

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 81  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Kangaroo Survey extrapolation methodologies  
**Hansard Page:** n/a  
**Question Date:** 31 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:**

The department also advised it “does not generally see the count data, but may request this information if required”.

- a) Has the department ever requested and checked the actual count data of any kangaroo surveys in any state?
- b) If yes, when and where, and please provide copies of that data.
- c) Has the department ever checked the survey data on a shooting zone by zone basis in each state?
- d) If yes, is the department concerned about the trend of decline in individual zones?
- e) If not, why hasn't the department ever checked this given its role is to do so?
- f) Has the government ever plotted actual count data along mapped survey transects?
- g) Would the department be concerned if actual count data from consecutive survey transects over open farming country continued to show zero counts of kangaroos over a decade – yet population estimates continue to assert high densities of kangaroos in those same areas?

**Answer:**

- a) Yes, the Department requested and checked count data from the Western Australia Government following a temporary zone closure.
- b) The count data were requested by the Department from Western Australia following a temporary zone closure in 2014. The data are attached.
- c) No, the Department accepts the survey methodology as described in each state's wildlife trade management plan.
- d) Each of the management plans includes trigger reference points that ensure harvest is suspended if kangaroo numbers fall to unsustainable levels.
- e) The Department accepts the results of robust scientific methodology as described in the state kangaroo management plans.
- f) No, the state and territory governments are responsible for the collation and analysis of kangaroo population data.

- g) Kangaroo populations are estimated using robust scientific methodology, refined over decades of research and modification. All state management plans include trigger reference points to ensure that harvesting is suspended if unusual circumstances cause a decline in kangaroo numbers.

Year	Grey count	Cells	atcf	sumccount	cdens	cdens
1996	25	186	1.03	122.5	0.66	0.66
1999	58	194	1.05	286.2	1.48	1.50
2002	24	193	1.18	139.2	0.72	0.71
2005	14	188	1.00	67.2	0.36	0.36
2008	54	196	1.02	265.2	1.35	1.35
2011	132	196	1.15	779.8	3.98	3.73
2014	64	192	1.00	307.2	1.60	1.60

