

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
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**THE KANGAROO INDUSTRY IN QUEENSLAND.
FIRST SUPPLEMENT, 1961-1965**

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SUMMARY

The total harvest for the period 1961-1965 was nearly four million marsupials, an increase of some 25% on that of the previous 5 years. Practically all this increase involved the grey kangaroo: from 1,450,000 to 2,490,000.

Estimated annual income of the industry at the level of prices to shooters increased from £150,000 (1950-1960) to £450,000 (skins £390,000, carcasses £60,000) (1961-65).

Information on the kangaroo industry in Queensland before and including 1960 was presented by Roff and Kirkpatrick (1962). During the past 5 years there has been a distinct improvement in field recording at the species level, and the use of the category unspecified was not required. For continuity and convenience some of the earlier information (Roff and Kirkpatrick 1962) has been brought forward either as actual figures or yearly averages, and included in the tables for 1961-1965.

TABLE 1

NUMBERS OF MARSUPIAL SKINS HARVESTED, 1954-1960 AND 1961-1965

Year	Total Number Harvested	Number and Percentage by Species						
		Grey Kangaroo	Red Kangaroo	Wallaroo	Whiptail Wallaby	Brush Wallaby	Swamp Wallaby	Sandy Wallaby
1954	218,459	127,753 (58.47)	68,683 (31.43)	3,295 (1.50)	6,429 (3.61)	7,907 (2.94)	1,678 (0.76)	2,714 (1.24)
1955	305,616	155,956 (51.03)	93,616 (30.63)	11,155 (3.65)	11,580 (3.80)	15,561 (5.09)	12,848 (4.20)	4,900 (1.60)
1956	361,462	183,663 (50.81)	111,034 (30.71)	21,642 (5.98)	13,800 (3.81)	13,923 (3.85)	12,167 (3.36)	5,233 (1.44)
1957	631,034	283,137 (44.86)	276,125 (43.75)	29,897 (4.73)	13,781 (2.18)	14,756 (2.33)	6,959 (1.10)	6,379 (1.01)
1958	295,820	172,437 (58.29)	89,248 (30.16)	12,212 (4.12)	11,164 (3.77)	7,063 (2.38)	3,168 (1.07)	528 (0.17)
1959	1,006,919	319,829 (31.76)	588,807 (58.47)	55,031 (5.46)	9,173 (0.91)	25,141 (2.49)	6,784 (0.67)	2,154 (0.21)
1960	769,948	488,118 (63.39)	250,059 (32.47)	10,319 (1.34)	5,478 (0.71)	8,059 (1.04)	6,642 (0.86)	1,273 (0.16)
1961	471,640	293,365 (62.20)	161,063 (34.14)	3,374 (0.71)	11,038 (2.34)	2,208 (0.46)	592 (0.12)	Nil
1962	548,771	369,631 (67.35)	163,712 (29.83)	8,377 (1.52)	4,945 (0.90)	1,227 (0.22)	879 (0.16)	Nil
1963	642,063	444,607 (69.24)	175,284 (27.30)	6,727 (1.04)	11,026 (1.71)	3,462 (0.53)	846 (0.13)	111 (0.01)
1964	1,118,813	596,775 (53.34)	496,439 (44.37)	13,328 (1.19)	7,800 (0.69)	3,299 (0.29)	1,172 (0.10)	Nil
1965	1,168,887	787,955 (67.41)	353,223 (30.21)	13,365 (1.14)	8,662 (0.74)	4,139 (0.35)	1,455 (0.12)	88 (0.007)

TABLE 2

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF SKINS: HARVESTS IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS DURING 1954 AND 1959, 1961 AND 1965

Species	Year	Peninsula	Cairns	Townsville	Mackay	Rockhampton	Maryborough	Moreton	Downs	Roma	South Western	Far Western	Central Western	North Western
Grey kangaroo	1961	..	214	270	200	62,996	10,707	10,390	39,262	135,747	22,112	..	11,453	14
	1965	..	2	2,104	46	23,636	14,938	10,171	165,940	439,009	36,622	900	84,073	10,514
Red kangaroo	1961	..	..	..	..	..	2,137	3,422	5,202	23,595	89,483	1,504	31,256	4,464
	1965	..	..	162	..	3,995	1,630	391	27,989	34,815	146,888	27,241	73,202	36,910
Wallaroo	1961	..	..	34	..	5	196	227	1,432	97	503	250	506	124
	1965	..	25	157	1	1,131	4	94	1,860	432	1,611	395	5,827	1,826
Whiptail wallaby	1961	..	259	41	304	1,542	5,519	2,007	1,263	46	..	..	4	53
	1965	..	1	25	17	3,798	2,029	802	1,351	615	..	..	24	..
Brush wallaby	1961	..	8	..	30	219	141	227	1,448	78	..	..	4	53
	1965	..	..	5	14	676	405	438	1,474	762	107	19	24	215
Swamp wallaby	1961	..	..	..	133	125	10	22	215	44	43	..	..	..
	1965	..	..	..	20	111	235	12	634	158	11	..	274	..
Sandy wallaby	1961	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1965	..	..	88	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All species	1954 and 1959	15*	61*	625*	227*	15,367*	7,229*	3,499*	61,212*	86,162*	285,701*	2,527*	69,168*	7,487*
All species	1961 and 1965	..	255*	1,443*	383*	49,117*	18,976*	14,102*	124,035*	317,699*	148,690*	15,155*	103,324*	27,087*

* Yearly average.

TABLE 3
NUMBERS OF SANDY AND WHIPTAIL WALLABIES TAKEN
IN QUEENSLAND, 1956-1960 AND 1961-1965

Period/Year	Number Taken as Pests in Sugar-cane Districts*	Number Harvested Elsewhere and Skins Marketed
1956-1960	61,287	68,737
1961	18,826	11,038
1962	14,172	4,945
1963	14,143	11,137
1964	10,418	7,800
1965	11,468	8,750
1961-1965	69,027	43,670

* Numbers on which a bounty was paid.

TABLE 4
ESTIMATED WEIGHT OF KANGAROO MEAT PRODUCED
IN QUEENSLAND AND NUMBERS OF CARCASSES,
1959-1960 AND 1961-1965

Year	Weight (long tons)	Number of Carcasses	Percentage of Total Kangaroo Harvest
1959	39.00	2,500	0.27
1960	824.96	67,100	9.08
1961*	850.00	85,000	18.70
1962	971.30	97,130	18.21
1963	827.20	82,720	13.34
1964	2,304.13	230,413	21.07
1965	4,068.71	406,871	35.65

* Information given for 1961 in Table 4 of Roff and Kirkpatrick (1962) was for part year only.

TABLE 5
 DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED SHOOTERS IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS, 1956-1960 AND 1961-1965

Period/Year	Peninsula	Cairns	Townsville	Mackay	Rockhampton	Maryborough	Moreton	Downs	Roma	South Western	Far Western	Central Western	North Western
1956-1960	..	7*	17*	4*	204*	64*	90*	472*	359*	273*	36*	221*	57*
1961	..	3	3	2	140	85	22	444	279	284	13	175	20
1962	..	1	10	..	204	86	40	248	275	307	29	298	16
1963	..	1	14	4	227	99	143	398	289	218	14	264	40
1964	7	6	242	80	31	513	396	300	49	496	78
1965	6	1	168	59	26	525	500	407	38	350	73
1961-1965	..	1*	8*	3*	196*	82*	52*	426*	348*	303*	29*	317*	45*

* Yearly average.

TABLE 6
BRISBANE PRICES FOR KANGAROO SKINS (PER LB), 1961-1965*

Month	Grade	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
May	1	<i>s. d.</i> 4 6	<i>s. d.</i> 5 6	<i>s. d.</i> 4 6	<i>s. d.</i> 6 6	<i>s. d.</i> 5 9
	2	3 4	4 0	3 6	5 9	4 3
	3	1 9	3 0	3 0	4 6	3 0
June	1	6 3	6 8	7 6	7 0	6 9
	2	4 7	5 6	6 6	6 0	5 0
	3	2 9	3 4	6 0	4 6	3 0
July	1	6 3	6 11	8 6	7 0	6 9
	2	4 7	5 9	7 6	6 0	5 0
	3	2 9	3 6	7 0	4 6	3 0
August ..	1	6 4	6 9	9 0	†6 10	6 9
	2	4 9	5 8	8 0	†6 0	5 0
	3	2 9	3 6	7 0	†4 0	3 0
September ..	1	6 0	6 9	8 10	6 6	6 9
	2	4 11	5 8	7 10	5 0	5 0
	3	3 0	3 6	6 11	3 6	3 0
October ..	1	4 9	6 9	8 4	6 9	6 9
	2	3 9	5 6	7 4	5 0	5 0
	3	3 0	4 0	6 6	3 6	3 0

* An average skin weighs 1-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.

† Some skins unsaleable late August.

TABLE 7
DATA CONCERNED WITH FLUCTUATIONS OF ANNUAL HARVESTS, 1956-1960 AND 1961-1965

Period/Year	Number of Registered Shooters	Number of Kangaroos Marketed for Skins and Meat	Seasonal Conditions	Estimated Average for 1st Grade Skins (per lb)	Estimated Average Price for Meat (per lb)
1956-1960	1,805*	552,405*†	..	<i>s. d.</i> 6 8	<i>d.</i> ..
1961	1,470	454,428	Fair	5 8	3.5
1962	1,514	533,343	Fair	6 6	3.5
1963	1,711	619,891	Fair	7 9	3.5
1964	2,198	1,093,214	Dry	6 8	3.5
1965	2,155	1,141,178	Drought	6 7	3.5
1961-1965	1,809*	768,410*	..	6 8*	3.5*

* Yearly average.

† Number of kangaroos marketed in 1956 is given as 194,663 (Roff and Kirkpatrick 1962). Corrected figure of 294,663 used.

Comment

"During dry seasons kangaroos are more readily and economically available, as the mobs congregate near the limited water and food; furthermore, more rural workers turn to skin shooting to supplement incomes" (Roff and Kirkpatrick 1962). This seasonal influence on harvest was emphasized again in the data for 1961-1965. During the fair-season years of 1961-1963 the annual take of kangaroos was of the order of half a million, while in the dry and drought years of 1964-1965 this was doubled: in parallel, the number of registered shooters increased by some 39% (Tables 1 and 7).

The total harvest for the period 1961-1965 was approximately four million marsupials, an increase of about 25% on that of the previous 5 years. Nearly all this increase involved the grey kangaroo: from 1,450,000 to 2,490,000. The 5-year kills of red kangaroos were respectively 1,315,000 and 1,350,000 (Table 1).

There has been an increase in shooting in the middle districts of the State i.e. west of the Great Dividing Range but excluding the far western areas. This increase is most obvious in the more southern of these middle districts (Table 2).

The marketing of carcasses (meat industry) has expanded, with a record sale of some 4,000 long tons in the drought year of 1965 (Table 4).

Estimated annual income of the kangaroo industry at the level of prices to shooters has increased from £150,000 during 1950-1960 (Roff and Kirkpatrick 1962) to £450,000 (skins £390,000, carcasses £60,000) for the period 1961-1965.

The effects of harvesting on kangaroo populations and conservation, and the meat industry, will be discussed in detail elsewhere.

REFERENCE

- ROFF, C., and KIRKPATRICK, T. (1962).—The kangaroo industry in Queensland. *Qd J. Agric. Sci.* 19:385-401.

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