



## Do you have a problem with wildlife?

(The following article is taken from information taken from the following web sites.)

<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations>

<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations/kangaroo-pet-food-trial>

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/research/deer/deer-on-private-property>

<http://www.australianferalmanagement.com.au/ground-pests/deer/>

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The Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) is responding to a concern from its membership to investigate the problems associated with pest animals and the risks to biosecurity in the region.

In some areas of the Hughes Creek Catchment there may be a problem with wildlife causing damage property, loss of productivity, damage to farmland and the environment. Wildlife can also pose a threat to human safety or suffer from disease in areas where the species is over-abundant. Where this occurs, sometimes wildlife needs to be controlled to manage the problem.

Wildlife control must be lawful, thoughtful and well planned. It must consider the needs of people to protect their land, property and safety and it must also ensure animal welfare is protected.

The HCCC is **not** advocating the indiscriminate culling of animals or managing / organising culling. We are looking for a cooperative way of looking at this problem. Whilst the issue needs to be dealt with on a case by case basis by individual landowners, solving this problem requires cooperation between landowners and a more integrated approach across property boundaries. Animals and plants don't respect property boundaries, solving the problem on one property may only shift the problem to neighbouring properties.

**This article should be read in accordance with all the rules and regulations to control pest animals. HCCC is not providing legal advice, but general information taken from the government web sites.**

### **Wildlife and the law**

All native wildlife is protected in Victoria. It is an offence to kill, take, control or harm wildlife under the Wildlife Act 1975. It is also an offence to use poisons to kill, destroy or take wildlife. Severe penalties apply to those found guilty of an offence under the Wildlife Act.

Anyone wishing to control wildlife must have an authorisation from DELWP. The most common authorisation is an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW).

**DELWP does not issue authorisations to poison wildlife.**

### **How do I manage wildlife problems?**

**First Identify the problem**

As a first step, identify the species that is causing the problem. Doing so will help you choose an effective management method. Animal identification guides can be helpful. Your local DELWP wildlife officer may also be able to assist you.

It is important to work out the cause of the wildlife problem. If the cause is not identified properly, management methods may not work or may only work in the short term. Causes of wildlife problems can include:

- your crop is located near a roosting site
- pest animals or weeds
- erosion
- certain plants in your garden may attract wildlife
- some building materials in your house may attract wildlife.
- Consider non-lethal methods

Once you have worked out the species and cause of the wildlife problem, you must consider non-lethal wildlife control methods, including:

- exclusion techniques (e.g. fencing or netting)
- techniques to modify the animal's behaviour (e.g. habitat modification)
- modifying agricultural practices (e.g. avoiding aerial seeding or spillages or grain).

Often a combination of methods is required. To effectively resolve a problem, plan ahead and be persistent.

### Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW)

If you have a wildlife problem on your property, you may apply for an ATCW to control wildlife that is:

- damaging buildings, pasture, crops or other property
- posing a risk to human health and safety, or
- damaging the environment.
- If you require an ATCW, you must complete and sign an ATCW application form and submit it to the 'ATCW Co-ordinator' according to the locations listed on the form.

### Kangaroo Pet Food Trial

While kangaroos are protected in Victoria, there are situations where kangaroos can cause damage which can negatively affect Victorian farmers, regional communities and biodiversity. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) issues Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCWs) under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975 for the control of kangaroos **where they are demonstrated to be damaging pasture, crops or other property or impacting on biodiversity values.**

Wherever possible, year advocates non-lethal management of kangaroos. Where non-lethal techniques are ineffective or impractical, lethal control may be necessary.

The vast majority of kangaroo carcasses from kangaroos controlled under an ATCW are buried or left onsite to decompose.

The Victorian Government commenced a Kangaroo Pet Food Trial (KPFT) in March 2014 to allow the use of kangaroo carcasses resulting from authorised control activities to be processed for pet food. It has been extended twice to test its sustainability over a longer period and to see whether changes to compliance, monitoring and education would address issues that arose. It will now operate until 30 September 2019, after which an ongoing kangaroo pet food program will commence.

### [Controlling problem deer on private property](#)

Previously, deer causing damage on private property could only be destroyed after landowners had applied for and received an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) or by using licensed deer hunters. This created an administrative burden and often delayed control.

All deer species (except Hog Deer) have been declared 'unprotected' wildlife on private land by way of a Governor in Council Order under section 7A of the Act.

The Order will be in place for a period of 10 years. **This means that landowners will not be required to apply for and wait to receive an ATCW in order to destroy problem deer.** Importantly, problem deer may be destroyed at night under spotlight which is one of the most efficient and effective ways to control deer.

People acting in accordance with this Order are only exempt from spotlighting laws on the private land where the Order applies. When they are transporting spotlights and firearms through recognised deer habitat, they must still comply with the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012.

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## Fact sheets about wildlife management methods for common wildlife species include:

[Kangaroos and wallabies – Wildlife management methods \(DOCX, 150.1 KB\)](#)

[Kangaroos and wallabies – Wildlife management methods \(PDF, 153.8 KB\)](#)

[Possums – Wildlife management methods \(DOCX, 655.0 KB\)](#)

[Possums – Wildlife management methods \(PDF, 360.5 KB\)](#)

[Unprotection of deer on private property FAQ](#)

[Control of deer on private property fact sheet](#)

[Commercial processing of wild deer fact sheet](#)

For information on management approaches that do not require an ATCW, please contact your local DELWP office.

[https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0027/87813/ATCW-Application-v19.1-26-Mar-2019.docx](https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/word_doc/0027/87813/ATCW-Application-v19.1-26-Mar-2019.docx)

[Application for an Authority to Control Wildlife \(DOCX, 160.3 KB\)](#)

[Application for an Authority to Control Wildlife \(PDF, 230.4 KB\)](#)