

UDIA WA Kangaroo Management Position Statement

Background

The policy framework regarding kangaroo management in development areas is complex, split between local government and state government agencies resulting in a lack of clarity and certainty for all stakeholders. Furthermore, in the absence of a clear kangaroo management framework, the option of relocation is not carried out in a consistent manner and has resulted in significant impact on the welfare of kangaroos.

These issues have recently intensified as a result of community expectations, despite a limited understanding of the implications of kangaroo relocations. DBCA is presently undertaking a study of the effectiveness of kangaroo relocation which is anticipated to be complete towards the end of 2020.

The December 2019 industry/multi-agency working group meeting was focused on kangaroo management. Key themes discussed for an effective kangaroo management response included:

1. Creation of awareness within the development industry;
2. Early strategic management on undeveloped land;
3. Continuing management;
4. Community education and engagement;
5. Appropriate State and local government policy responses; and
6. Determination of the most effective method of control (informed by results of DBCA relocation study).

The UDIA WA Environment Committee were also approached prior to the May 2020 meeting to provide feedback on the draft UDIA WA submission. The Committee discussion highlighted different approaches and options yet emphasized the necessity for developers to be proactive with respect to management of kangaroo populations during early stages of project including minimizing kangaroo numbers prior to more advanced stages of development which may require advanced fencing and consultation requirements for kangaroo management.

The UDIA policy position takes a high-level approach due to necessity in keeping options open with no clear-cut best practice approach to kangaroo management.



Position Statement

UDIA encourages that development of a policy response by local governments and/or the state government ensures the most humane outcome for native fauna.

Accordingly, UDIA WA calls for:

- Early strategic management and continuing management of kangaroos on undeveloped land;
- *Creation of awareness within the development industry and government on effective community education on kangaroo management; and*
- Appropriate State and Local Government policy responses which have due regard to the most effective method(s) of management;

In addition, UDIA WA recommends:

- Developers adopt a collaborative approach to reduce costs associated with obligations under proposed kangaroo management policy frameworks such as fencing and environmental consultancy; and
- Developers implement early planning measures to ameliorate potential management issues and costs during later stages of development.

Proposed Next Steps

1. Adoption of a position statement and information sheet to raise awareness within the development industry and government on the requirement for effective community consultation and education on kangaroo management in a development context;
2. Advocating for members of the UDIA to adopt early strategic management on undeveloped land (including fencing and monitoring of kangaroo numbers and ongoing management of kangaroo movements);
3. Promoting the need for Community education and engagement on the need for kangaroo management in a development context;
4. Engaging with State government agencies to clarify the most effective method of kangaroo management in a development context (informed by results of DBCA relocation study); and
5. Advocating for the development of an appropriate scientific approach to kangaroo management from both State and local government agencies and the development of clear and robust policy guidelines.