

Question on Notice

No. 1226

Asked on Friday, 4 December 2020

MR R KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the ban in 2020-21 on the harvesting of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the Central Zone North and the Central Zone South, but not on Red Kangaroos—

Will the Minister advise if the department's formulas for devising annual 'sustainable-use harvest proportions', which is based on research and modelling undertaken in 1987 and 2002, is negatively and unnecessarily impacting animal management on the ground in rural areas?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The sustainable use harvest quotas for macropods are calculated as a proportion of the estimated population sizes within five population estimate regions in Queensland. The basis for these estimates are annual aerial surveys across the harvest zones which remain the most accurate and precise method available. Recent research comparing the effectiveness of these long running surveys to other methods supports their continued use.

The majority of the Queensland macropod harvest is destined for export, which requires an approved Wildlife Trade Management Plan from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Trigger points that identify when a population estimate is below the long term average are a compulsory requirement of a Wildlife Trade Management Plan. Failure to reduce or suspend a harvest quota where an estimated population is below a trigger point would seriously jeopardise the entire export focussed Queensland kangaroo industry. Quotas are adjusted each year to respond to fluctuations in population size.