



Kangaroos as an Economic Resource for Landholders: Some Views from Southwest Queensland in 1999

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Background to 1999 Qld Survey: The scientists' view

Kangaroos are:

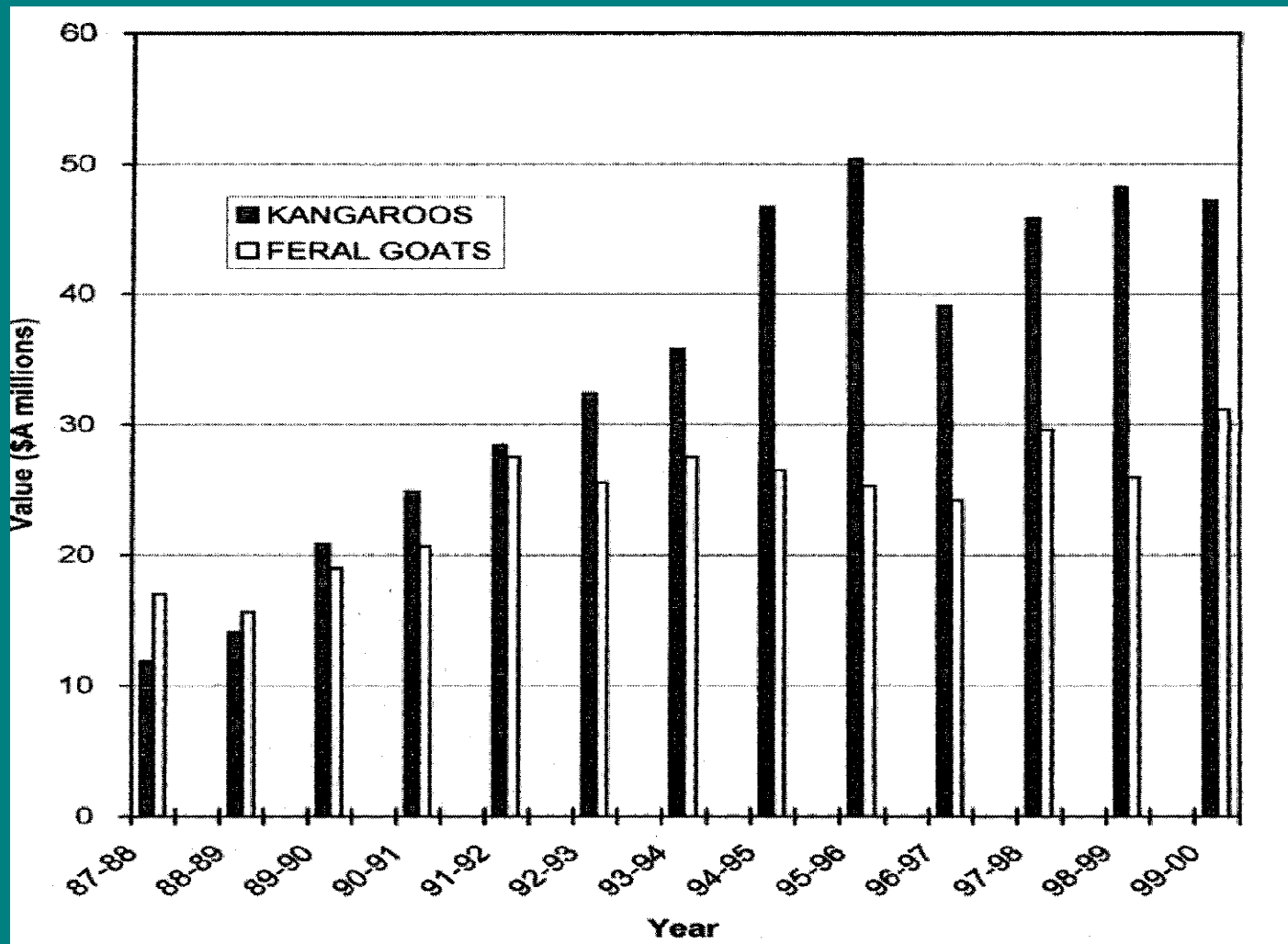
- Abundant
- Rangeland adapted
- Easier on the land
- Produce excellent meat and leather
- Culling sometimes needed
- Replace sheep with kangaroos?



Outcome?

- **By late 90's no real progress**
- **Contrast: increased grazier participation in the region's feral goat industry**
- **Why? Better goat prices and markets?**

Export price trends over decade preceding 1999 survey



Farm gate prices?

In 1999/2000

- **Kangaroos:** \$9-10 gross received at chiller for average kangaroo carcass
- **Feral Goats:** \$21-29 for 10-14 kg animals



Prices and Participation?

- Did these price differences *alone* account for lack of interest in kangaroos?
- State of wool industry in 1999



Ask the graziers (survey)

Question types:

- **Socio-economic**
- **Biological**
- **Administrative**



Socio-economic Factors

- Cooperative management issues?
- Economic benefits vs. costs?
- Attitudes to government regulation?
- Integration with current business?
- Land management issues?



Biological Factors

- Mobility of resources?
- Population fluctuations?
- Activity times?
- Group sizes?
- Knowledge of biology?



Administrative Factors

- Ownership of resource?
- Landholder management autonomy?
- Landholder management flexibility?
- Number of management levels?



Findings: three key factors

In order of importance:

1. Gov't control of kangaroos
2. Prices
3. Kangaroo industry opposition



1. Government control: kangaroos vs. feral goats

- Crown ownership of kangaroos *itself* not important
 - Rather impact on management autonomy and flexibility,
 - Need for shooters,
 - More management levels involved
- Compare above in relation to goats

2. Prices: low in 1999/2000

- Not an obstacle in *absolute* terms: low margins were main concern
- Grazier fee would cut into this margin
- Impact on shooters?



3. Opposition of kangaroo industry

- Understandable in Queensland context
- Few entry limitations (Cf NSW)
- Unlimited entry impacts upon “efficiency”?



Summing Up

- Did 1999 survey tell us anything new?
- Before 1999 few surveys on *landholder* views on these issues
- 1999 Qld. survey confirmed:
 - Yes, kangaroo prices important
 - *But* management issues more so
 - *And* industry support crucial

Reference

Chapman, M. 2003. Kangaroos and Feral Goats as Economic Resources for Graziers: Some Views from South-West Queensland.

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