

VKA Priorities for Kangaroos	Animal Justice Party	Derryn Hinch's Justice Party	Reason Party	Sustainable Aus Party	Victorian Greens	Victorian Socialists
End commercial exploitation	Support	Support	Support	No position	Support	Support
End persecution via Authority to Control Wildlife permits	Support	Support	Support	No position	See Note 2	Support
Invest in non-lethal solutions to conflicts	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Conduct inquiry into treatment	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Strengthen penalties for cruelty	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Invest in wildlife ecotourism	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	No position
Increase support for rescue & rehabilitation	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Tighten planning controls to preserve habitat & corridors	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Utilise overpasses, underpasses & virtual fencing	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support

Note 1: The Liberal National Party and Victorian Labor did not respond to our survey. Both have overseen the commercial exploitation and non-commercial persecution of kangaroos during their time in office.

Note 2: Regarding ATCW the Greens responded "The Victorian Greens oppose the unsustainable commercial harvest of kangaroos. We also know that there is limited transparency around the operation of the ATCW permit system, and that it does little to assist the conservation of threatened species and may further exacerbate species decline. However we also know that in some instances kangaroo populations can pose a threat to endangered grasslands and ecosystems, and that some form of population management may be necessary for conservation purposes. We support a full review of the ATCW system and stricter regulation of the system to improve transparency and ensure that non-lethal and humane methods of population management are prioritised."

VKA disagrees with the premise that kangaroos damage grasslands. Studies show kangaroos are soft on soil (also fertilising soil with their dung and aerating it with their long claws), improve native grasslands, disperse seeds, and eat and drink far less than introduced herbivores (Eldridge, 2018; Grigg, 2002, Kobayashi, 2011). A CSIRO report analysing the relationship between vegetation condition and kangaroo density in the ACT concluded "this study could not identify any upper limit of kangaroo density beyond which vegetation richness, diversity and overall condition declines" (Vivian & Godfree, 2014). Case studies have shown properties thrive when kangaroo populations are left alone (Preuss, 2022; Taylor, 2021).

Note 3: We don't have the means to assess all the independent candidates in the various regions and districts. However, we wanted to highlight Marilyn Nuske, an independent candidate in the Bendigo West district who is standing on a platform of 'welfare and wildlife', including protecting kangaroos. <https://marilynnuske.com>