

Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2018) Notice 2017

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION 2017 No. 228

Made under the

Nature Conservation Act 1992.

General Outline

These explanatory notes are a ‘plain English’ version of the *Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2018) Notice 2017* (the harvest period notice). They are intended to provide the reader with some explanation and background information on the sections in the harvest period notice. These notes should be read in conjunction with the harvest period notice. The explanatory notes are not intended to be comprehensive but merely a guide to assist the reader in understanding the harvest period notice.

Short title

Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2018) Notice 2017.

Authorising law

Section 11 of the *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017*.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan (the plan) provides that a written notice (a harvest period notice) may be prepared to declare a harvest period. Key purposes of the plan include allowing the ecologically sustainable use of macropods taken from the wild and minimising the impact of taking macropods on nature. The policy objective of the harvest period notice operates within these overarching purposes, being to regulate the harvest of macropods in a manner that ensures sustainable harvest levels are maintained.

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve its objective, the harvest period notice will—

1. declare a harvest period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 for harvest macropods.
2. allow the lawful harvesting of 3 species of macropod:
 - (a) eastern grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*);
 - (b) red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*);
 - (c) common wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*);
3. Define particular areas where harvesting of macropods can occur.
4. Define the maximum amount of macropods harvested from a particular area.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

Section 11 (1) of the *Nature Conservation (macropod) Conservation Plan 2017* states that the chief executive may, by written notice (a harvest period notice), declare a harvest period for macropods.

Benefits and costs of implementation

A harvest period notice is issued annually to declare a harvest period for protected macropods in a given period. The harvest period notice sets quotas for the allowable harvest of particular species that are of least concern.

The harvest period notice is required to be issued on an annual basis, in order to ensure the quotas set are reflective of any changes in estimated population size of harvest macropod species. Failure to make the 2018 harvest period notice will result in the commercial macropod harvest industry being unable to lawfully operate, as the 2017 notice will expire on 31 December 2017. Due to the fact that there has not been any increase in threat levels to species of macropods harvested under the 2017 notice, the 2018 notice will be purely administrative in nature and will not impose any additional requirements or costs on macropod harvesters, landholders or government.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The harvest period notice, which is subordinate legislation, is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The content of the harvest period notice has been informed by consultation with the Macropod Management Unit. As a result of advice provided by the Macropod Management Unit, the provisions contained within the 2018 harvest period notice are consistent with those contained within the 2017 harvest period notice. Therefore, requirements imposed on stakeholders by the 2018 harvest period notice will not differ from those imposed by the 2017 harvest period notice. For the reason that harvest period notices of this kind are made on an annual basis, in combination with the fact that the 2018 harvest period notice will not affect existing rights pertaining to protected macropods, further consultation was not considered necessary in the making of this subordinate legislation.