

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan I support the plan provided that it is expanded to include details about:

- the relevance of electric fencing to controlling Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the ACT; and
- the relationship between prescribed low intensity bushfires in the ACT and changes to kangaroo numbers.

Electric fences

Effective in excluding kangaroos - if the correct design is installed.

Low construction cost - advantage of electric fences over conventional fences is that animals avoid them and thus their construction does not have to be as robust.

Non-lethal control method - the community support the use of electric fences to exclude kangaroos because the animals do not have to be killed.

Multi-purpose - suitably designed electric fences can also exclude other pest species such as foxes and rabbits.

Sustainable - Solar power can be used for electric fencing.

(Reference: WA Dept of Environment & Conservation, Fauna Note No. 32)

Prescribed bushfires and kangaroo numbers

Some research indicates that low intensity and more frequent bushfires such as those initiated in the past by Aboriginals actually increases kangaroo populations.

[Reference: Human Ecology, 2014, 42, 5]

Could it be that the ACT's bushfire management plan through its objective of broad-area fuel reduction practices to establish and maintain fuel loads across the broader natural and rural landscape of the ACT is contributing to high levels of kangaroo numbers?

I don't believe we know the answer to this question and therefore, I'm of opinion that section 5 of the plan should include a new sub-section that highlights the connection between 'managing environmental impacts of kangaroos in grassy ecosystems' and 'bushfire management' in the ACT.