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Proposal for a Wildlife Trade Operation to Export Kangaroo Skins Derived from Kangaroos Processed during the Two- year Victorian Pet Food Trial

2014-2016

Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L

Introduction

This proposal is for a Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) to enable the export of skins obtained as a by-product of Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) and Western Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) harvested by Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L during the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial conducted by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning for the domestic pet food market..

The 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, Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L aims to satisfy the requirements for a small scale, Wildlife Trade Operation 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 deemed to be small scale if it has a low impact on the survival or conservation status of the species to which it relates. The proposed operation is small scale because it would be operating only within a small area of Victoria. Kangaroos will be taken only from those shires participating in the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial as defined by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning 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. Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L expects to process approximately 6,000 skins from the total number of kangaroos to be destroyed under DELWP ATCWs. Given the estimated number of kangaroos to be processed within the scope of DELWP Kangaroo Pet Food Trial and the relatively small size of the proposed export activity, the operation is considered to be small scale.

The Proposed Wildlife Trade Operation

This proposal presents an auditable process for Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L 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 DELWP Pet Food Trial. The proposal provides a process to ensure that the WTO operates in a manner that satisfies government requirements and to minimise public concerns about welfare and sustainability. The species covered by the Wildlife Trade Operation are the Western Grey Kangaroos *Macropus fuliginosus* (DELWP Wildlife Processor Licence Species Code Number 1263) and Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus* (DELWP Wildlife Processor Licence Species Code Number 1265).

State Regulations

Until now kangaroos shot under the auspices of DELWP ATCWs have been left to decompose on the property of origin, representing a waste of resources. The two-year Kangaroo Pet Food Trial commenced on 31 March 2014 and will enable licenced operators to further process these kangaroos. The Victorian Government and its relevant governing departments have set out the guidelines required.

Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L, Licenced Pet Meat Facility, number K00041, located in Yering, Victoria, produces pet food under the control of PrimeSafe, Victoria, in accordance with the Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat. (PISC Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009) and Wildlife Processors Licence Number 14355583 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, i.e. the Hume and Grampians regions, shown on the attached map. Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L will process kangaroos only 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 through our tagging system with a separate Protected Wildlife Record Book maintained for each species.

Skins and Tags

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 when shot. The Wildlife Department within DELWP controls the number of animals sourced by the issuing of ATCW's, thus ensuring that the abundance of these animals is not threatened. Skins will be sold to a licenced Fauna Dealer (Skins).

Each tag has the ACTWs Type 12 Permit number of the landowner printed on it and will remain on the skin. Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L maintains a Protected Wildlife Record Book into which all tags are entered and which allows tags to be traced back to the property of origin.

Licenced Shooters

All shooters will be sub-contractors for Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L and will be required to hold a current Victorian shooter's licences, a copy of which is recorded in the Yarra Valley

Stock Removers P/L Quality Assurance Program (example included as Appendix A). 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 are trained by Yarra Valley Stock Removers 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 in Victoria for many years. DELWP has continued to issue such permits throughout these years indicating that the rate of disposal has had no observable impact on the viability of the Western Grey Kangaroo *Macropus fuliginosus* and Eastern Grey Kangaroos *Macropus giganteus* populations.

Controls

Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L is controlled by section 28A of Victorian's *Wildlife Act 1975* and Wildlife Regulations 1992, existing PrimeSafe regulations, and The Standard for The Hygienic Production of Pet Meats. (PISC Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009). Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L has in place a system for tagging the kangaroos, whereby each kangaroo will have a tag attached to the skin which will clearly identify the site of origin of the skin and will be controlled through our documentation system.

Only licenced kangaroo processors can produce and sell meat and by-products in Victoria. Protected Wildlife Record Books issued by the DELWP, Victoria. (copy provided) must be completed as required. An Annual Return Form, Wildlife Processor Licence is required to be completed (copy provided). Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L has its own controls regarding the issuing of tags and these are documented in our Protected Wildlife Record Book.

Summary

Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L has developed a program that will enable it to participate in the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial and meet all relevant statutory requirements set out by the Victorian government. It is submitting an application for approval of a Wildlife Trade Operation. The information set in this application aims to satisfy the requirement for a WTO (small scale)

List of Documents attached to this application

PrimeSafe Licence for Yarra Valley Stock Removers P/L K00041

PrimeSafe letter endorsement includes Kangaroo Processing

HACCP Certificate

Wildlife Processor Licence Number 14355583 (has been renewed)

National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes.

Kangaroo Pet Food Trial – Overview (Showing map of participating shires)

Kangaroo Pet Meat Trial – Information for pet meat processing facilities

Kangaroo Pet Food Trial – Information for landowners

Kangaroo Pet Food Trial – Information for shooters

Wildlife Processors Annual Return Form