



Future of **A**ustralia's **T**hreatened

Ecosystems / **B**arrier **A**rea

Rangecare **G**roup

FATE/BARG

Katrina Gepp

Research Coordinator

What is FATE

- FATE is a science strand of the University of New South Wales
- FATE investigates alternative forms of land use that combine production and conservation using native plants and animals
- FATE looks at a whole systems approach to achieve economical and ecologically sustainable development – leaving something for our kids but make a living ourselves

FATE projects

- Working with land holders in the Blue Mountains using forestry products as bio fuel for energy production – 60% households use it in Sweden and the Netherlands
- Investigating marketing strategies for domestic use of kangaroo meat – image, packaging, demographics, barriers, potential increased demand
- Working with landholders to trial greater involvement in the local kangaroo industry - the BARG/FATE project

BARG/FATE project

- FATE has been working with BARG landholders since 2004
- Rural Industries Research Development and Corporation (RIRDC) funding was obtained through a joint application with FATE, Western Catchment Management Authority (WCMA) and BARG to employ an on-ground coordinator
- The on-ground co-ordinator (me) was employed for five days a fortnight starting July 2006

The Project

- There are fifteen to twenty landholders interested in being involved with the project, an area of around 770,000 hectares
- Kangaroo supply averages over the last five years has been 20,000 head for these properties
- Initial meetings were held with processors, shooters and landholders to determine any issues – roo drives, shooters being charged, rogue elements and change
- A steering committee has been set up
- An Adaptive Management Trial proposal has been drawn up, focussing on the issue of cross property licences, being able to shoot on other properties under one licence

Monitoring

- Landscape Function Analysis (LFA) training was undertaken by nine landholders during 2006 and 2007. This a simple method of measuring how well the landscape can cope with stress
- Sites will be set up to provide base lines for the local landscape types to help with cross monitoring in conjunction with increased kangaroo management

The Project

- The trial proposal was submitted to the Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel for comment in February 2007 – there have been regular discussions in an effort for the cross property collaboration to go ahead – a lot of to-ing and fro-ing with questions and answers – what is the monitoring policy, how can outcomes be determined, what is the measure of success, who will administer tags, is there an exit clause?
- Monthly newsletters have gone out to all BARG, FATE and shooter stakeholders keeping everyone up to date with progress
- FATE has been approached by two processors to investigate how the group might be able to guarantee a supply of product

Where we are up to

- Advice from the Department of Environment Conservation and Climate change (DECC) regarding the trial guidelines is pending. There was an expectation from them that the trial would go ahead early this year.
- Ultimately the group would like to get permission to get a kangaroo harvest licence that will cover all of the project properties – rather than one licence per shooter per property
- The group will be considering the logistics of working under contract with processors, including the management of chillers, contract pricing and conditions and supply of product

Potential benefits of FATE

- More secure price structure – the price has dropped from \$1.25/kg to \$0.85 in the last three months
- A co-ordinated approach to kangaroo harvesting over a large area
- Being able to control an influx of kangaroos instantly, without having to wait for the processors of cross property tag issue and manage total grazing pressure
- Kangaroos being considered a viable income stream for landholders under contract with processors – rather than a pest