

# **Proposal for the Export of Kangaroo Skins derived from those Kangaroos Processed during the extension of the Victorian Kangaroo Pet Food Trial**

**Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) Pty Ltd**

**With the endorsement from the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.**

## **Introduction**

This proposal puts forward a mechanism to enable overseas export of skins obtained as a by-product from Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic), kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus* and *Macropus fuliginosus*) processed during the Kangaroo Pet food trial for domestic pet food conducted by the Victorian DELWP.

The Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. ("DELWP") issues Authorities to Control Wildlife ("ATCW") under section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975 for the control of Kangaroos that are damaging pasture, crops or other property or impacting on biodiversity.

In order to do this, it aims to satisfy the requirements for a small – scale *Approved Wildlife Trade Operation* ("WTO") under section 303FN of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* ("EPBC Act").

## **Scale of Proposed Operation**

Under the EPBC Act and its associated regulations, an operation is a small-scale operation if it has a low impact on the survival or conservation status of the species to which it relates. The proposed operation is considered small-scale because it is only operating within a small area of Victoria. Kangaroos will only be taken from those shires taking part in the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial as defined by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning ("DELWP") which issues 850 to 2,200 ATCWs for the lethal control of 30,000 to 70,000 kangaroos annually.

This WTO seeks to allow for the export of skins taken during the trial. Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) expects to process only a percentage of the total number of ATCW permits that are to be issued by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning ("DELWP").

Given that the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning ("DELWP") estimated number of kangaroos to be processed within the scope of the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial are relatively small and the size of the proposed export activity, the operation is considered to be small sale.

## **The Proposed Wildlife Trade Operation**

This proposal presents an auditable process for Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) to source Kangaroo skins for export. The proposed WTO is based entirely on Kangaroo skins sourced from animals within those shires listed in the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial for domestic pet food and within the guidelines set out by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Kangaroo Pet Food Trial. The proposal provides a process to ensure that the WTO operates in a manner that satisfies government requirements and to minimize public concerns about welfare and sustainability. The species covered by

the Wildlife Trade Operation are Western Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) Species Code Number 1263 and Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) Species Code Number 1265.

### **State Regulations**

Until now Kangaroos shot under the control of DELWP and ATCWs have been left to decompose on the property of origin, representing a waste of resources. The Kangaroo Pet Food Trial extension of two years will enable Licensed Operators to further process these Kangaroos. The Victorian Government and its relevant governing departments have set out the guidelines required.

Kangaroos processed by Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic), Licensed Pet Meat Facility. Number K00055 located in Hamilton, Victoria and K00046 located in Tesbury, Victoria. Produces pet food under the control of PrimeSafe Victoria, the Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat, PISC Technical Report 88 – amended 2009 and Wildlife Processors Licences Number 14355558 and Number 14438142 in accordance with Regulation 23 of the Wildlife Regulations 2013.

### **Region of Kangaroo Pet Food Trial**

Western Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) and Eastern Grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) occur within the designated shires shown on the attached map. Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) will only process Kangaroos from these areas, from Landowners that have applied and received valid Kangaroo Pet Food Trial – Authority to Control Wildlife (“KPFT-ATCW”) permits. All kangaroos processed will be able to be identified and traced back to the property of origin. All Kangaroos will be identified with an individual numerical tag that will remain on the skin.

Tags will be identified:	1. By colour.	Blue
	2. By Year	16
	3. By Company Name	VPP
	4. By State of Origin	Vic
	5. By tag number	000125

As documented control of tags will be maintained by Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) and balanced against ATCWs and kangaroos processed.

### **Skins**

All skins for export will be sourced only from those areas identified within the Kangaroo pet Food Trial. All skins will be identified with a tag. The Wildlife Department within the DELWP controls the number of animals sourced by the issuing of Permits, ATCWs thus ensuring that the abundance of these animals is not threatened. Skins will be sold to a licensed Fauna Dealer (skins)

### **Length Season**

The operation will be undertaken throughout the trial dates.

## **The Number of Kangaroos**

Will be limited to the permits issued by DELWP. Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) will only process a percentage of those permits. Actual numbers are not available, as permits are granted on a needs basis.

## **Licensed Shooters**

All shooters are required to hold Current Victorian shooters licences. A copy of which is recorded in the Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) Quality Assurance Program. The Preferred Shooters are required to operate under the guidelines set out in the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes and will be trained in food safety procedures to ensure company outcomes are met.

## **The impact to species during the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial**

Authorities to Control Wildlife (“ATCW”) permits have been issued within Victoria for many years. DELWP has continued to issue such permits throughout these years indicating that the rate of disposal has no observable impact on the viability of the Victorian Western Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) and Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) population.

## **Controls**

Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) is controlled by the section 28A of the Wildlife Act 1975 and Wildlife Regulations 1992, existing PrimeSafe regulations and The Standard for The Hygienic Production of Pet Meat, PISC Technical Report 88-amended 2009. Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) has in place a system of tagging the kangaroos. Each Kangaroo will have a tag attached to the skin that is numerical and individual. The tags will be numbered in sequence showing the State, the Year of Production and Colour Coded. Colours will change each year for auditing purposes.

Only licensed Kangaroo processors can produce and sell meat and by-products in Victoria, Protected Wildlife Record Books are issued by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria (Copy provided) and are required to be completed as required.

An Annual Return Form, Wildlife Processor Licence is required to be completed (Copy provided). Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) has its own controls regarding the issuing of tags and is documented in our manual.

## **Summary**

Victorian Petfood Processors (Vic) has developed a program that will enable it to participate in the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial and meet all statutory requirements set out by those Victorian Government Departments. It is submitting an Application for Approval of a Wildlife Trade Operation. The information set in this application aims to satisfy the requirements for a WTO (Small-scale).

**List of Documents attached to this application**

PrimeSafe letter endorsement includes Kangaroo Processing

PrimeSafe Licence for the Hamilton. Meat Processing Facility K00055

PrimeSafe Licence for the Camperdown Meat Processing Facility K00046

PrimeSafe Licence for the Seymour Meat Processing Facility K00058

PrimeSafe Licence for the Smythes Creek Meat Processing Facility K00015

Wildlife Processor Licence Number (Hamilton) 14355558

Wildlife Processor Licence Number (Tesbury) 14438142

Wildlife Processor Licence Number (Seymour) 14457811

Wildlife Processor Licence Number (Smythes Creek) 14438130

Record of Wildlife Form

Summary Return Form

The link below provides information regarding the Victorian Kangaroo Pet Food Trial:

<http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/wildlife/kangaroos#petfood>