

## THE KANGAROO INDUSTRY IN QUEENSLAND. SECOND SUPPLEMENT, 1966-1970

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### SUMMARY

The total harvest for the period 1966-1970 was over 4½ million marsupials, an increase of some 18% on the previous 5 years. Most of this increase involved the grey kangaroo: from 2,490,000 to 3,295,000.

Estimated annual income of the industry at the level of prices to shooters increased from \$900,000 (skins \$780,000, carcasses \$120,000) (1961-1965) to \$1,975,000 (skins \$1,485,000, carcasses \$490,000) (1966-1970).

Information on the kangaroo industry in Queensland before and including 1960 and for the 5 years 1961-1965 was presented by Roff and Kirkpatrick (1962, 1966). For continuity and convenience, some of this earlier information has been brought forward either as actual figures or yearly averages, and included in the tables for 1966-1970.

The total harvest for the period 1966-1970 was over 4½ million marsupials, an increase of some 18% on that for the previous 5 years. Nearly all of this increase involved the grey kangaroo: from 2,490,000 to 3,295,000. The 5-year harvests of red kangaroo were respectively 1,350,000 and 1,250,000 (Table 1).

The marketing of carcasses (meat industry) has remained constant at a yearly average of about 6,000 long tons (Table 4).

The annual income of the kangaroo industry at the level of prices to shooters during the period 1966-1970 has increased on that of the previous periods 1950-1960 (\$300,000) and 1961-1965 (\$900,000 (skins \$780,000, carcasses \$120,000)) (Roff and Kirkpatrick, 1962, 1966) to an estimated \$1,975,000 (skins \$1,485,000, carcasses \$490,000).

The effects of harvesting on kangaroo populations and conservation are discussed in detail elsewhere (Kirkpatrick and McDougall 1971).

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TABLE 1  
NUMBERS OF MARSUPIALS HARVESTED: 1954-1960, 1961-1965 AND 1966-1970

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)

1966	924,629	640,985 (69.33)	269,377 (29.14)	4,703 (0.51)	8,082 (0.87)	1,210 (0.13)	272 (0.02)	Nil
1967	871,390	662,319 (75.97)	198,294 (22.74)	3,691 (0.42)	3,323 (0.38)	1,350 (0.15)	2,413 (0.28)	Nil
1968	862,981	612,323 (70.95)	235,123 (27.25)	5,524 (0.64)	6,214 (0.72)	1,467 (0.17)	2,330 (0.27)	Nil
1969	1,116,065	774,881 (69.43)	322,727 (28.92)	5,817 (0.52)	9,732 (0.87)	1,678 (0.15)	1,230 (0.11)	Nil
1970	900,202	604,932 (67.20)	232,017 (25.77)	42,372 (4.71)	13,850 (1.54)	5,856 (0.65)	1,088 (0.12)	Nil

TABLE 2

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF MARSUPIALS: HARVESTS IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS DURING 1954 AND 1959, 1961 AND 1965, 1968 AND 1969

Species	Year	Peninsula	Cairns	Townsville	Mackay	Rockhampton	Maryborough	Moreton	Downs	Roma	South Western	Far Western	Central Western	North Western
Grey kangaroo	1968	..	187	537	153	81,563	24,901	12,917	160,006	158,377	72,071	1,216	90,177	10,218
	1969	..	65	410	178	61,922	14,994	6,849	171,814	38,190	56,309	726	130,559	2,869
Red kangaroo	1968	..	..	127	1	1,203	23	1,849	4,893	18,461	97,806	25,312	72,825	12,623
	1969	..	..	103	..	193	5	..	5,276	23,009	154,047	26,178	89,157	24,759
Wallaroo	1968	..	..	27	..	183	97	786	846	1,067	222	187	1,347	762
	1969	..	..	18	..	203	5	903	632	1,268	185	92	1,978	531
Whiptail wallaby	1968	..	97	37	283	1,311	1,618	961	1,817	59	8	..	23	..
	1969	..	258	19	313	2,834	2,592	1,908	1,762	..	4	..	42	..
Brush wallaby	1968	..	..	..	..	146	138	329	763	83	..	..	8	..
	1969	..	..	..	..	212	179	457	763	64	..	..	3	..
Swamp wallaby	1968	..	2	1	17	599	536	768	305	102	..	..	..	..
	1969	..	..	..	32	401	503	210	290	55	..	..	..	..
Sandy wallaby	1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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*	27,083*
All species	1968 and 1969	..	303*	639*	488*	75,386*	22,795*	13,969*	174,583*	265,367*	190,326*	26,855*	193,059*	25,879*

\* Yearly average for the years of smallest and largest harvest during the three survey periods 1954-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970.

TABLE 3

NUMBERS OF SANDY AND WHIPTAIL WALLABIES TAKEN IN QUEENSLAND  
1956-1960, 1961-1965 and 1966-1970

Period/Year	Number Taken as Pests in Sugar-cane Districts*	Number Harvested Elsewhere and Skins Marketed
1956-1960 .. .. .	61,287	68,737
1961-1965 .. .. .	69,027	43,670
1966 .. .. .	19,093	8,082
1967 .. .. .	14,795	3,323
1968 .. .. .	11,147	6,214
1969 .. .. .	17,975	9,732
1970 .. .. .	7,828	13,937
1966-1970 .. .. .	70,838	41,288

\* On which a bounty was paid.

TABLE 4

ESTIMATED WEIGHT OF KANGAROO MEAT PRODUCED IN QUEENSLAND  
AND NUMBERS OF CARCASSES, 1959-1960, 1961-1965 AND 1966-1970

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
1966 .. .. .	5,797.20	579,720	62.70
1967 .. .. .	5,672.74	567,274	65.10
1968 .. .. .	5,791.35	579,135	67.11
1969 .. .. .	7,082.66	708,266	63.46
1970 .. .. .	5,370.30	†537,030	59.66

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

† The 1970 figure includes wallaroos.

TABLE 5

DISTRIBUTION (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE) OF REGISTERED SHOOTERS IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS, 1956-1960, 1961-1965 AND 1966-1970

Period/Year	Peninsula	Cairns	Townsville	Mackay	Rock-hampton	Mary-borough	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*
1961-1965	..	1*	8*	3*	196*	82*	52*	426*	348*	303*	29*	317*	45*
1966 ..	..	..	3 (0.23)	1 (0.08)	115 (8.98)	60 (4.68)	21 (1.64)	251 (19.59)	285 (22.25)	180 (14.05)	25 (1.95)	274 (21.39)	66 (5.15)
1967 ..	..	2 (0.14)	9 (0.63)	2 (0.14)	117 (8.16)	59 (4.12)	28 (1.95)	289 (20.17)	293 (20.45)	224 (15.63)	44 (3.07)	302 (21.07)	64 (4.47)
1968 ..	..	6 (0.42)	8 (0.55)	2 (0.14)	132 (9.13)	56 (3.88)	16 (1.11)	369 (25.54)	302 (20.90)	177 (12.25)	42 (2.91)	268 (18.55)	67 (4.64)
1969 ..	..	1 (0.05)	8 (0.39)	4 (0.20)	202 (9.89)	66 (3.23)	27 (1.32)	443 (21.69)	406 (19.88)	247 (12.10)	68 (3.33)	488 (23.90)	82 (4.02)
1970 ..	..	..	5 (0.26)	9 (0.47)	172 (9.02)	49 (2.57)	23 (1.21)	492 (25.80)	417 (21.87)	322 (16.89)	60 (3.15)	276 (14.47)	82 (4.30)
1966-1970	..	2*	7*	4*	148*	58*	23*	369*	341*	230*	48*	322*	73*

\* Yearly average.

**TABLE 6**  
**DATA CONCERNED WITH FLUCTUATIONS OF ANNUAL HARVESTS,**  
**1956-1960, 1961-1965 AND 1966-1970**

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*†	..	s. d. 6 8	d. ..
1961-1965 ..	1,809*	768,410*	..	6 8*	3.5*
1966 .. ..	1,281	910,362	Drought	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.03
1967 .. ..	1,433	860,613	Drought	1.00	0.0325
1968 .. ..	1,445	847,446	Drought	1.15	0.0370
1969 .. ..	2,042	1,097,608	Drought	1.15	0.0390
1970 .. ..	1,907	879,321‡	Drought	1.25	0.0440
1966-1970 ..	1,621*	919,070*	..	1.08*	0.0365*

\* Yearly average.

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

‡ 1970 figure includes wallaroos.