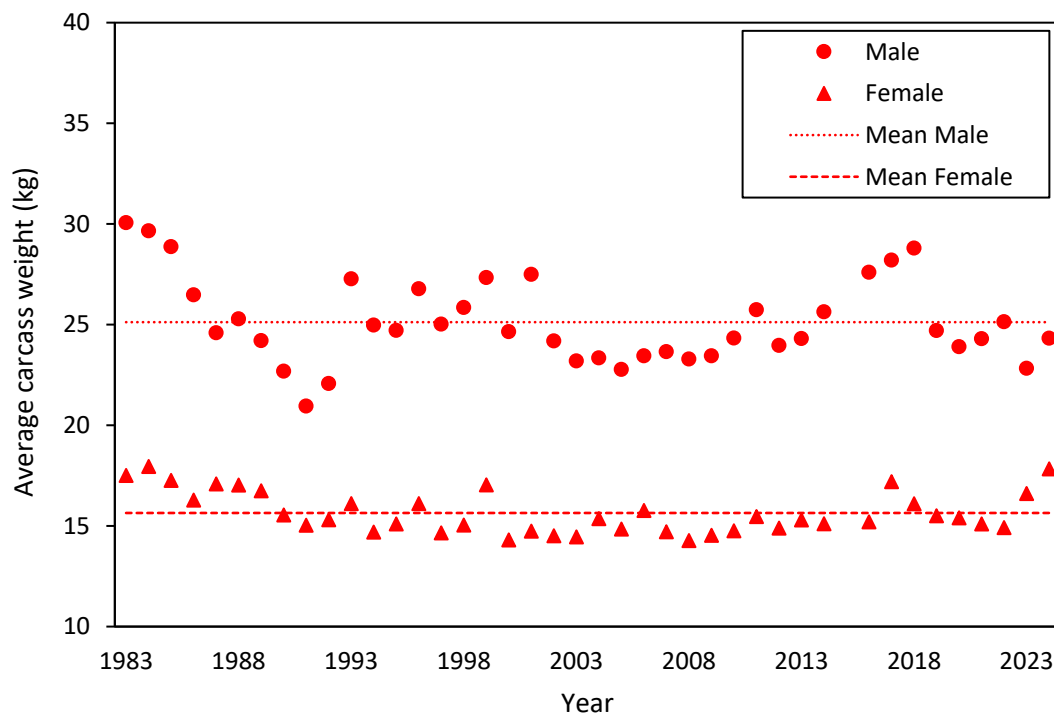


Figure 16. Average carcass weights of male and female red kangaroos harvested in the South-east PMZ. The upper red dashed line represents the average male carcass weight across all years, and the lower red dashed line represents the average female carcass weight.

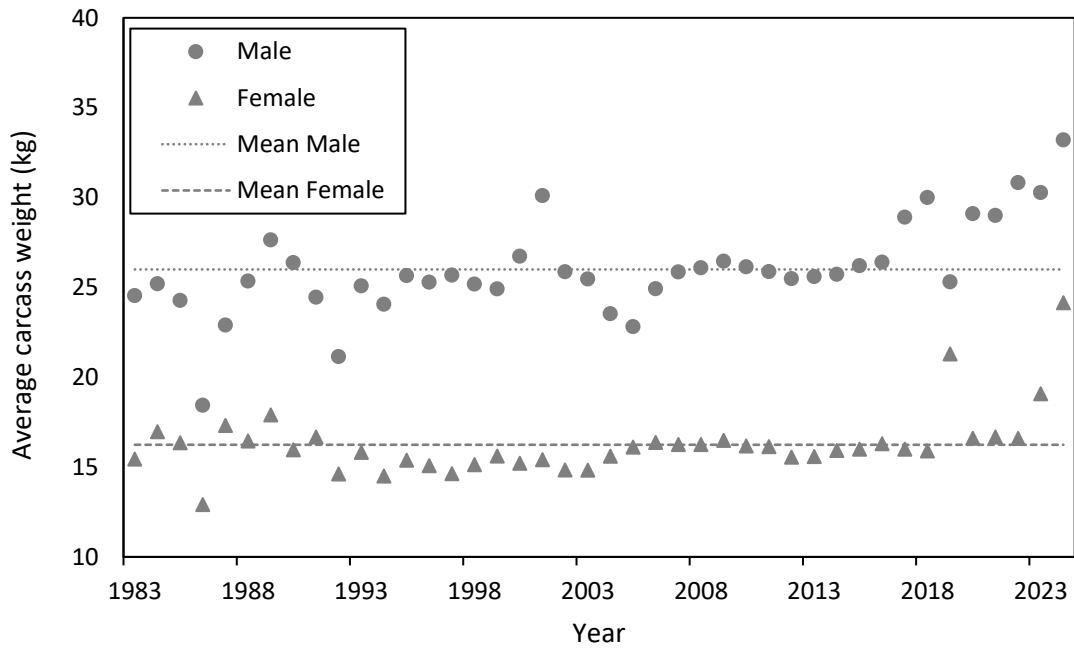


Figure 17. Average carcass weights of male and female western grey kangaroos harvested in the South-east PMZ. The upper grey dashed line represents the average male carcass weight across all years, and the lower grey dashed line represents the average female carcass weight.

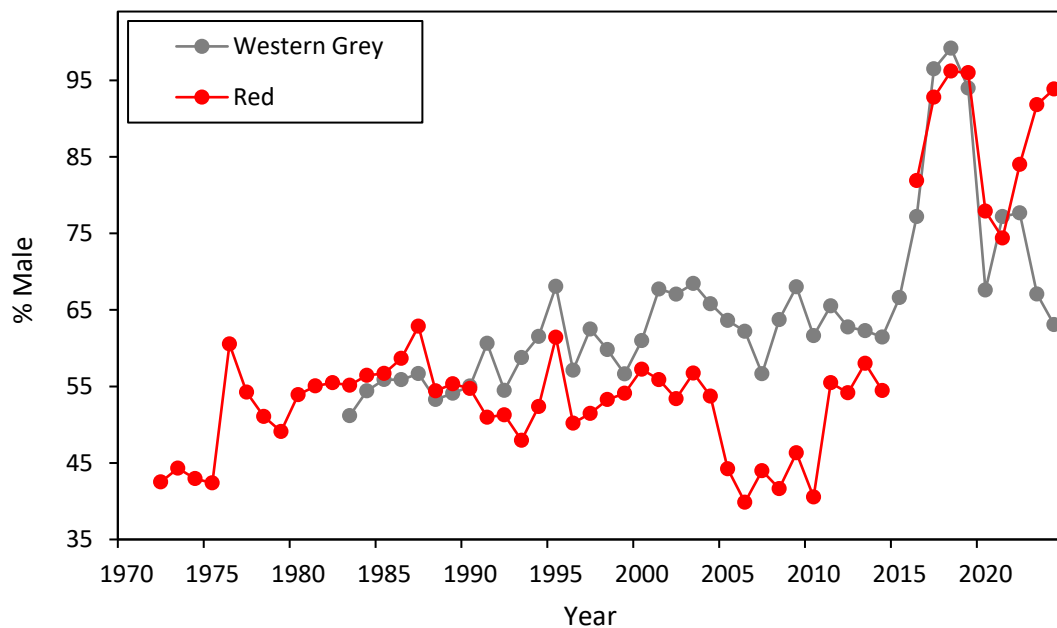


Figure 18. Sex ratio (expressed as a percentage) of male to female red and western grey kangaroos harvested in the South-east PMZ. Note: red kangaroos were not harvested in 2015.

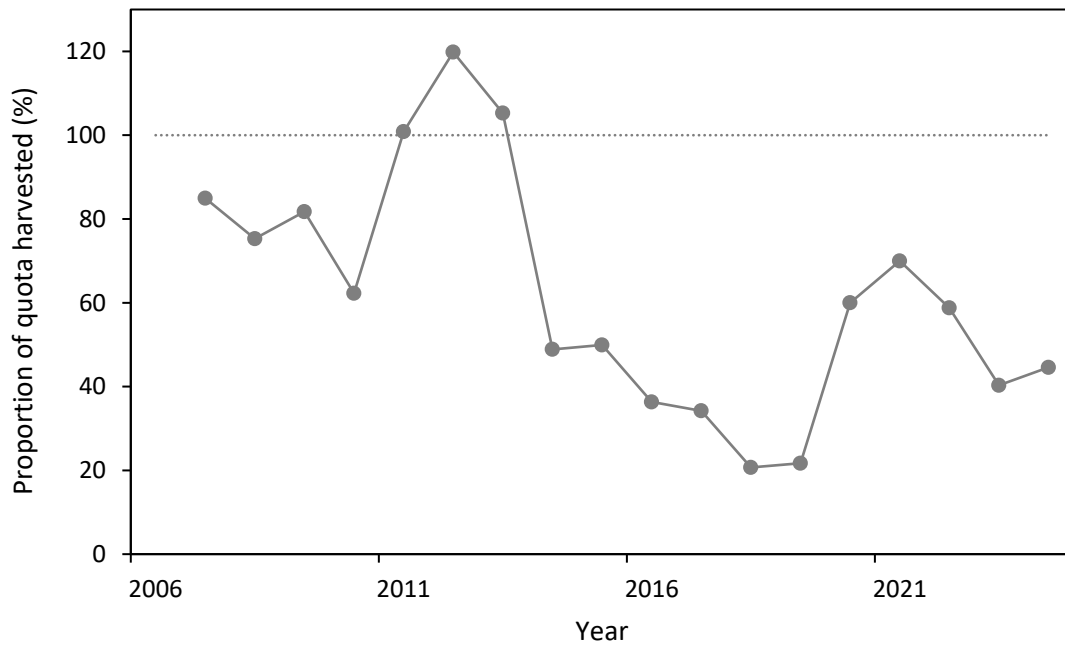
South-west PMZ

Figure 19. Proportion of total western grey kangaroo quota harvested (%) in the South-west PMZ.

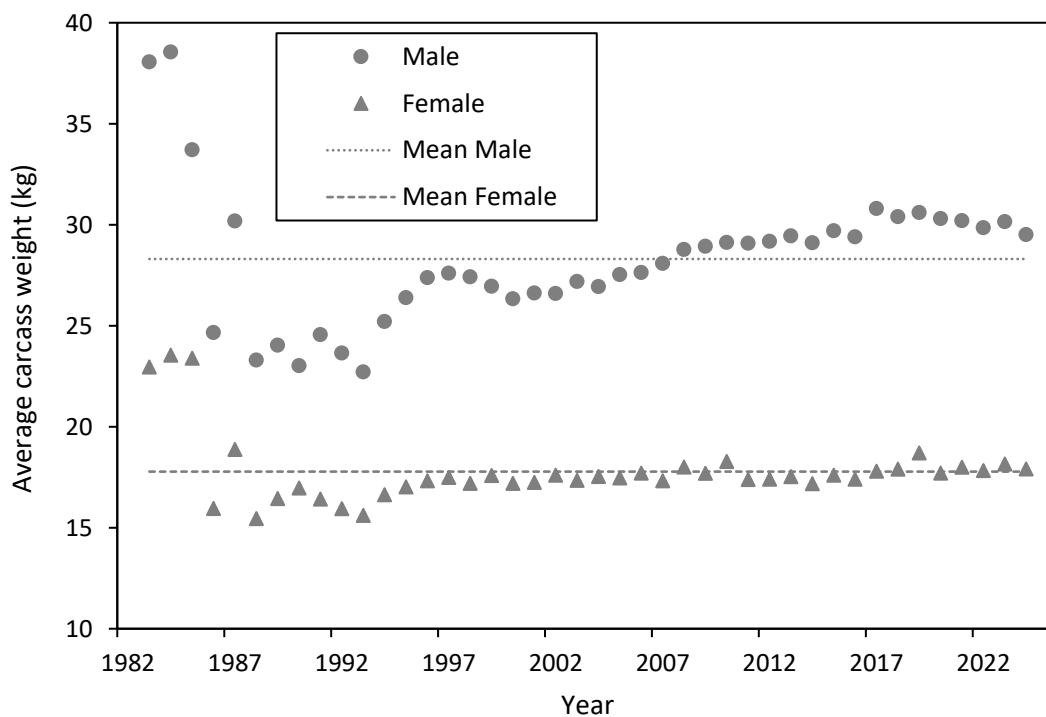


Figure 20. Average carcass weights of male and female western grey kangaroos harvested in the South-west PMZ. The upper grey dashed line represents the average male carcass weight across all years, and the lower grey dashed line represents the average female carcass weight.

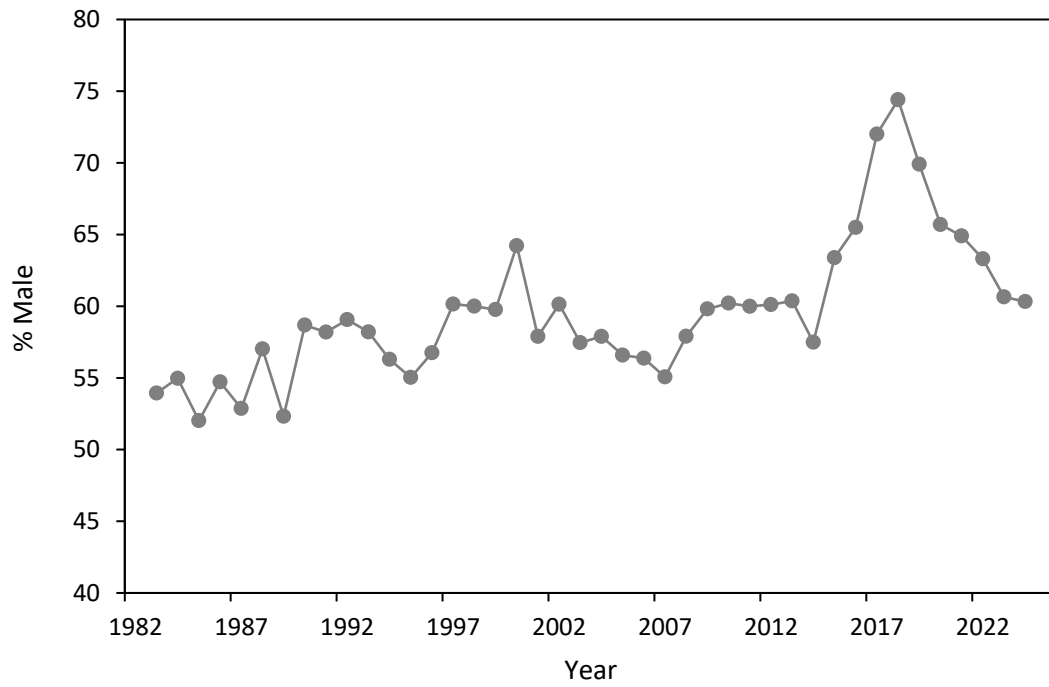


Figure 21. Sex ratio (expressed as a percentage) of male to female western grey kangaroos harvested in the South-west PMZ.