

Attitudes of ACT Residents towards Kangaroos and Kangaroo Management

Resident Research

A research report prepared for

ACT Government

December 2008



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- A. Q7a. Reasons for respondents' opinions regarding the killing of kangaroos
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Background

Amidst concern about the impact of kangaroo grazing on lowland native grasslands and threatened species, the ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope announced in August 2007 that plans would be developed for the management of such impacts.

The Draft ACT Kangaroo Management Plan (currently being completed) sets out policies for the long-term management of kangaroo environmental, economic and social impacts in the ACT, regardless of land tenure.

To assist in informing the Kangaroo Management Plan, Micromex Research was contracted to conduct a community survey. The objectives of the survey included:

- To understand attitudes of ACT residents towards kangaroos and kangaroo management in the ACT
- To establish baseline information on community attitudes to kangaroos and kangaroo management to build on in the future

Methodology

Data collection

Micromex Research, together with the ACT Government working party, developed the questionnaire.

A copy of the questionnaire is provided in Appendix C.

Data collection period

The survey was conducted during the period 6th December to 9th December, 2008 from 4:30pm to 8:30pm, Monday to Thursday and 10:00am to 4:00pm Saturday.

Survey area

ACT Government Area.

Sample selection and error

The sample consisted of a total of 600 residents. The selection of respondents was by means of a computer based random selection process using the electronic White Pages.

A sample size of 600 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 3.99% at 95% confidence.

The sample was determined so as to achieve adequate and proportional responses from the local community.

Participants

Individuals in the household, 18 years or older, were selected using the 'last birthday' selection procedure.

If the person was not at home, the call-backs were scheduled for a later time. Unanswered calls were retried to a maximum of three times throughout the period of the survey.

On completion of the survey, additional interviews were conducted where certain sections were underrepresented. A quota sampling procedure was used to eliminate the need for heavily weighting the research.

The compliance rate achieved was 62%, which represents a good cross section of the community and provides a sound basis for gauging community opinion.

Methodology (Cont'd)

Interviewing

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with IQCA (Interviewer Quality Control Australia) Standards and the Market Research Society Code of Professional Conduct.

Where applicable, the issues in each question were systematically rearranged for each respondent.

Prequalification

Participants in this survey were pre-qualified as having lived in the ACT Government area for a minimum of six months.

Data analysis

The data within this report was analysed using SPSS V15 and SPSS Text Analysis.

Errors: Data in this publication is subject to sampling variability because it is based on information relating to a sample of residents rather than the total number. This difference (sampling error) may occur due to imperfections in reporting and errors made in processing the data. This may occur in any enumeration, whether it is a full count or sample.

Efforts have been made to reduce the non-sampling error by careful design of the questionnaire and detailed checking of completed questionnaires.

Key Findings

The risk of hitting a kangaroo whilst driving a motor vehicle on ACT roads

- Overall, respondents rated the risk of hitting a kangaroo whilst driving a motor vehicle on ACT roads moderately highly
- 11% rated the risk as 'very high', 32% 'high', 34% 'low' and 11% 'very low'

Motor vehicle and kangaroo collisions

- 95% of respondents had owned a vehicle that was driven in the ACT
- Of the respondents who had owned a vehicle that was driven in the ACT, 17% stated that a vehicle they had owned had hit a kangaroo on an ACT road

Of the respondents whose vehicle had hit a kangaroo:

- 55% stated that this resulted in an insurance repair bill for their vehicle (9% of all motor vehicle owners)
- 44% stated that this resulted in death or serious injury to the kangaroo (7% of all motor vehicle owners)
- 2% stated that this resulted in an injury to occupants of the vehicle (0.3% of all motor vehicle owners)

Support for kangaroo culling to keep the grass for sheep or cattle

- Overall, respondents' support for kangaroo culling was moderately high
- 23% of respondents stated that they were 'very supportive' and 34% 'supportive', 13% were 'not very supportive' and 7% 'not at all supportive'
- A high percentage of respondents (23%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to kangaroo culling

Support for kangaroo culling to reduce motor vehicle collisions

- Overall, respondents' support for kangaroo culling to assist in reducing motor vehicle collisions in Canberra was moderately high
- 17% of respondents stated that they were 'very supportive' and 35% 'supportive', 19% were 'not very supportive' and 8% 'not at all supportive'
- A high percentage of respondents (22%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to kangaroo culling to assist in reducing motor vehicle collisions in Canberra

Support for kangaroo culling to conserve native grasslands

- Overall, respondents' support for kangaroo culling to assist in the conservation of native grasslands was moderately high
- 18% of respondents stated that they were 'very supportive' and 41% 'supportive', 13% were 'not very supportive' and 6% 'not at all supportive'
- A high percentage of respondents (22%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to kangaroo culling to assist in the conservation of native grasslands

Key Findings (Cont'd)

Support for the commercial harvesting of kangaroos

- Overall, respondents' support for the introduction of commercial harvesting of kangaroos in the ACT for their meat or leather was moderately high
- 17% of respondents stated that they were 'very supportive' and 36% 'supportive', 16% were 'not very supportive' and 10% 'not at all supportive'
- A high percentage of respondents (22%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to the introduction of commercial harvesting of kangaroos in the ACT for their meat or leather

General opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos

In this prompted question respondents were asked which of three statements best described their opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos.

- 76% of respondents chose the statement, 'I believe that the killing of kangaroos is appropriate under certain circumstances'
- 19% of respondents chose the statement, 'I am unsure about this subject'
- 6% of respondents chose the statement, 'I am against the killing of kangaroos under any circumstances'

Belief in the Grassland Scientists scenario

In this prompted question respondents were read a specific scenario and asked how likely, or unlikely, they believed the scenario to be. The scenario read to respondents was; 'Grassland Scientists have stated that kangaroos can eat the grass down to such a low level that the smaller native animals that need the grass for habitat are greatly reduced in numbers'.

- Overall, respondents' belief in this scenario was moderately high
- 13% of respondents stated that they believed this scenario to be 'highly likely' and 36% 'likely'. 11% stated that they believed this scenario to be 'unlikely' and 2% 'highly unlikely'
- A very high percentage of respondents (38%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to this scenario

Places residents take visitors to specifically see kangaroos in the wild

- 75% of respondents stated that, other than the zoo, they would take visitors to specifically see kangaroos 'in the wild'
- Of the preferred locations, 23% of total respondents stated they would take visitors to Tidbinbilla, 10% would take visitors to Red Hill and 7% would take visitors to Government House

Importance of having native kangaroos in the ACT

- Overall, respondents believed that it was important to have native kangaroos in the ACT
- 32% of respondents stated that it was 'very important' and 50% 'important'. 7% stated that it was 'unimportant' and 2% 'very unimportant'
- 10% of respondents stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to the importance of having native kangaroos in the ACT

Key Findings (Cont'd)

Opinion on the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT

In this prompted question respondents were read 5 specific statements comparing the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT to that of NSW.

- A very high percentage of respondents (44%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to this question
- 22% of respondents stated that they believed the ACT has a 'higher' or 'much higher' concentration of kangaroos. This represents 39% of all respondents who were able to provide an answer
- 27% of respondents stated that they believed the concentration of kangaroos is 'about the same'. This represents 48% of all respondents who were able to provide an answer
- 7% of respondents stated that they believed the ACT has a 'lower' or 'much lower' concentration of kangaroos. This represents 13% of all respondents who were able to provide an answer

Knowledge of the species of kangaroos and wallabies living naturally in the ACT

In this prompted question respondents were asked which of the 8 species named live naturally in the ACT.

- 26% of the respondents didn't know any of the specific species
- 73% of respondents correctly identified that the Eastern Grey Kangaroo lived naturally in the ACT
- 25% of respondents correctly identified that the Common Wallaroo lived naturally in the ACT
- 16% of respondents correctly identified that the Swamp Wallaby lived naturally in the ACT
- 8% of respondents correctly identified that the Red-necked Wallaby lived naturally in the ACT

Satisfaction with the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos

- Overall, respondents' satisfaction with the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos was moderately high
- 2% of respondents stated that they were 'very satisfied' and 33% 'satisfied', 15% were 'dissatisfied' and 4% 'very dissatisfied'
- A very high percentage of respondents (47%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos

General comments regarding the management of kangaroos in the ACT

There were 239 general comments made with regards to the ACT Government's management of kangaroos, with the key themes being:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Support for the culling of kangaroos | 33% |
| • The ACT Government's role in kangaroo management | 20% |
| • Lack of support for the culling of kangaroos | 11% |
| • Kangaroos on local roads | 8% |

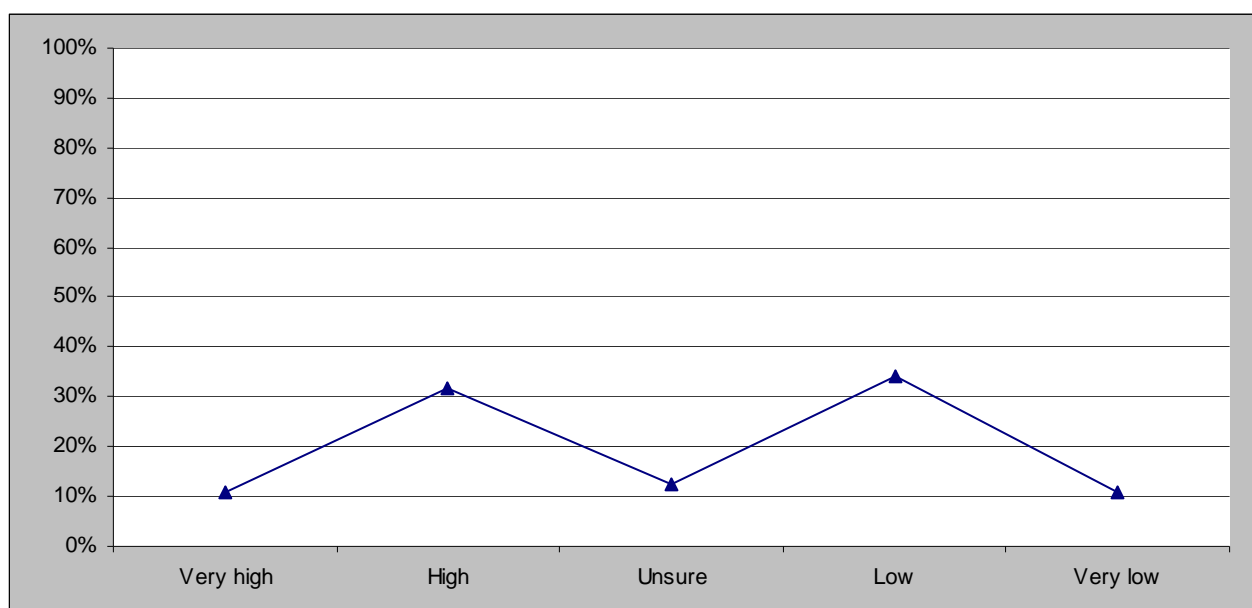
Results

Q1. How would you rate the risk of hitting a kangaroo whilst driving a motor vehicle on ACT roads?

- Overall, respondents rated the risk of hitting a kangaroo whilst driving a motor vehicle on ACT roads moderately highly
- 11% rated the risk as 'very high', 32% 'high', 34% 'low' and 11% 'very low'

Mean rating 2.97

Mean ratings: 1 = very low, 5 = very high



	Count	Column N %
Very high	65	10.8%
High	190	31.7%
Unsure	74	12.3%
Low	206	34.3%
Very low	65	10.8%
Total	600	100.0%

Q2a. Have you ever owned a vehicle that was driven in the ACT?

- 95% of respondents had owned a vehicle that was driven in the ACT

	Count	Column N %
Yes	569	94.8%
No	31	5.2%
Total	600	100.0%

Q2b. Has a vehicle that you have ever owned hit a kangaroo on an ACT road?

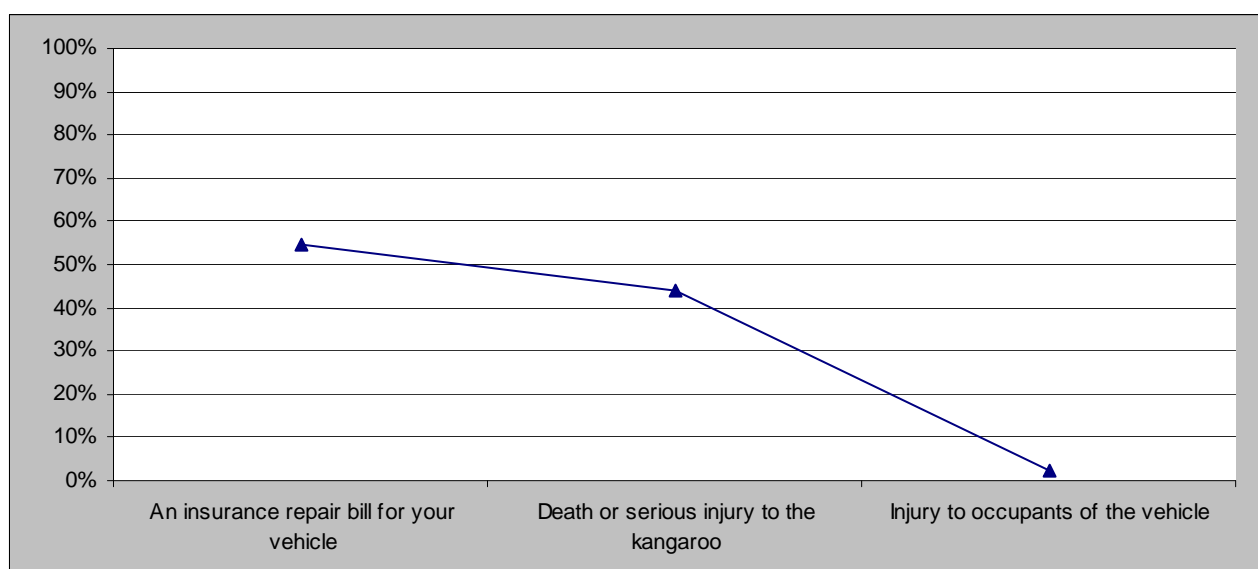
- Of the respondents who had owned a vehicle that was driven in the ACT, 17% stated that a vehicle they had owned had hit a kangaroo on an ACT road

	Count	Column N %
Yes	95	16.7%
No	474	83.3%
Total	569	100.0%

Q2c. Did this result in any of the following?

Of the respondents whose vehicle had hit a kangaroo:

- 55% stated that this resulted in an insurance repair bill for their vehicle (9% of all motor vehicle owners)
- 44% stated that this resulted in death or serious injury to the kangaroo (7% of all motor vehicle owners)
- 2% stated that this resulted in an injury to occupants of the vehicle (0.3% of all motor vehicle owners)



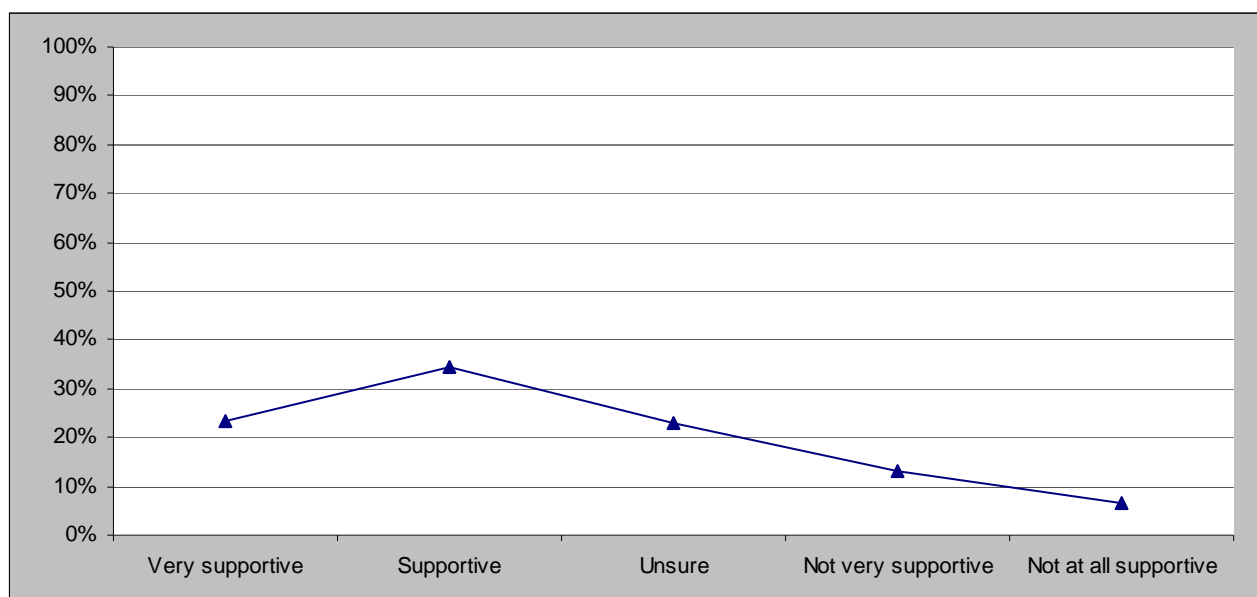
	Count	Column N %
An insurance repair bill for your vehicle	52	54.7%
Death or serious injury to the kangaroo	42	44.2%
Injury to occupants of the vehicle	2	2.1%
None of these	31	32.6%
Total	95	100.0%

Q3. Kangaroo shooting is undertaken in rural Australia, including the ACT, to keep the grass for sheep and cattle. Can you please rate how supportive, or unsupportive, you are of this culling?

- Overall, respondents' support for kangaroo culling was moderately high
- 23% of respondents stated that they were 'very supportive' and 34% 'supportive', 13% were 'not very supportive' and 7% 'not at all supportive'
- A high percentage of respondents (23%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to kangaroo culling

Mean rating 3.55

Mean ratings: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive



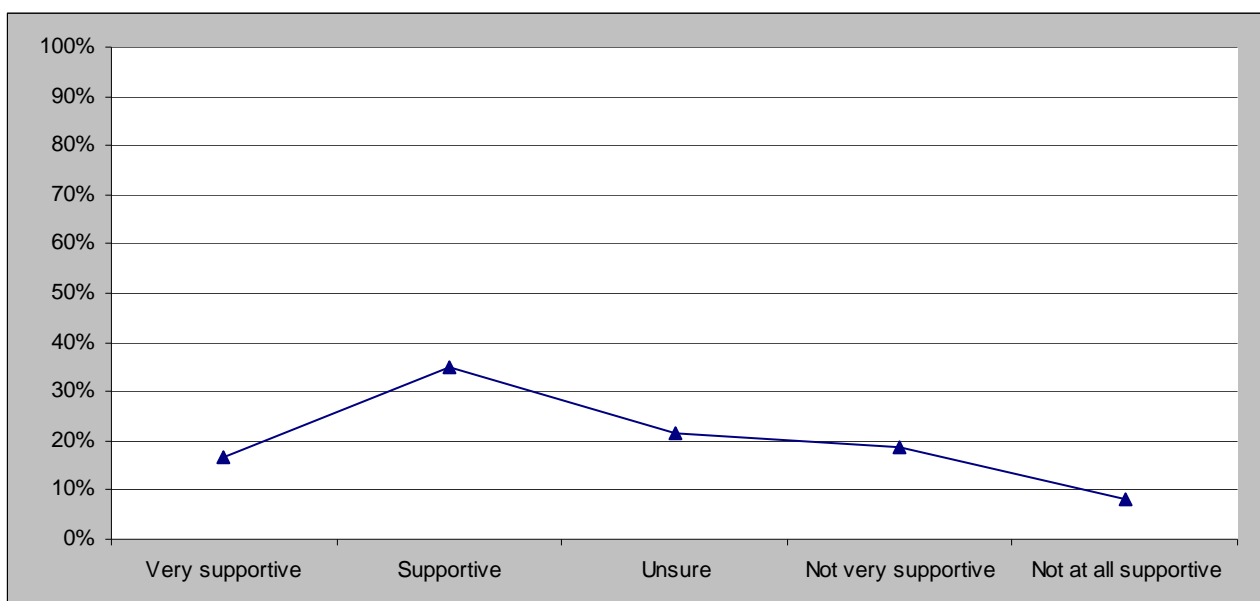
	Count	Column N %
Very supportive	139	23.2%
Supportive	206	34.3%
Unsure	138	23.0%
Not very supportive	78	13.0%
Not at all supportive	39	6.5%
Total	600	100.0%

Q4. If there was a decision to cull kangaroos to assist in reducing motor vehicle collisions in Canberra, how supportive, or unsupportive, would you be of this culling?

- Overall, respondents support for kangaroo culling to assist in reducing motor vehicle collisions in Canberra was moderately high
- 17% of respondents' stated that they were 'very supportive' and 35% 'supportive', 19% were 'not very supportive' and 8% 'not at all supportive'
- A high percentage of respondents (22%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to kangaroo culling to assist in reducing motor vehicle collisions in Canberra

Mean rating 3.34

Mean ratings: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive



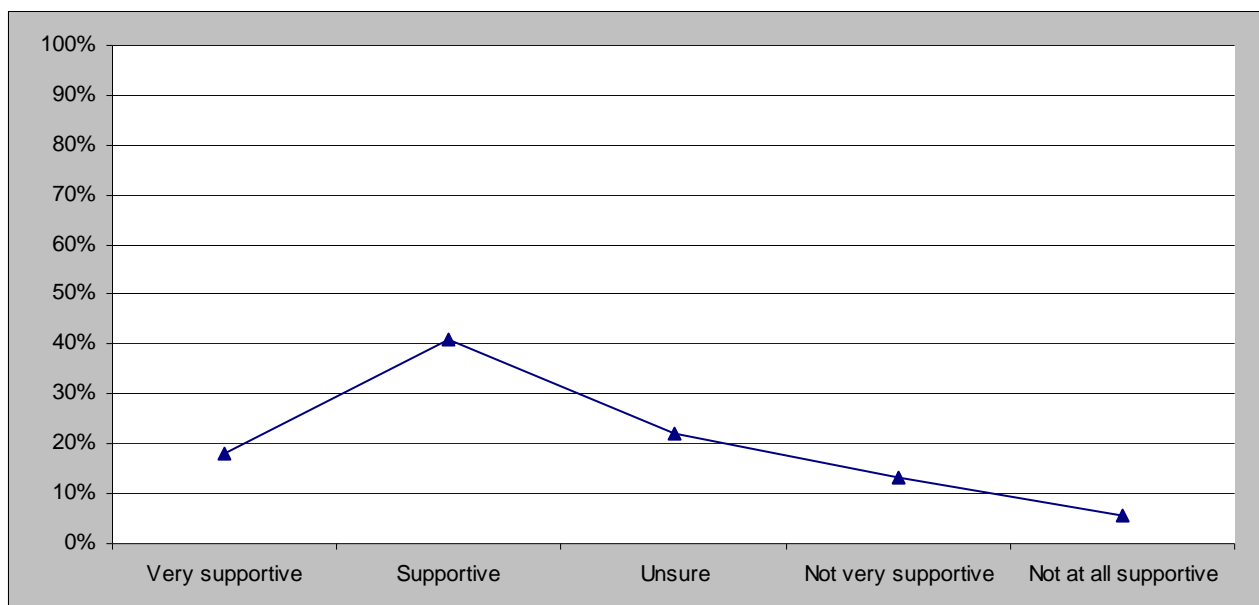
	Count	Column N %
Very supportive	101	16.8%
Supportive	209	34.8%
Unsure	130	21.7%
Not very supportive	111	18.5%
Not at all supportive	49	8.2%
Total	600	100.0%

Q5. If there was a decision to cull kangaroos for conservation of native grasslands, how supportive, or unsupportive, would you be of this culling?

- Overall, respondents' support for kangaroo culling to assist in the conservation of native grasslands was moderately high
- 18% of respondents stated that they were 'very supportive' and 41% 'supportive', 13% were 'not very supportive' and 6% 'not at all supportive'
- A high percentage of respondents (22%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to kangaroo culling to assist in the conservation of native grasslands

Mean rating 3.53

Mean ratings: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive



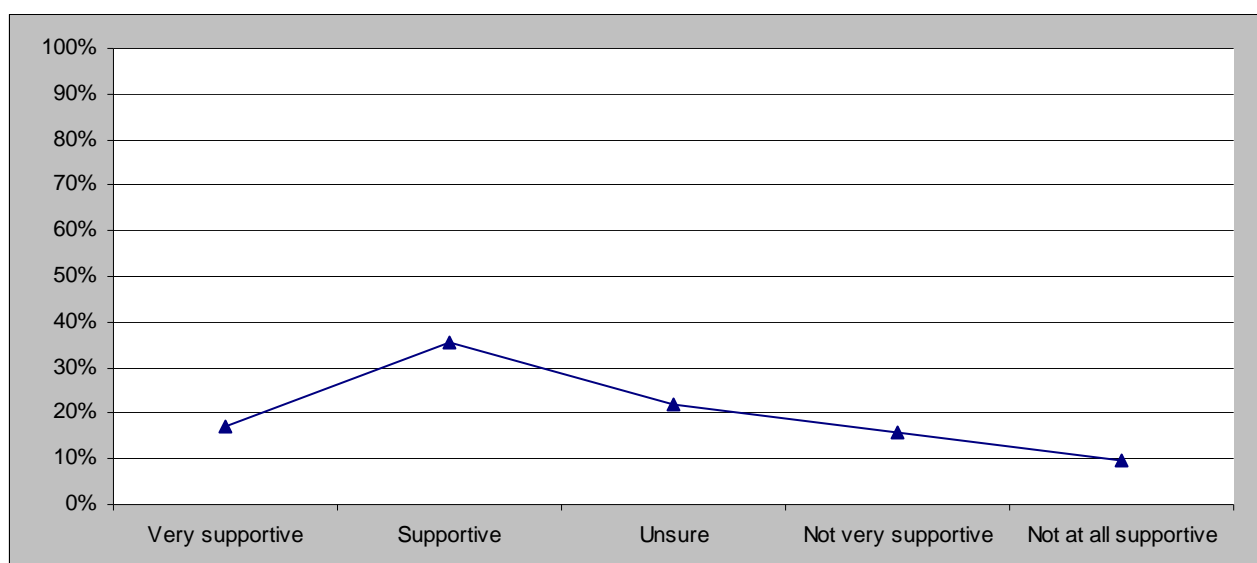
	Count	Column N %
Very supportive	109	18.2%
Supportive	246	41.0%
Unsure	133	22.2%
Not very supportive	79	13.2%
Not at all supportive	33	5.5%
Total	600	100.0%

Q6. How supportive, or unsupportive, would you be of the introduction of commercial harvesting of kangaroos in the ACT for their meat or leather?

- Overall, respondents' support for the introduction of commercial harvesting of kangaroos in the ACT for their meat or leather was moderately high
- 17% of respondents stated that they were 'very supportive' and 36% 'supportive', 16% were 'not very supportive' and 10% 'not at all supportive'
- A high percentage of respondents (22%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to the introduction of commercial harvesting of kangaroos in the ACT for their meat or leather

Mean rating 3.36

Mean ratings: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

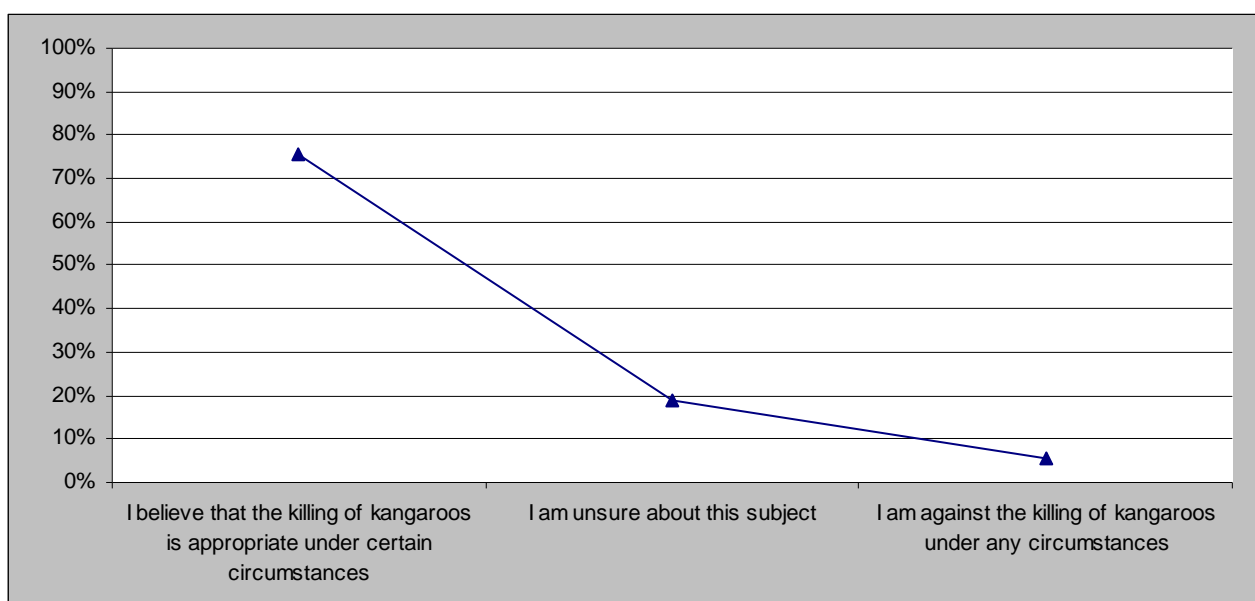


	Count	Column N %
Very supportive	104	17.3%
Supportive	214	35.7%
Unsure	131	21.8%
Not very supportive	94	15.7%
Not at all supportive	57	9.5%
Total	600	100.0%

Q7a. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos?

In this prompted question respondents were asked which of three statements best described their opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos.

- 76% of respondents chose the statement, 'I believe that the killing of kangaroos is appropriate under certain circumstances'
- 19% of respondents chose the statement, 'I am unsure about this subject'
- 6% of respondents chose the statement, 'I am against the killing of kangaroos under any circumstances'



	Count	Column N %
I believe that the killing of kangaroos is appropriate under certain circumstances	454	75.7%
I am unsure about this subject	112	18.7%
I am against the killing of kangaroos under any circumstances	34	5.7%
Total	600	100.0%

Q7b. May I ask why?

Responses to the statement:

'I am against the killing of kangaroos under any circumstances'

- There were 35 responses to this question, with 'I don't believe in killing any animal' the most prominent response

Responses to the statement:

'I believe the killing of kangaroos is appropriate under certain circumstances'

	Count	Column N %
If the kangaroo population is too great, culling is acceptable	161	35.5%
Culling for commercial reasons is acceptable	46	10.1%
Culling is acceptable when it will improve the safety of humans	43	9.5%
Culling is acceptable for environmental reasons	39	8.6%
Culling is acceptable if it is to better the welfare of the kangaroo population	38	8.4%
Kangaroos are pests	24	5.3%
Kangaroos should be culled if they cause damage	24	5.3%
Depending on the circumstance some culling is acceptable	23	5.1%
Culling is acceptable if it creates a better balance between the kangaroo population and the community	22	4.8%
Culling is acceptable if it is undertaken humanely and professionally	15	3.3%
Other	34	7.5%
Total	454	100.0%

Please see Appendix A for a detailed list

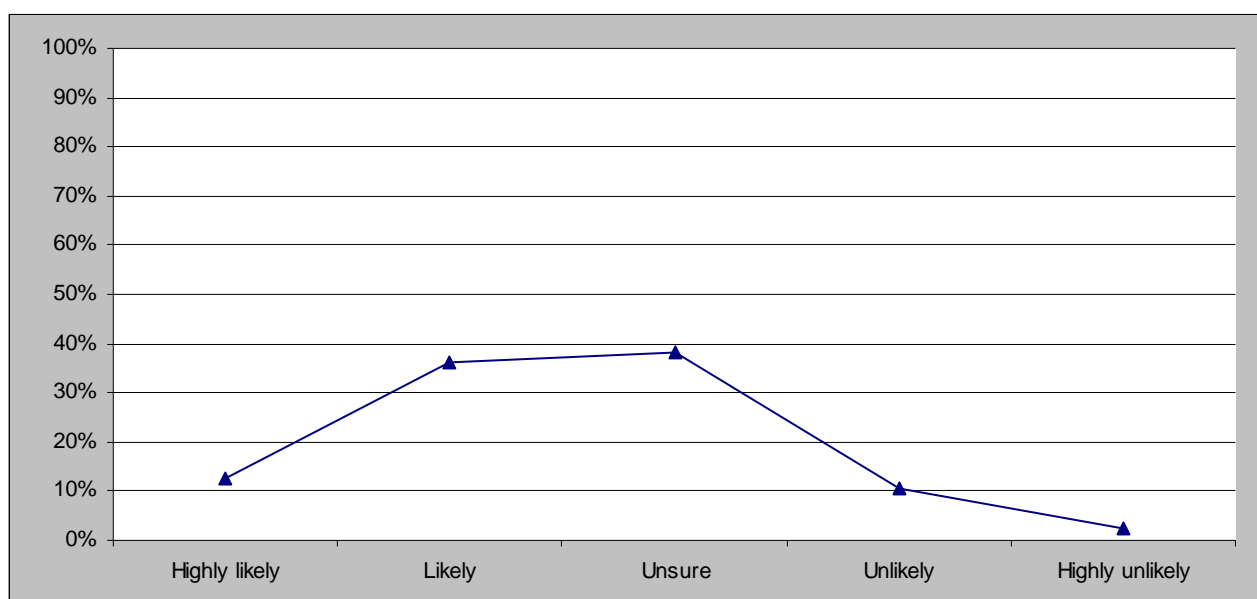
Q8. Grassland Scientists have stated that kangaroos can eat the grass down to such a low level that the smaller native animals that need the grass for habitat are greatly reduced in numbers. Do you believe that this scenario is:

In this prompted question respondents were read a specific scenario and asked how likely, or unlikely, they believe the scenario to be. The scenario read to respondents was; 'Grassland Scientists have stated that kangaroos can eat the grass down to such a low level that the smaller native animals that need the grass for habitat are greatly reduced in numbers'.

- Overall, respondents' belief in this scenario was moderately high
- 13% of respondents stated that they believed this scenario to be 'highly likely' and 36% 'likely'. 11% stated that they believed this scenario to be 'unlikely' and 2% 'highly unlikely'
- A very high percentage of respondents (38%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to this scenario

Mean rating 3.46

Mean ratings: 1 = highly unlikely, 5 = highly likely



	Count	Column N %
Highly likely	75	12.5%
Likely	218	36.3%
Unsure	229	38.2%
Unlikely	64	10.7%
Highly unlikely	14	2.3%
Total	600	100.0%

Q9a. Other than at the zoo, are there any places in the ACT that you would take visitors to specifically see kangaroos in the wild?

- 75% of respondents stated that, other than the zoo, they would take visitors to specifically see kangaroos 'in the wild'
- Of the preferred locations, 23% of total respondents stated they would take visitors to Tidbinbilla, 10% would take visitors to Red Hill and 7% would take visitors to Government House

	Count	Column N %
Yes	451	75.2%
No	149	24.8%
Total	600	100.0%

Q9b. (If yes), may I ask where?

Tidbinbilla	137	Yarralumla Park	3
Red Hill	57	Behind the Department of Defence	2
Government House	43	Behind the War Memorial	2
Weston Park	38	Deakin	2
Royal Canberra Golf Course	41	Farrer Ridge	2
Federal Golf Club	24	Hawker	2
Near my home	17	Highway	2
Golf course	16	Isaacs grasslands	2
All national parks and reserves	15	Mt. Majura	2
Mt. Ainslie	14	Oakey Hill	2
All areas	13	Rubbish tip	2
Campbell Park	12	All roads around Tuggeranong Valley	1
Cotter Road	11	Along the rivers	1
Namadgi National Park	11	Athllon Drive	2
Mt. Taylor	10	Any open area	1
Black Mountain	8	Any paddocks in the ACT	1
Tuggeranong	7	Anywhere in southern ACT	1
Orroral Valley	6	Anywhere there is expansive grassland	1
Cotter Dam	4	Aranda	1
Cotter River	4	Around the rivers and local parks	1
Weston Creek	4	Behind the school at Mawson	1
Airport Road	3	Birrigai	1
Fadden Pines	3	Black Mountain	1
Parliament House	3	Brindabellas	1
Pine Island	3	Burra	1
		Callum Brae	1

Continued on the following page

Q9a. Other than at the zoo, are there any places in the ACT that you would take visitors to specifically see kangaroos in the wild?

Q9b. (If yes), may I ask where? (Cont'd)

Captain's Flat Road	1	Near the lake	1
Children's parks	1	Nicholls	1
Corin Forest	1	O'Connor Ridge	1
Copper Bend?	1	O'Malley	1
Gudgenby Station	2	Opposite the Mint in Curtin	1
Curtin Ridge	1	Outside of the Canberra area	1
Duntroon	1	Ovals in Lyneham	1
Erindale Drive	1	Paddocks beside my house in Palmerston	1
Fyshwick	1	Parks in Curtin	1
Garran	1	Parkway	1
Honeysuckle Creek	1	Point at Yarralumla	1
Horse paddocks in Weston Creek	1	Russell	1
Hughes	1	South of Tharwa	1
Hyperdome	1	Stirling Ridge	1
Jerrabomberra	1	The back of the Telstra office in Deakin	1
Lake George	1	The back of Tuggeranong office park	1
Long Gully Road	1	The entrance to the international BMX track near Uriarra	1
Macarthur	1	The outskirts of any town	1
Majura Road	1	The road that turns into Jerrabomberra	1
Monaro Highway	2	The rubbish tip near Monaro	1
Namadgi National Park	1	Wanniassa	1
Majura Lane	1	Watson grasslands	1
Molonglo River	1	Weston Creek across the road from the RSPCA	1
Mt. McDonald	1	Williamsdale	1
Mt. Neighbour	1	Yamba Drive	1
Mt. Stromlo	1	Yarralumla (Lake Burley Griffin)	1
Near the foreshore	1	Yarralumla Ridge	1

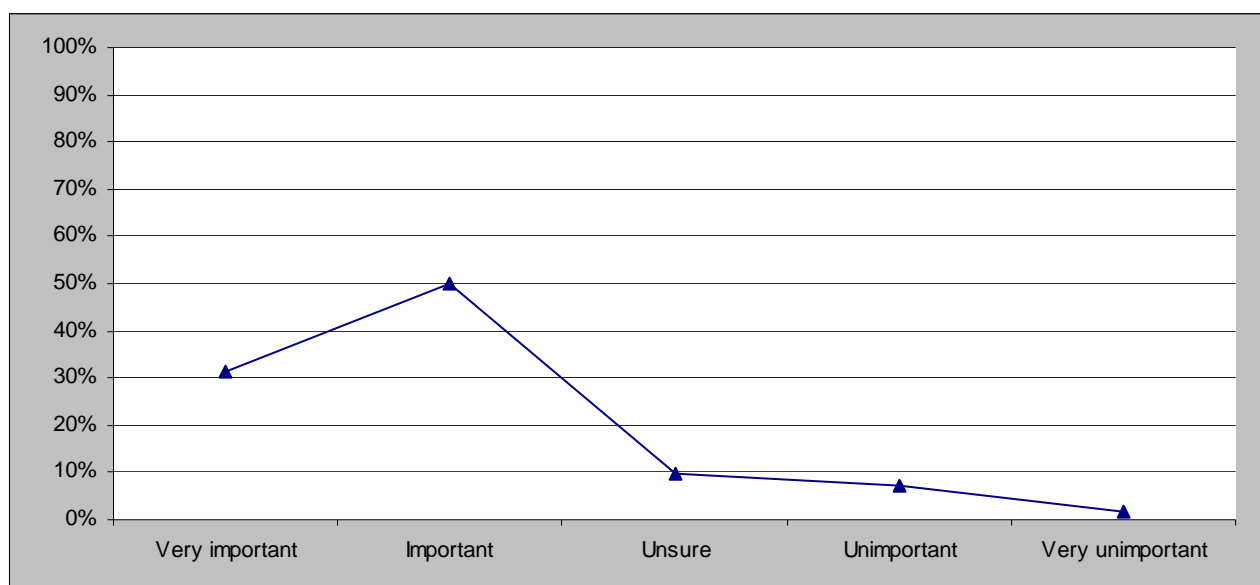
Nb: Some respondents gave more than one answer whilst others did not comment

Q10. How important do you believe it is to have native kangaroos in the ACT?

- Overall, respondents believed that what is important to have native kangaroos in the ACT
- 32% of respondents stated that it was 'very important' and 50% 'important'. 7% stated that it was 'unimportant' and 2% 'very unimportant'
- 10% of respondents stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to the importance of having native kangaroos in the ACT

Mean rating 4.03

Mean ratings: 1 = very unimportant, 5 = very important

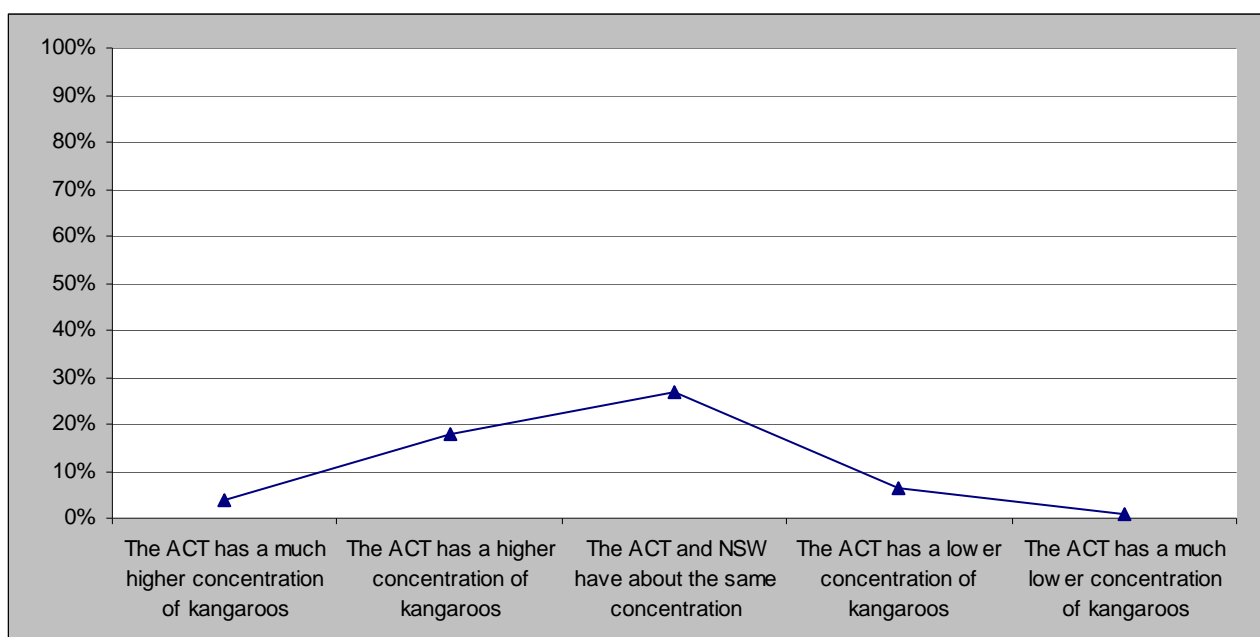


	Count	Column N %
Very important	189	31.5%
Important	301	50.2%
Unsure	59	9.8%
Unimportant	42	7.0%
Very unimportant	9	1.5%
Total	600	100.0%

Q11. Compared to NSW, which of the following would best describe the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT?

In this prompted question respondents were read 5 specific statements comparing the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT to that of NSW.

- A very high percentage of respondents (44%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to this question
- 22% of respondents stated that they believed the ACT has a 'higher' or 'much higher' concentration of kangaroos. This represents 39% of all respondents who were able to provide an answer
- 27% of respondents stated that they believed the concentration of kangaroos is 'about the same'. This represents 48% of all respondents who were able to provide an answer
- 7% of respondents stated that they believed the ACT has a 'lower' or 'much lower' concentration of kangaroos. This represents 13% of all respondents who were able to provide an answer

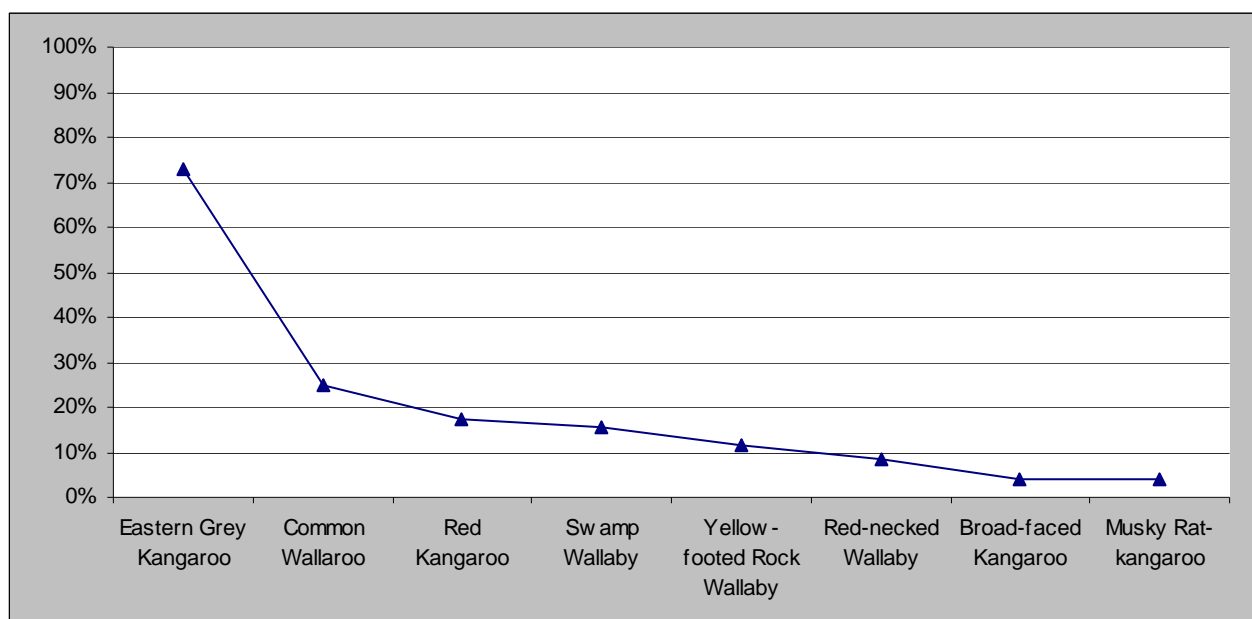


	Count	Column N %
The ACT has a much higher concentration of kangaroos	24	4.0%
The ACT has a higher concentration of kangaroos	107	17.8%
The ACT and NSW have about the same concentration	162	27.0%
The ACT has a lower concentration of kangaroos	39	6.5%
The ACT has a much lower concentration of kangaroos	4	.7%
Don't know	264	44.0%
Total	600	100.0%

Q12. Do you know which of the following species of kangaroos and wallabies live naturally in the ACT?

In this prompted question respondents were asked which of the 8 species named live naturally in the ACT.

- 26% of the respondents didn't know any of the specific species
- 73% of respondents correctly identified that the Eastern Grey Kangaroo lived naturally in the ACT
- 25% of respondents correctly identified that the Common Wallaroo lived naturally in the ACT
- 16% of respondents correctly identified that the Swamp Wallaby lived naturally in the ACT
- 8% of respondents correctly identified that the Red-necked Wallaby lived naturally in the ACT



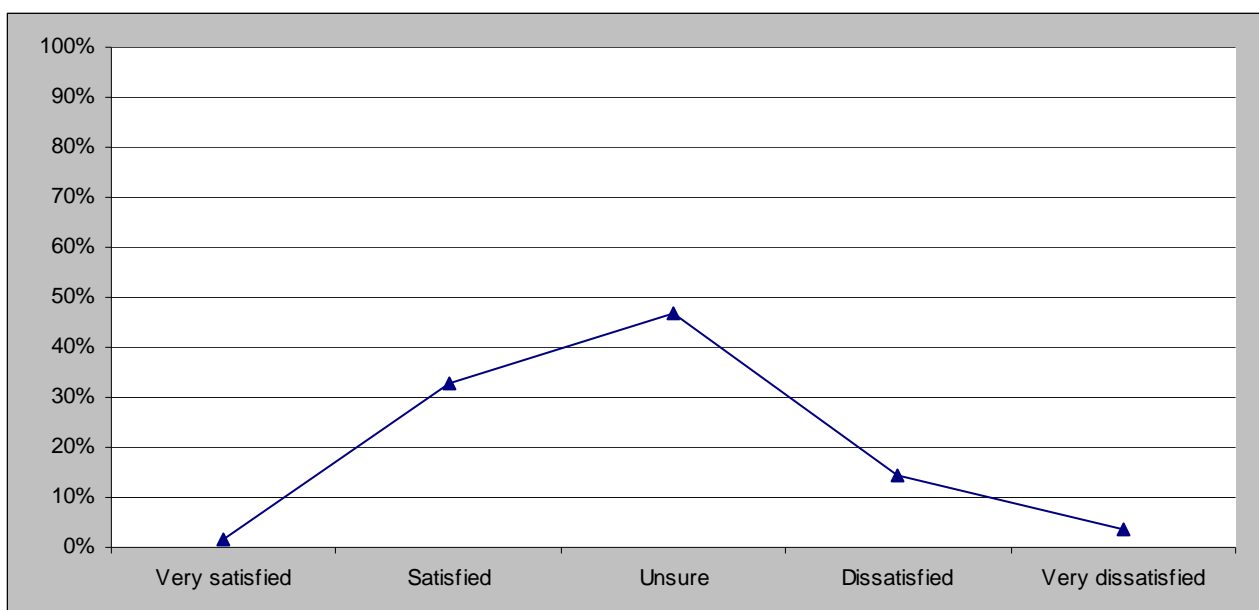
	Count	Column N %
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	438	73.0%
Common Wallaroo	149	24.8%
Red Kangaroo	105	17.5%
Swamp Wallaby	93	15.5%
Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby	70	11.7%
Red-necked Wallaby	50	8.3%
Broad-faced Kangaroo	25	4.2%
Musky Rat-kangaroo	23	3.8%
Don't know any of the specific species	153	25.5%
Total	600	100.0%

Q13. How satisfied are you with the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos?

- Overall, respondents' satisfaction with the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos was moderately high
- 2% of respondents stated that they were 'very satisfied' and 33% 'satisfied', 15% were 'dissatisfied' and 4% 'very dissatisfied'
- A very high percentage of respondents (47%) stated that they were 'unsure' with regards to the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos

Mean rating 3.15

Mean ratings: 1 = very dissatisfied, 5 = very satisfied



	Count	Column N %
Very satisfied	11	1.8%
Satisfied	198	33.0%
Unsure	281	46.8%
Dissatisfied	87	14.5%
Very dissatisfied	23	3.8%
Total	600	100.0%

Q14. Do you have any comments you wish to make regarding the management of kangaroos in the ACT?

Key comment themes	Count	Column N %
I am supportive of the culling of kangaroos	79	33.1%
The ACT Government's role in kangaroo management	47	19.7%
I am not supportive of the culling of kangaroos	27	11.3%
Kangaroos on local roads	20	8.4%
Kangaroo management is a very emotive issue and is influenced by community groups	14	5.9%
The community needs more information regarding kangaroo management	11	4.6%
Other comments	28	11.7%
Total responses	239	100.0%

Please see Appendix B for a detailed list

Appendix A

Q7a. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos?

Q7b. May I ask why?

I am against the killing of kangaroos under any circumstances	35
• I don't believe in killing any animal	3
• Kangaroos have a right to live	3
• Culling is a cruel activity	2
• Kangaroos do not need to be killed to solve the problem	2
• Animals are a part of nature	1
• Animals have the right to live, just as much as we do	1
• As a liberal humanist I believe they should not be killed	1
• As kangaroos are our national emblem I believe that we should learn to live together and not just use them for our benefit	1
• Enjoy seeing the kangaroos	1
• Humans have overpopulated the area and it is not the kangaroo's fault	1
• I am an animal lover, they were here first so we shouldn't be killing them	1
• I am an animal person and can't bear to see animals killed	1
• I am unsure why kangaroos have to be culled	1
• I love animals	1
• I think that there are better ways of managing the problem	1
• I used to slaughter them and now don't think they should be killed	1
• It is inappropriate to kill an animal to benefit another animal or person	1
• It is just not right	1
• It's inhumane to kill the kangaroos as they are our national symbol	1
• Kangaroos are a good tourist attraction	1
• Kangaroos are a native animal and shouldn't be killed as they were here before us	1
• Kangaroos inhabited the area before humans	1
• Life is precious	1
• Not appropriate	1
• There is not a large enough reason to cull native animals	1
• They are a living animal	1
• They are an Australian animal and they should be cared for	1
• We should try to relocate them as they are native wildlife	1
• We should use the kangaroos to get grasses down in areas needed	1

Continued on the following page

Q7a. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos?

Q7b. May I ask why?

I believe the killing of kangaroos is appropriate under certain circumstances	469
If the kangaroo population is too great, culling is acceptable	161
• If there is an over population, culling is acceptable	135
• They breed too fast	4
• It is necessary to avoid overpopulation for the sake of our environment	2
• Kangaroos are not endangered and there are too many at the moment	2
• Culling to reduce numbers is acceptable but harvesting is simply breeding for commercial reasons	1
• It is appropriate as kangaroos don't have a natural predator	1
• Kangaroos will become a serious problem if there become too many of them	1
• Number of kangaroos is too great, especially during a drought	1
• Numbers have increased significantly due to the growth of the landscape	1
• Shouldn't shoot kangaroos as a sport but for a reason, such as overpopulation	1
• The kangaroo population is too great. They have to be controlled either by killing or moving them on	1
• The kangaroo population is too large so we should be managing this for the sake of other species	1
• There are too many kangaroos and they have no natural predators	1
• There are too many of them and they are a hazard	1
• They are coming in closer to the city as there are too many of them	1
• They can become overpopulated and risk the environment	1
• They can turn into a pest if the numbers are too high	1
• They need to be culled when the numbers get too high, to protect the grasslands	1
• They run wild and breed too much	1
• They shouldn't be allowed to overpopulate and overrun Canberra	1
• To keep numbers under control and use as a resource	1
• To maintain the number of kangaroos in a controlled situation	1
Culling for commercial reasons is acceptable	46
• They should be culled and used commercially for their meat and leather	24
• As much as the kangaroos are an Australian native, we should still utilise them for meat and other things as we do with cattle and sheep	3
• If culled, kangaroos should be used for their meat as it is better for us and they breed quickly	2
• If they were culled it would be better if their meat could be used	2
• Kangaroo meat is better eating than beef	2
• Kangaroos have such a large population and could be harvested	2
• The lean meat of the kangaroo is better for humans	2
• They can be used as a great resource for meat and fur	2
• Culling is another avenue for meat production	1

Continued on the following page

Q7a. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos?

Q7b. May I ask why?

Culling for commercial reasons is acceptable (Cont'd)	
• Kangaroos should be farmed	1
• Raising kangaroos for meat is very beneficial	1
• The numbers are not under threat and they are a good resource like cattle and sheep	1
• There is a place for the commercial use of kangaroos	1
• They need to be treated like cattle or other commercial animals	1
• When we arrived in Australia we should have farmed kangaroos instead of importing cattle or sheep	1
Culling is acceptable when it will improve the safety of humans	43
• Culling is acceptable if it is going to improve road safety for motorists	32
• Public safety	4
• If they are posing a risk to people or the environment they should be culled	3
• They are a hazard	2
• Endangering people	1
• Improve road safety	1
Culling is acceptable for environmental reasons	39
• Conservation of grasslands	15
• It's necessary to protect the environment	11
• Conservation of plant and animal life	3
• Ecological sustainability	2
• Pose a risk to wildlife	1
• Need to manage the kangaroos and need to maintain fauna and natural grasslands	1
• Protection of an existing ecosystem	1
• There are a lot of factors that come into it such as location and environment and the circumstances	1
• They are a menace to vegetation	1
• They are a threat to conservation values	1
• They need to be managed like other animals	1
• To protect the grazing areas	1
Culling is acceptable if it is to better the welfare of the kangaroo population	38
• Due to the drought and over population, it's better to have them culled rather than die of starvation	12
• If diseased or injured, culling is acceptable	8
• Assist the survival rate of kangaroos	2
• For kangaroos' safety and conservation they need to be harvested	2
• It is more humane to kill them than let them overpopulate	2
• Safer if kangaroos are culled rather than hit by traffic	2

Continued on the following page

Q7a. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos?

Q7b. May I ask why?

Culling is acceptable if it is to better the welfare of the kangaroo population (Cont'd)	
• In times of drought culling is acceptable	1
• I grew up on a farm and there are too many kangaroos. They should not have to starve, so culling is more humane	1
• If the kangaroo numbers are so high that they are at risk of starving, they should be culled and the meat and leather used	1
• It is cruel to let the kangaroos die of starvation	1
• It is less cruel to cull them than to have them hit by cars or breed in unnatural situations where there is a low amount of food	1
• Kangaroos can at times become out of control	1
• Kangaroos, themselves, are living under less than desirable circumstances due to overpopulation	1
• Management of the species is important for their own health	1
• Only culled for conservation, not for the purpose of meat or fur	1
• Safety of the kangaroos	1
Kangaroos are pests	24
• Kangaroos are a pest	14
• I am from the country and I know how much of a nuisance they are	1
• Kangaroos are a bother to crops	1
• Kangaroos are a feral animal and breed fast. They can become a menace	1
• Kangaroos are a menace when they start to overpopulate	1
• Kangaroos can be a hazard to roads and livestock	1
• Kangaroos cause problems for the farmers	1
• Only if they are a pest to farmers	1
• There are occasions when kangaroos can be a nuisance	1
• They are in plague numbers and will deplete the necessary grassland for farming	1
• They are not an endangered species and in many cases are pests	1
Kangaroos should be culled if they cause damage	24
• Kangaroos cause too much damage	14
• Kangaroos break down fences	1
• Kangaroos can do a lot of damaged and need to be controlled	1
• Kangaroos cause damage to all so culling makes sense	1
• Kangaroos cause too much destruction when they overpopulate	1
• Kangaroos do so much damage to our community, especially for our farmers	1
• Kangaroos need to be kept under control if they are causing problems	1
• There are a lot of kangaroos around where I live and they damage the environment	1
• They are a danger and causing environmental damage	1
• They cause damage to the environment	1
• They do create problems within the urban environment	1

Continued on the following page

Q7a. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos?

Q7b. May I ask why?

Depending on the circumstance some culling is acceptable	23
• Culling needs to be justified	4
• Different circumstances dictate the need for culling	3
• Farmers have a good reason to cull the kangaroo population	2
• It is acceptable, but not for commercial purposes	2
• Culling is required in plague proportions or where the climate cannot support them naturally	1
• I don't have any objections with killing an animal if it is required	1
• I have doubts about the advertised number of kangaroos. There must be a valid reason for culling	1
• I think that if the kangaroos' health or the health of the country is at risk, then culling is necessary	1
• I think we have to accept that having native animals is part of living here but there are certain circumstances under which culling would be acceptable such as the protection of other native species	1
• Interference with livestock	1
• Kangaroos are our native animals and I don't want to see them killed for no apparent reason	1
• Need of a good reason or as a last resort	1
• Need to have research and strict guidelines for the culling and do it only for that purpose	1
• Providing the killing of kangaroos was for culling only	1
• So long as they aren't over culled	1
• There are circumstances where the culling of kangaroos is necessary	1
Culling is acceptable if it creates a better balance between the kangaroo population and the community	22
• Balance is needed between wildlife and the community	11
• They need to be controlled in urban areas	2
• For their sake and our safety, they need to be kept down	1
• Need a balance of kangaroos in certain areas	1
• Provide a balance between grasslands, urban environment and people	1
• Recognise general equality	1
• They impact on farming communities and native flora and fauna	1
• To try and make a safer environment for us and the animals	1
• We have to co-exist and if culling is not undertaken the kangaroo population will reach plague proportions	1
• We need to keep the kangaroo population down for the sustainability of human activity around the kangaroos	1
• We provide facilities to kangaroos but they are getting out of control and it is cruel to not be able to manage them	1
Culling is acceptable if it is undertaken humanely and professionally	15
• If it is done professionally and in a humane way	11
• Culling is acceptable if it is under supervised and controlled conditions	2
• Controlled culling by experts is okay	1
• I do not agree with shooting kangaroos, but culling in other ways is acceptable	1

Continued on the following page

Q7a. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos?

Q7b. May I ask why?

Other	34
• In my opinion it is appropriate	4
• Controlled culling is supported by scientific evidence	2
• Culling is a necessity	2
• I am a conservationist	2
• We have set up conditions where they can over breed and starve themselves to death, so it is up to us to control it	2
• Culling is a legitimate tool for managing wild animals	1
• Culling is acceptable for food or management purposes	1
• Culling is needed, not slaughter	1
• I agree with culling for all reasons	1
• It is misleading to use road accidents to allow culling. I believe kangaroos should be moved not necessarily killed	1
• It is untenable to have them uncontrolled in our environment	1
• It should only be undertaken if it needs to be done	1
• Kangaroos are a native animal and need to be kept in their own areas	1
• Kangaroos are not an endangered species	1
• Kangaroos should not to be kept in a fenced area but they should be managed better	1
• Killing just because of inconvenience is wrong	1
• Rural owners can manage the kangaroos themselves	1
• The consequences of not culling will create more serious problems	1
• The grass should be saved for sheep and cattle	1
• The reduction of Belconnen's kangaroo population was good	1
• They are native to Australia	1
• They have to be controlled rather than culled	1
• They just need to be fenced off with plenty of water and then they wouldn't need to run wild	1
• Too many kangaroos are going to waste	1
• We have a farm and culling is good for us	1
• We have created the conditions through lack of water for the explosion of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo population	1
• When culling they should remove the dead bodies to stop disease	1

Nb: Some respondents gave more than one answer

Appendix B

Q14. Do you have any comments you wish to make regarding the management of kangaroos in the ACT?

I am supportive of the culling of kangaroos	79
• Continue culling and the management of kangaroos	14
• If humane, I am supportive of culling	8
• Keep the population at a viable level	7
• I support the culling of kangaroos	5
• Kangaroos should only be culled if they are going to be used as a resource	5
• A decision needs to be made about the situation and culling should be commenced immediately	4
• Should be based on scientific research of what is good for both the community and the kangaroos	4
• A humane balance has to be arrived at in the maintenance of kangaroos and other species	2
• Create a better balance	2
• If there are too many kangaroos then they should culled	2
• It is absolutely necessary to keep numbers down for other animals, the safety for motorists and the survival of kangaroos in the area	2
• Need to get a balance	2
• Should be culled now before it becomes too much of a problem	2
• They should only be culled if they are shown to be in danger	2
• Need to be managed so they do not harm themselves. Perhaps safety corridors should be constructed so they don't cross the highways	1
• As much as we need to maintain the kangaroo population, farming needs to be considered. If kangaroos are damaging farms we need to look after these first	1
• Continue culling and do not publicise it	1
• I support this management as large numbers of kangaroos accumulate in suburban areas	1
• I would like there to be a solution to the problem but it needs to be done delicately and ensured that it's not too extreme so that the kangaroos can remain in the local park areas	1
• If the experts decide that culling is necessary then the cull should go ahead despite any objections	1
• If you have to cull please put other solutions in place	1
• Instead of talking about culling it should just be done	1
• Kangaroos should be properly managed as they are in NSW	1
• Please use the same method as at Government House	1
• Sensible culling arrangements should be in place	1
• Should be a policy to manage the numbers taking into account the environment and the wellbeing of the kangaroo population	1
• Something has to be done, but I am unsure what the best way is	1
• The numbers need to be reduced slightly	1
• There needs to be a sensible culling program that actively manages the issue	1
• They need to be controlled to help maintain the environment	1
• They need to cull higher numbers in outer city areas	1
• Try to control kangaroos around drought times	1

Continued on the following page

Q14. Do you have any comments you wish to make regarding the management of kangaroos in the ACT? (Cont'd)

The ACT Government's role in kangaroo management	47
• The ACT Government needs to be more decisive	16
• Better management of the issue	2
• Not sure what the Government is doing about the issue	2
• The amount of time and money spent on tranquilising and then shooting the kangaroos on the naval base was a waste	2
• The Government is influenced too much by public opinion, this should be based on a scientific and environmental exercise rather than an emotional one	2
• ACT Government should not be swayed by groups saying that kangaroos should not be killed under any circumstances	1
• Better public relations is required	1
• I am happy that the Government has conducted this survey as it shows that they are doing something positive to control the overpopulated kangaroos	1
• I believe the Government is doing a good job	1
• I think that it is great that this survey is being done and that the Government is asking for our opinion	1
• I think that the Government needs to adopt the decisions made by the wildlife conservation officers and the RSPCA	1
• It's a pity that something wasn't done about the problem with the kangaroos at the defence base before it was such a problem	1
• Last year's management was a farce	1
• Listen to people who know what they are talking about	1
• More planning should be done before it gets out of hand	1
• The Government gave hope by saying they would attempt to relocate the kangaroos at the defence base and it was not good when they were killed	1
• The Government is coping well under extreme circumstances	1
• The Government is too worried about particular groups, they are a pest and should be controlled	1
• The Government needs to be more forthcoming with regard to policy on kangaroos	1
• The Government needs to be more strategic in their approach when looking at options such as containment and other export markets	1
• The Government needs to just get on with the job and not engage so many consultants. They need to come to a position that is scientifically acceptable and get on with it	1
• The Government needs to strike a balance between the needs of the community and what is best for the kangaroos	1
• The Government should be more upfront regarding what is going on	1
• The Government was negligent in allowing the population to increase	1
• The Government's handling of the situation is improving	1
• The last culling operation was a joke, they should have separated the adult males from females and over breeding should not have been allowed. I believe it was poorly managed	1
• There is a need to have consistent and clear policies on kangaroo management	1
• We are currently too careful regarding culling. The Government should cull them the way they did years ago	1
I am not supportive of the culling of kangaroos	27
• Let them be free	6
• I would prefer fertility control instead of shooting	3
• Relocate kangaroos rather than shooting	3
• Keep all kangaroos in bushland away from urban areas	2

Continued on the following page

Q14. Do you have any comments you wish to make regarding the management of kangaroos in the ACT? (Cont'd)

I am not supportive of the culling of kangaroos (Cont'd)	
• No native animal should be killed	2
• I am against culling generally	1
• If culling was undertaken purely for grassland conservation I would not be happy, as it would be a reactive situation that could have been avoided	1
• If possible they should be moved rather than killed	1
• Kangaroos are Australia's native symbol and it is contradictory to chop them up as pet food	1
• Kangaroos are part of the bush and they should be there, especially as Canberra is called the bush capital	1
• Kangaroos need to be at sustainable levels for their own health and wellbeing	1
• Leave them alone, they are an icon to Australia	1
• They are living creatures	1
• They need to guide the kangaroos back into the national parks	1
• Try and think of other options before killing the kangaroos	1
• We should not try to take responsibility for or manage the affairs of nature	1
Kangaroos on local roads	20
• Collection and removal of dead kangaroos from the roadside needs to be improved	8
• Kangaroos are a danger to our roads	2
• I am concerned about kangaroos on the roads at dusk	1
• I don't think kangaroos should be allowed to roam the streets as they pose a great danger to motorists	1
• I like that the carcasses are not cleared away from the side of the road because it makes the motorists aware	1
• Management to date has been okay, but recently more dead kangaroos have been seen on the roadside	1
• More fences on roads to keep the roads clear, e.g. Adelaide Avenue	1
• National wildlife parks are prompt in removing dead kangaroos off roads	1
• Need to do more to reduce vehicle accidents	1
• Put more sign posts along the highways to alert drivers of kangaroos about, not only in the country but in the city as well	1
• The roads should be better fenced	1
• When driving through the area, motorists should drive slower	1
Kangaroo management is a very emotive issue and is influenced by community groups	14
• It is an emotive issue but it needs to be dealt with	2
• The whole issue is over-dramatised	2
• There is too much hysteria about the kangaroo population	2
• Animal lovers get too involved in decisions regarding culling	1
• Do the job properly and overrule protesters	1
• Don't listen to hard extremists	1
• Don't respond to pressure groups when considering culling within urban areas	1
• It's a difficult, emotive situation but the authorities need to make a decision and act quickly	1
• The culling is influenced too much by outspoken public opinions that are not scientifically based	1
• The management of kangaroos is too driven by animal liberation and similar groups	1
• The policies need to be based on science not emotions	1

Continued on the following page

Q14. Do you have any comments you wish to make regarding the management of kangaroos in the ACT? (Cont'd)

The community needs more information regarding kangaroo management	11
• More information should be provided regarding what decisions are being made about kangaroos	5
• I am not aware of the current management plan	2
• I am not well informed and would like to know about the Government's policy and would be happy to comply with any procedures they have	1
• I don't know what the Government is doing as we are not informed	1
• Information on culling is not clear and not well known to the community	1
• Media reports are misleading	1
Other comments	28
• The defence area culling was not handled well	4
• The media over-dramatise the issue, the culling should not be advertised	4
• Defence site management was disgraceful and something should have been done before they got hemmed into that situation	3
• A similar survey needs to be conducted regarding possums in the ACT	1
• Continue to provide an environment for them to be safe	1
• Control with care near cities	1
• Culling and harvesting are two separate issues	1
• I like that the park rangers humanely kill the kangaroos if they are injured	1
• I think that feral cats and dogs are a bigger problem than kangaroos	1
• I think the management will be very difficult	1
• If a decision is made to cull for meat, then there needs to be a program of control for meat inspection	1
• It is great that the kangaroo population is so accessible from the city. I realise numbers may need to be managed, but have never had a problem on the roads	1
• It would be good to have a number to easily ring when we find a kangaroo in the suburbs and then have someone collect it in a timely fashion, so they are not hit by a car	1
• Monitor the wildlife regularly so that we have a balance between native species	1
• More options that are less stressful for the community need to be provided	1
• Native animals don't spread weeds as much as introduced species	1
• There needs to be a balance between the need to kill them and the environmental issue	1
• There needs to be assurance that there will be no damage to the population of the species	1
• We need to make more effort to reduce kangaroo deaths	1
• We need to stop playing God and trying to manage things that we think we understand	1

Nb: Some respondents gave more than one answer whilst others did not comment

Appendix C

Attitudes of ACT residents towards kangaroos and kangaroo management

Community Survey - 2008

Q1. How would you rate the risk of hitting a kangaroo whilst driving a motor vehicle on ACT roads?
Prompt

Very high	High	Unsure	Low	Very low
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q2a. Have you ever owned a vehicle that was driven in the ACT?

Yes ☐ No ☐ (If no go to Q3)

Q2b. Has a vehicle that you have ever owned hit a kangaroo on an ACT road?

Yes ☐ No ☐ (If no go to Q3)

Q2c. Did this result in any of the following?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Death or serious injury to the kangaroo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An insurance repair bill for your vehicle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Injury to occupants of the vehicle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Q3. Kangaroo shooting is undertaken in rural Australia, including the ACT, to keep the grass for sheep and cattle. Can you please rate how supportive, or unsupportive, you are of this culling? *Prompt*

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsure	Not very supportive	Not at all supportive
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4. If there was a decision to cull kangaroos to assist in reducing motor vehicle collisions in Canberra, how supportive, or unsupportive, would you be of this culling? *Prompt*

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsure	Not very supportive	Not at all supportive
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5. If there was a decision to cull kangaroos for conservation of native grasslands, how supportive, or unsupportive, would you be of this culling? *Prompt*

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsure	Not very supportive	Not at all supportive
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q6. How supportive, or unsupportive, would you be of the introduction of commercial harvesting of kangaroos in the ACT for their meat or leather? *Prompt*

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsure	Not very supportive	Not at all supportive
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q7a. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to the killing of kangaroos?

I am against the killing of kangaroos under any circumstances	<input type="radio"/>	(Go to Q7b)
I believe that the killing of kangaroos is appropriate under certain circumstances	<input type="radio"/>	(Go to Q7b)
I am unsure about this subject	<input type="radio"/>	(Go to Q8)

Q7b. May I ask why?

Q8. Grassland Scientists have stated that kangaroos can eat the grass down to such a low level that the smaller native animals that need the grass for habitat are greatly reduced in numbers. Do you believe that this scenario is: *Prompt*

Highly likely	Likely	Unsure	Unlikely	Highly unlikely
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q9a. Other than at the zoo, are there any places in the ACT that you would take visitors to specifically see kangaroos in the wild?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q9b. (If yes), may I ask where?

Q10. How important do you believe it is to have native kangaroos in the ACT? *Prompt*

Very important	Important	Unsure	Unimportant	Very unimportant
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q11. Compared to NSW, which of the following would best describe the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT? *Prompt*

The ACT has a much higher concentration of kangaroos ☐
 The ACT has a higher concentration of kangaroos ☐
 The ACT and NSW have about the same concentration ☐
 The ACT has a lower concentration of kangaroos ☐
 The ACT has a much lower concentration of kangaroos ☐

Q12. Do you know which of the following species of kangaroos and wallabies live naturally in the ACT? *Prompt*

Red Kangaroo	<input type="radio"/>
Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby	<input type="radio"/>
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<input type="radio"/>
Musky Rat-kangaroo	<input type="radio"/>
Common Wallaroo	<input type="radio"/>
Red-necked Wallaby	<input type="radio"/>
Swamp Wallaby	<input type="radio"/>
Broad-faced Kangaroo	<input type="radio"/>
Don't know any of the specific species	<input type="radio"/>

Q13. How satisfied are you with the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos? *Prompt*

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Unsure	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q14. Do you have any comments you wish to make regarding the management of kangaroos in the ACT?

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