

Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2017) Notice 2016

Explanatory notes for SL 2016 No. 246

made under the

Nature Conservation Act 1992

General Outline

These explanatory notes are a 'plain English' version of the *Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2017) Notice 2016*. 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

This regulation may be cited as the *Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2017) Notice 2016*.

Authorising law

Section 10 of the *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2005*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2005* 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 commercial and recreational 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 2017 to 31 December 2017 for harvest macropods.
2. allow the lawful harvesting of three 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 10(1) of the *Nature Conservation (macropod) Conservation Plan 2005* states that the chief executive may, by written notice (a harvest period notice), declare a harvest period for macropods.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2005* is consistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

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 *Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2017) Notice 2016* will result in the commercial macropod harvest industry being unable to lawfully operate, as the *Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2016) Notice 2015* notice will expire on 31 December 2016.

Due to the fact that there has not been any increase in threat levels to species of macropods harvested under the *Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2016) Notice 2015*, the *Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2017) Notice 2016* notice will be purely administrative in nature and will not impose any additional requirements or costs on commercial or recreational 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 2017 harvest period notice are consistent with those contained within the 2016 harvest period notice. Therefore, requirements imposed on stakeholders by the 2017 harvest period notice will not differ from those imposed by the 2016 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 2017 harvest period notice will not affect existing rights pertaining to protected macropods, consultation was not considered necessary in the making of this subordinate legislation.