



# Attitudes of ACT Residents to Kangaroos and Kangaroo Management

## Community Survey

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Date: January 2012

Background

# Background & Core Research Objectives

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The Australian Capital Territory, represented by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, contracted Micromex Research to conduct a survey of ACT residents in order to better understand their attitudes towards kangaroos and kangaroo management.

The key objectives of the research were:

- To understand the attitudes of ACT residents towards kangaroos and kangaroo management in the ACT to inform the ACT Government's kangaroo management policy
- To establish current information on community attitudes towards kangaroos and kangaroo management

A similar research study was also conducted in 2008. Where Appropriate, comparisons have been made with the 2008 research.



# Methodology & Sample

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A random telephone survey with n=600 households was completed during the course of this research.

## Specifics of the Survey

### **Data collection**

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

### **Data collection period**

The survey was conducted during the period 5<sup>th</sup> December to 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 from 4:30pm to 8:30pm, Monday to Thursday and 10:00am to 4:00pm Saturday.

### **Sample selection and error**

The sample consisted of a total of 600 residents within the ACT, 18 years of age or older. 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.

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**This methodology ensured a robust understanding of ACT residents attitudes  
towards kangaroos and kangaroo management**

## Key Findings

# Key Findings

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- 43% of ACT residents exhibit a high or very high level of concern regarding the risk of hitting kangaroos whilst driving
  - 6% of motor vehicle drivers report that in the last 3 years they were the driver in an accident involving a kangaroo and half of these involved an insurance claim and death of a kangaroo
  - The majority of ACT residents (76%) believe that it is important or very important to have kangaroos in Canberra Nature Park
  - Resident attitudes towards the number of kangaroos in the ACT are mixed, with 41% indicating that there are too many and 29% disagreeing with this viewpoint
  - Generally, ACT residents believe that the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT is about the same or higher than in NSW
  - There is only a low level of awareness that ACT kangaroos are not commercially harvested
  - The majority of ACT residents (79%) are identified as being supportive of kangaroo culling under certain circumstances
  - The majority of ACT residents (70%) are identified as being supportive of kangaroo culling for the conservation of grassland and woodland animals
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# Key Findings

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- Support for farmers shooting kangaroos is mixed, with 47% indicating a level of support and 27% indicating that they are not supportive of this
- Urban expansion and foxes are perceived to be the most likely contributors to the decline of threatened species in the ACT, followed by weeds and farming, whilst ACT residents are less likely to perceive kangaroos and climate change as contributing to the decline of threatened species
- ACT residents are identified as being generally 'neutral' or 'satisfied' in regards to their perception of the ACT Government's:
  - Current management of kangaroos
  - Current management of the culling of kangaroos through the licenses it grants
  - Current management of the removal of kangaroo carcasses
  - Efforts to reduce road incidents with kangaroos
- Dissatisfaction is identified as highest with regards to the removal of kangaroo carcasses and efforts to reduce road incidents with kangaroos

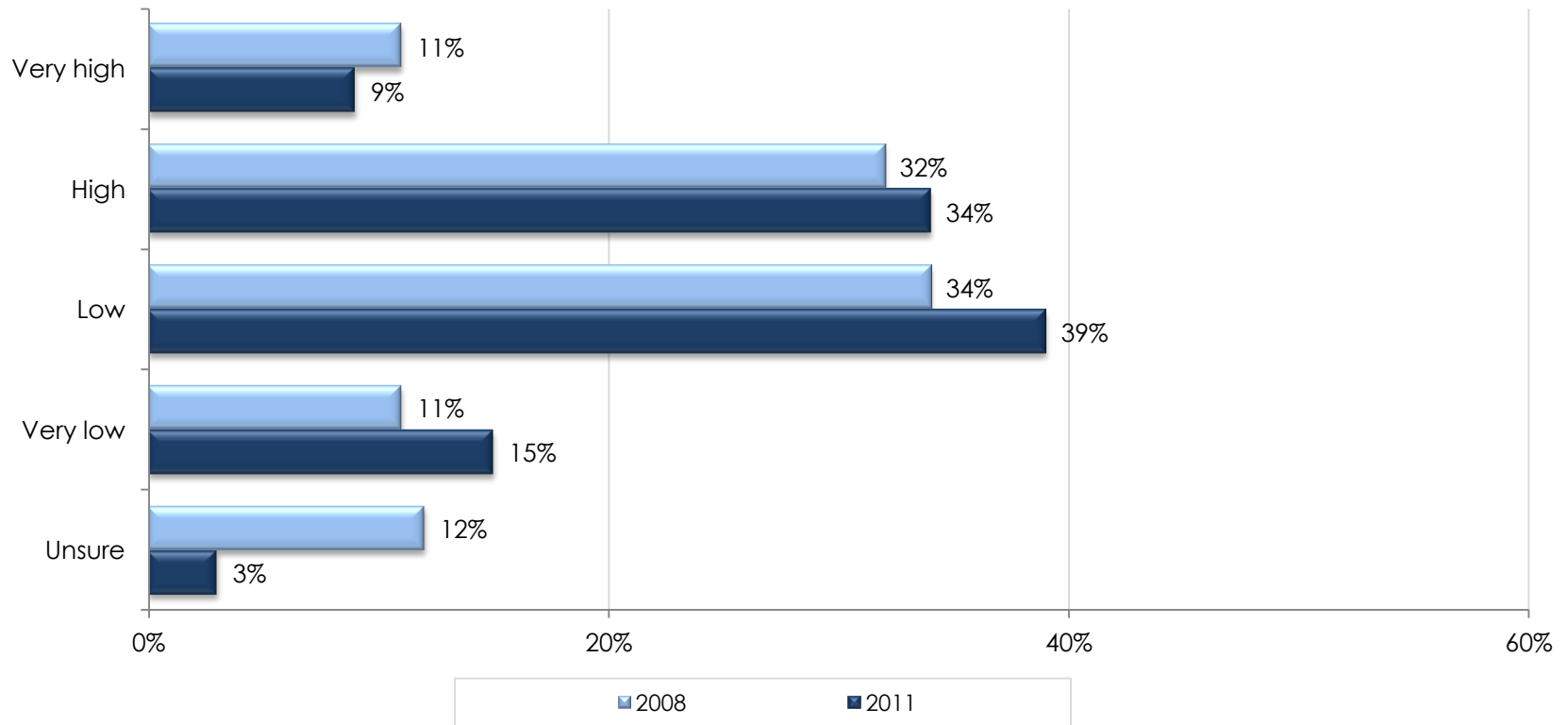
# The Detailed Response



# 43% of ACT residents exhibit a high or very high level of concern regarding the risk of hitting kangaroos whilst driving



Q.1. How would you rate the risk of hitting a kangaroo whilst driving a motor vehicle on a road in the ACT?



Base for both years n=600

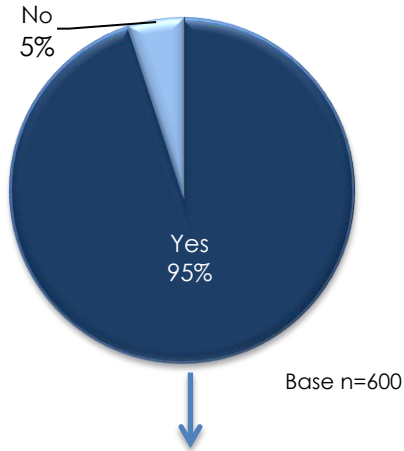
**There has been no statistically significant change in the perceived risk levels when compared with the 2008 research**

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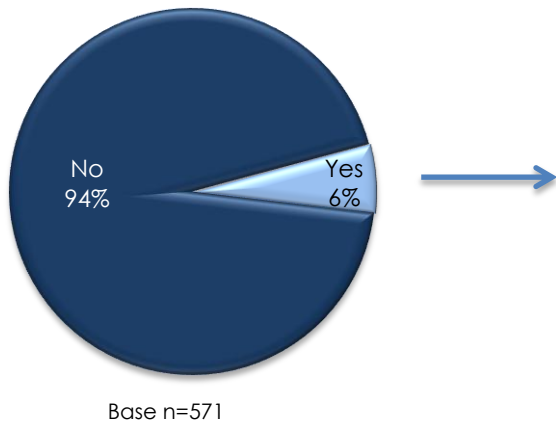
# 6% of motor vehicle drivers report that in the last 3 years they were the driver in an accident involving a kangaroo



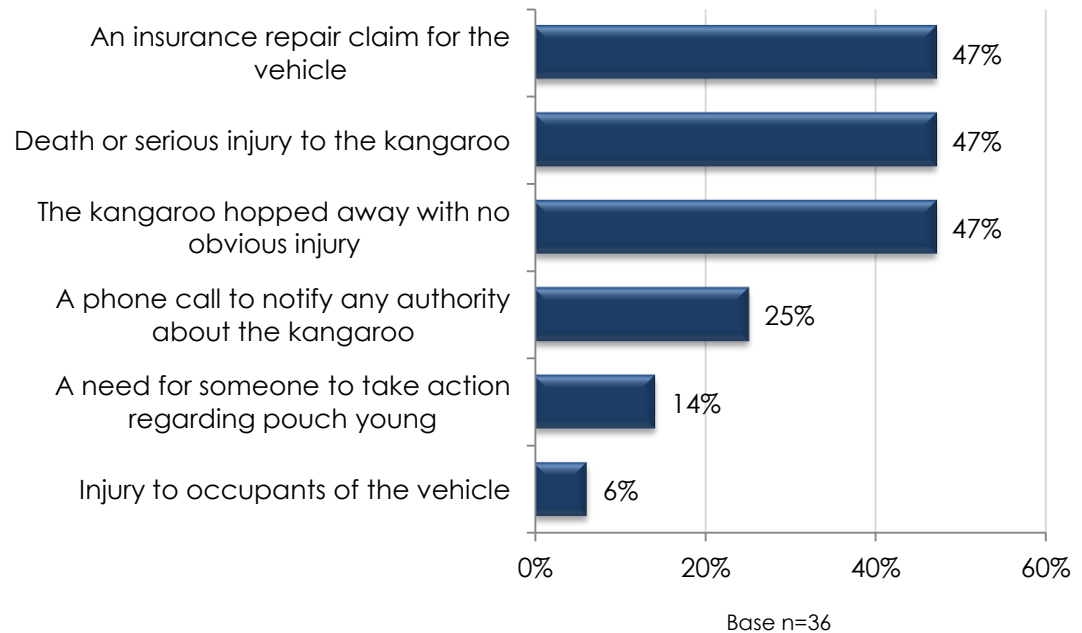
Q.2a. In the last 3 years have you driven a vehicle in the ACT?



Q.2b. In the last 3 years were you the driver of a vehicle in an accident which involved a kangaroo on a road in the ACT?



Q.2c. Did this result in the following?

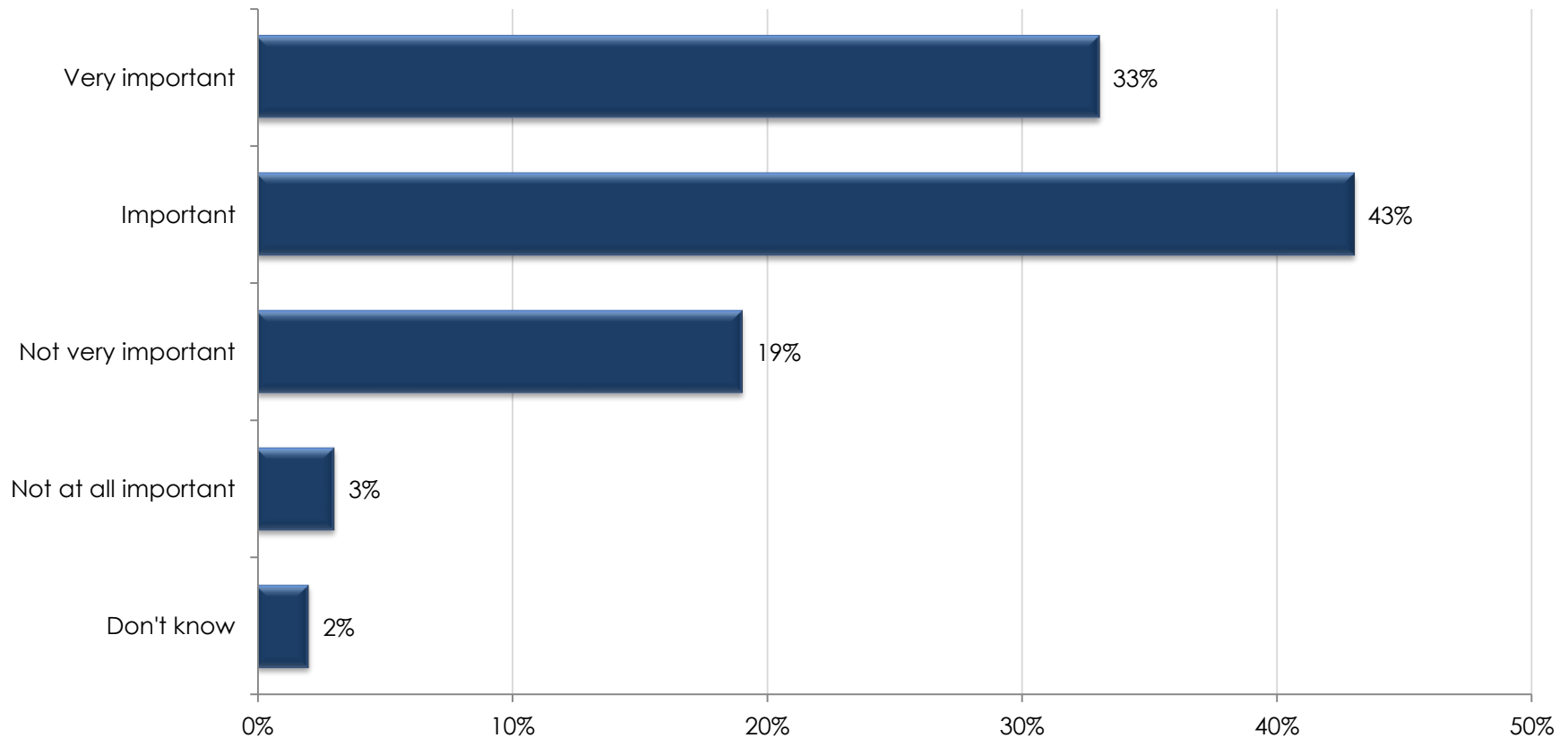


**Approximately half of all accidents involved an insurance repair claim and death/serious injury to the kangaroo**

# The majority of ACT residents (76%) believe that it is important or very important to have kangaroos in Canberra Nature Park



Q.3. Canberra Nature Park is made up of the bush areas on the hills and ridges that are at the edges of our suburbs. How important do you believe it is to have kangaroos in Canberra Nature Park?



Base n=600

**ACT residents are identified as being appreciative of local kangaroo species in the nature park**

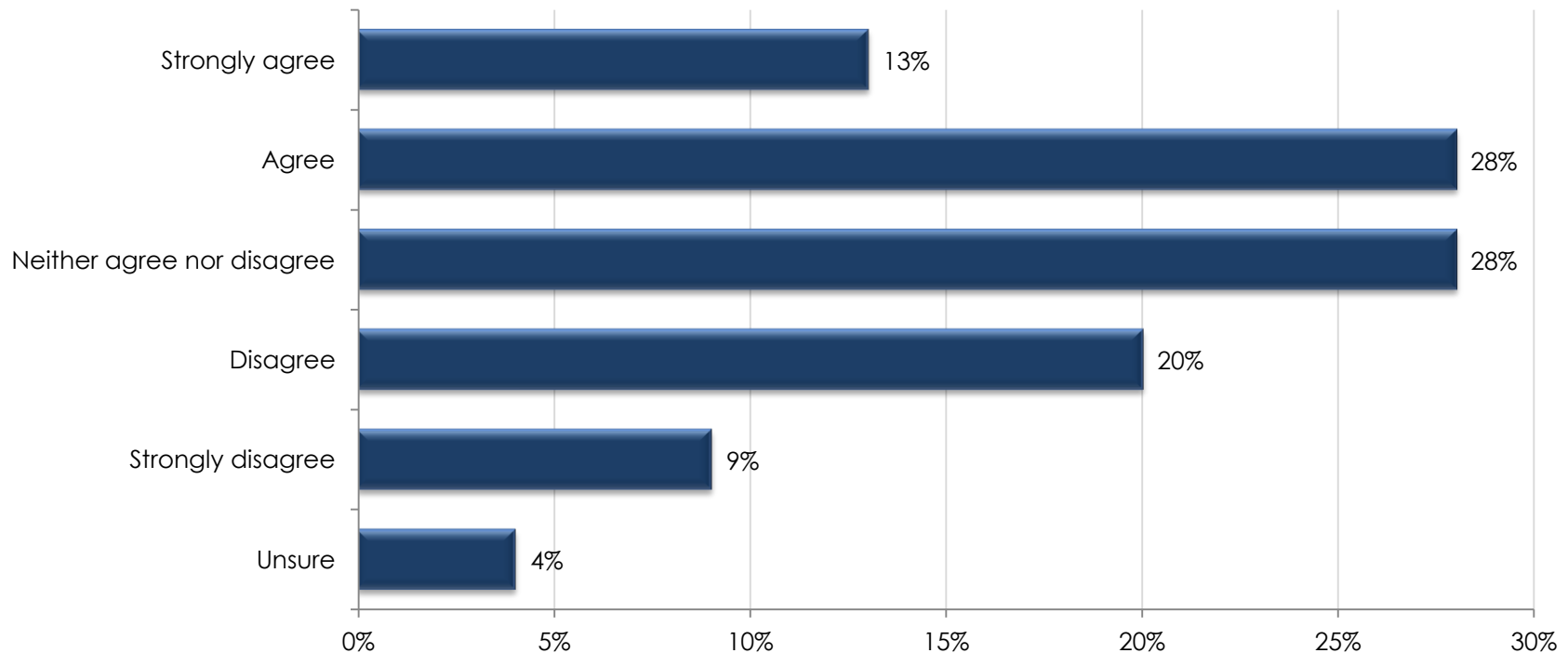
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# Resident attitudes towards the number of kangaroos in the ACT are mixed, with 41% indicating that there are too many and 29% disagreeing with this viewpoint



Q4. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "There are too many kangaroos in the ACT"

Mean – 3.18



Mean ratings: 1 =Strongly disagree, 5 =Strongly agree

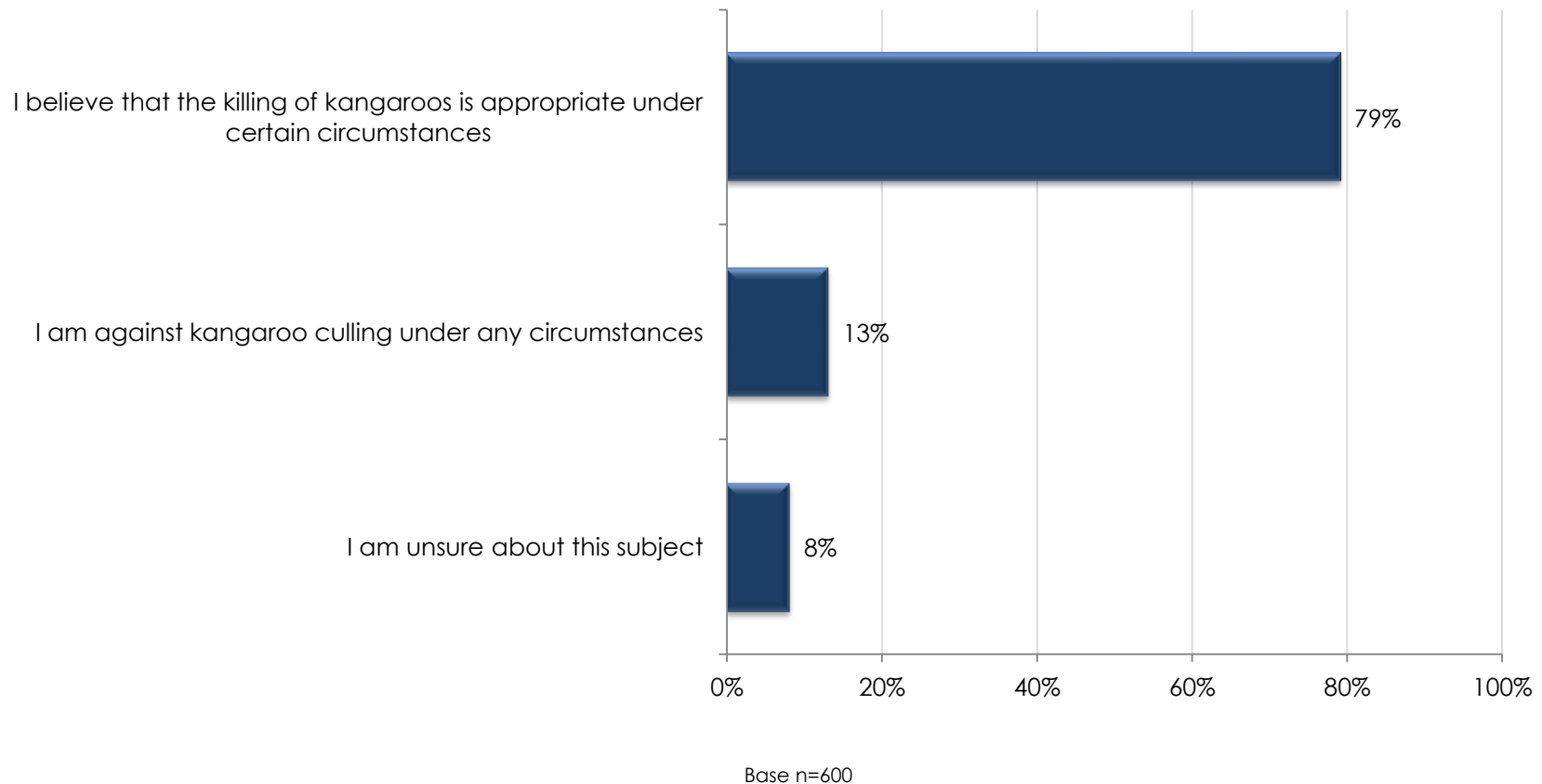
Base n=600

**A high percentage of residents indicated a neutral position with regards to whether there are too many kangaroos in the ACT, suggesting low knowledge levels and/or a level of ambivalence with regards to the topic**

# The majority of ACT residents (79%) are identified as being supportive of kangaroo culling under certain circumstances



Q.5. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to kangaroo culling?

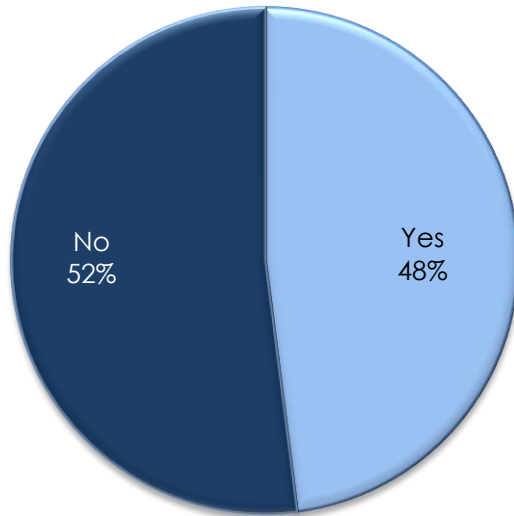


**Approximately 1 in 10 residents are identified as unsupportive of kangaroo culling**

# There is only a low level of awareness that ACT kangaroos are not commercially harvested

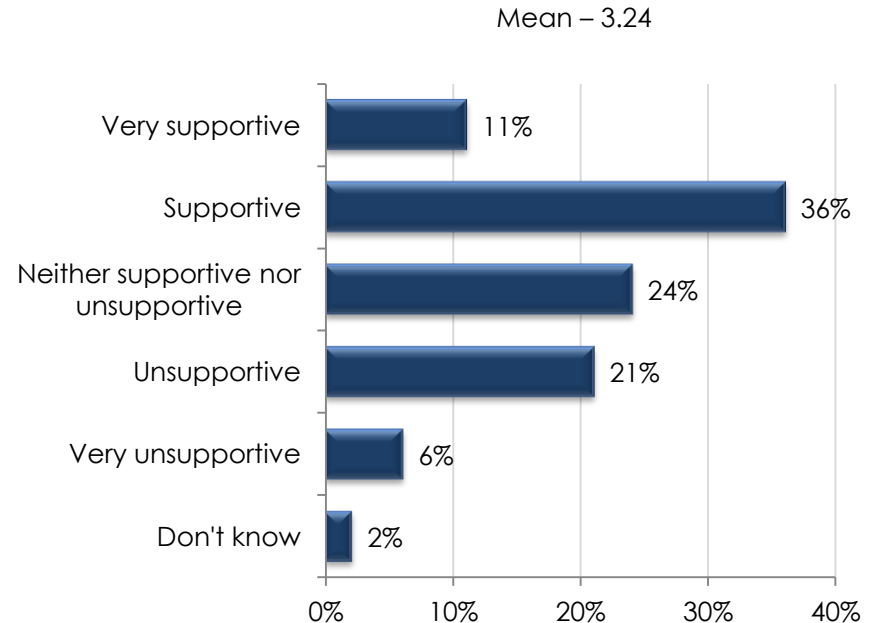


Q.6a. Do you know that in the ACT kangaroos are not commercially harvested for meat or skins?



Base n=600

Q.6b. Farmers shoot kangaroos to keep the grass for sheep and cattle. Can you please rate how supportive you are of kangaroo shooting for this reason?



Mean ratings: 1 = Very unsupportive, 5 = Very supportive

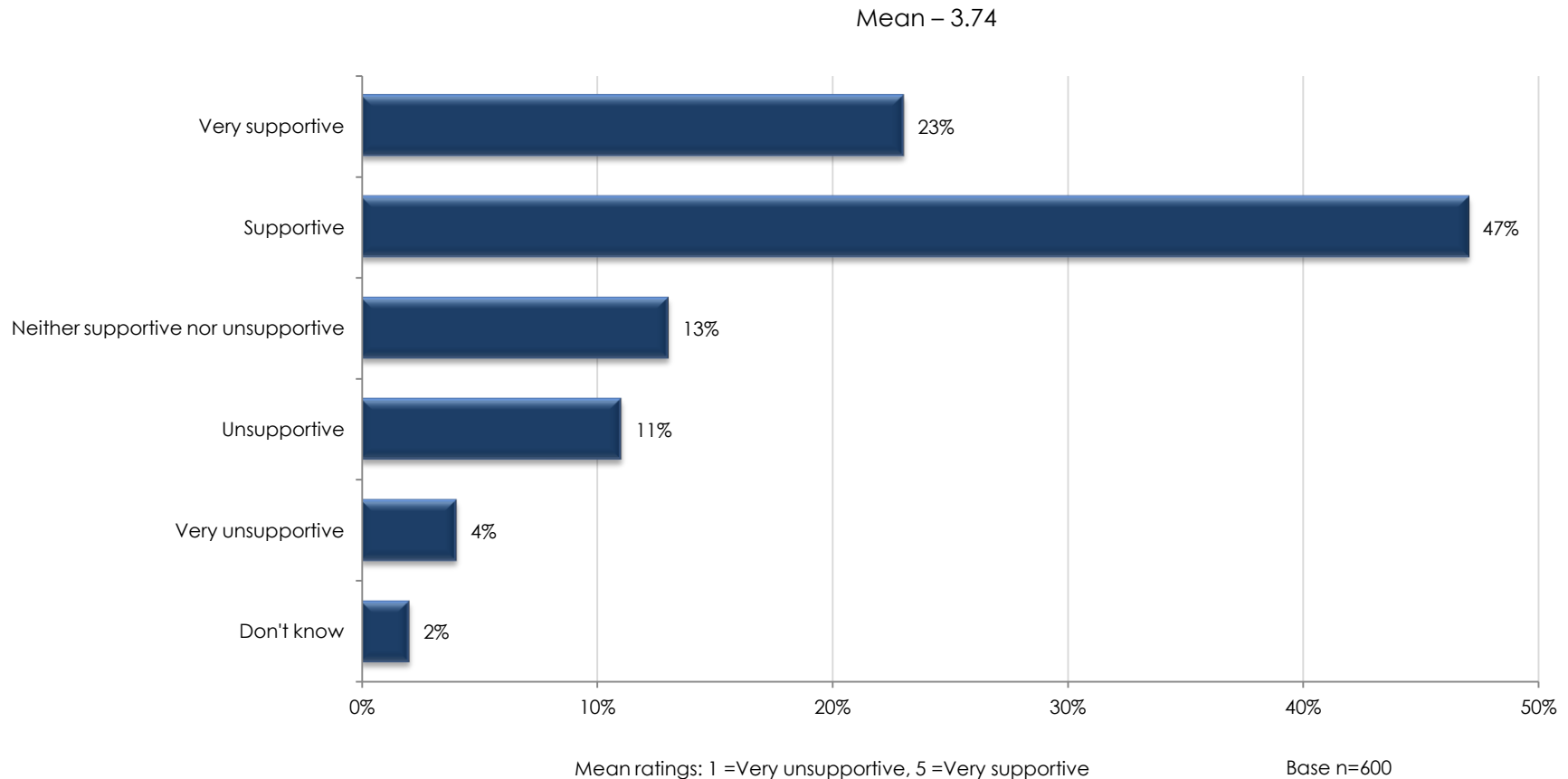
Base n=600

**Support for farmers shooting kangaroos is mixed, with 47% indicating a level of support and 27% indicating that they are not supportive of this**

# The majority of ACT residents (70%) are identified as being supportive of kangaroo culling for the conservation of grassland and woodland animals



Q.7. For three years, kangaroos have been culled in ACT nature reserves for the conservation of grassland and woodland animals. Can you please rate how supportive you are of kangaroo culling for conservation of these animals?

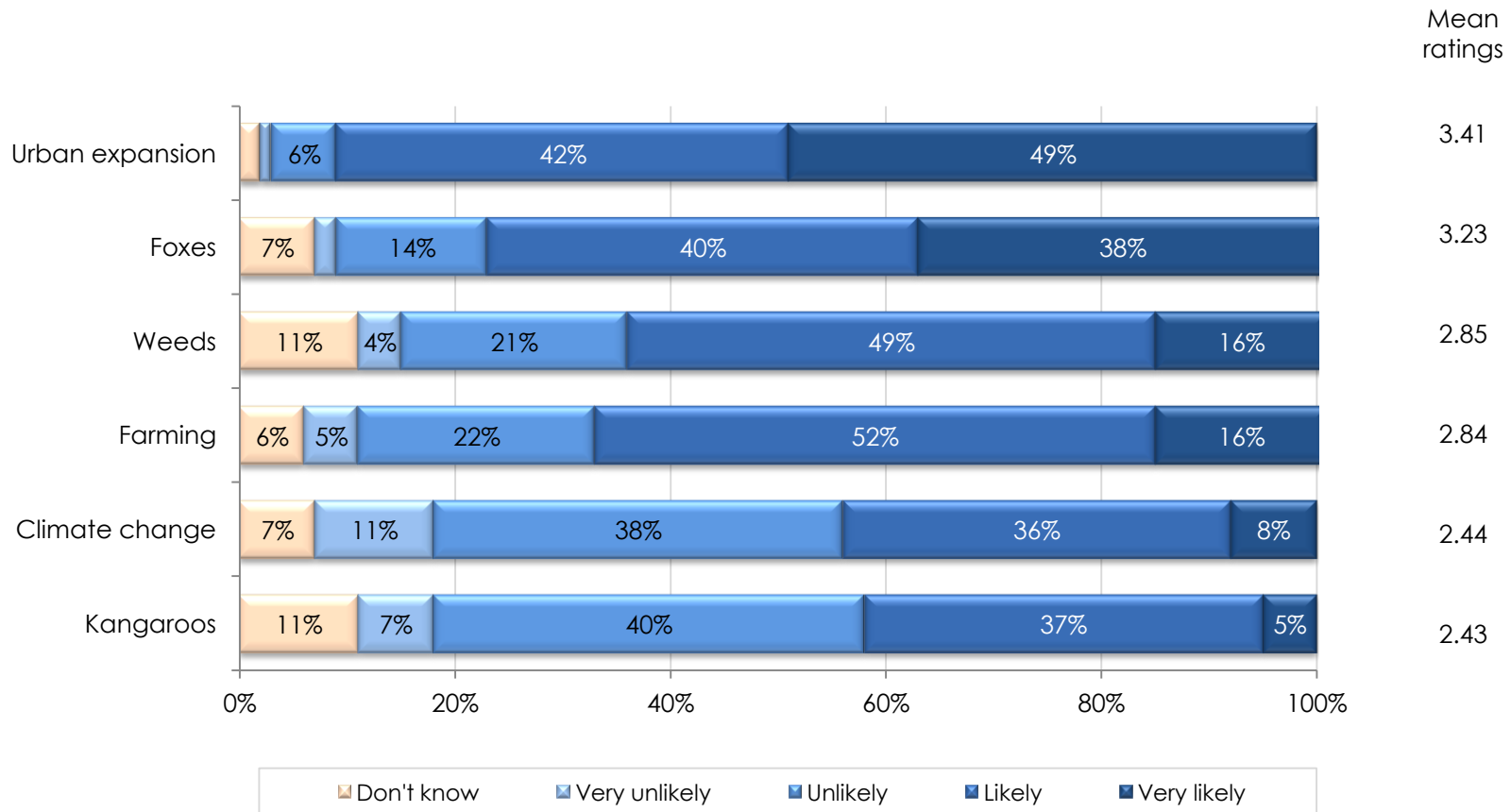


**Approximately 1 in 7 residents are identified as unsupportive of kangaroo culling for the conservation of grassland and woodland animals**

# Urban expansion and foxes are perceived to be the most likely contributors to the decline of threatened species in the ACT, followed by weeds and farming



Q.8. How likely do you think it is that each of the following factors has contributed to the decline of threatened species in the ACT?



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

Base n=600

**ACT residents are less likely to perceive kangaroos and climate change as contributing to the decline of threatened species**

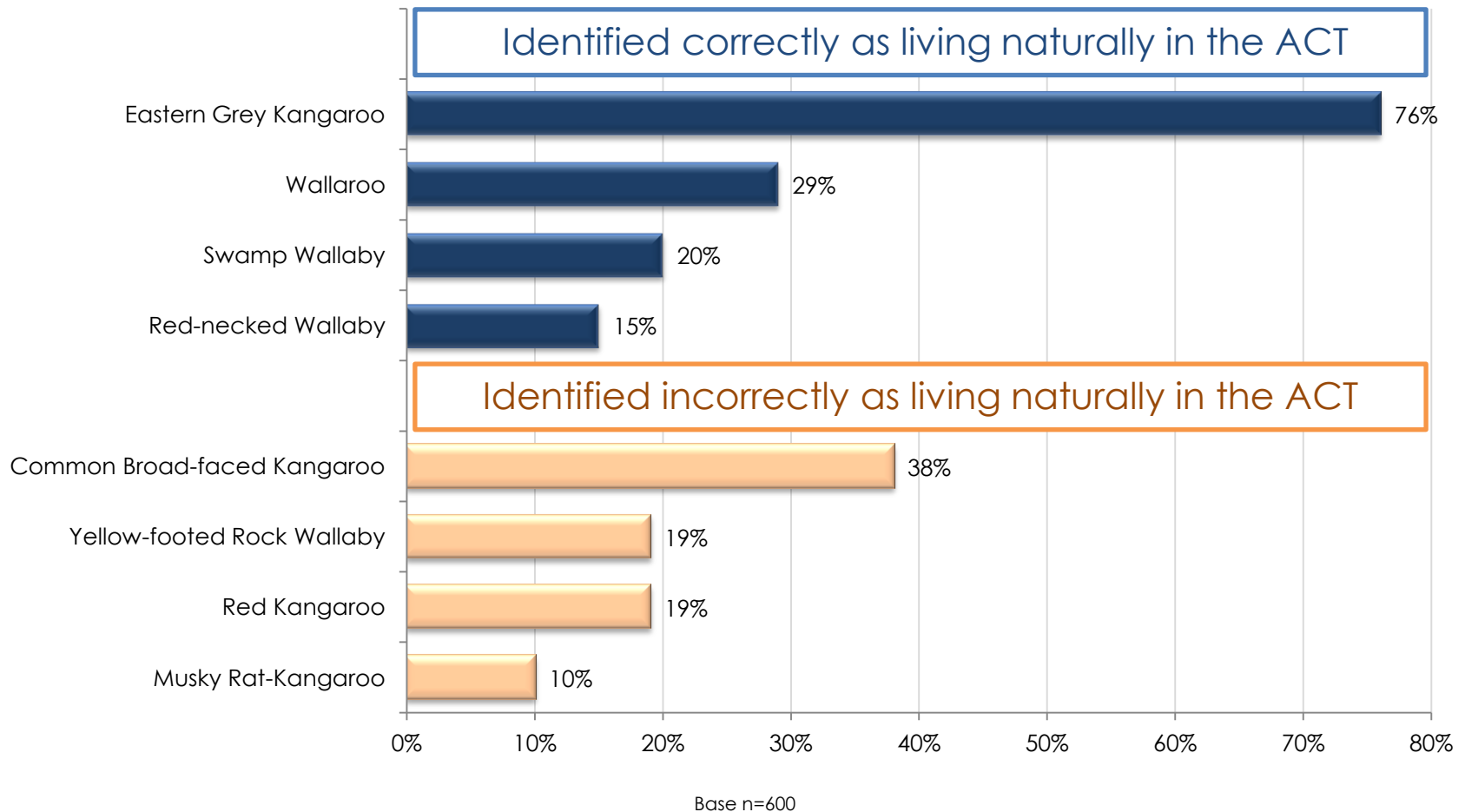
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# A high percentage of residents are uninformed about the local kangaroo species



Q.9. Can you please identify which of the following eight species of wild kangaroos and wallabies live naturally in the ACT?

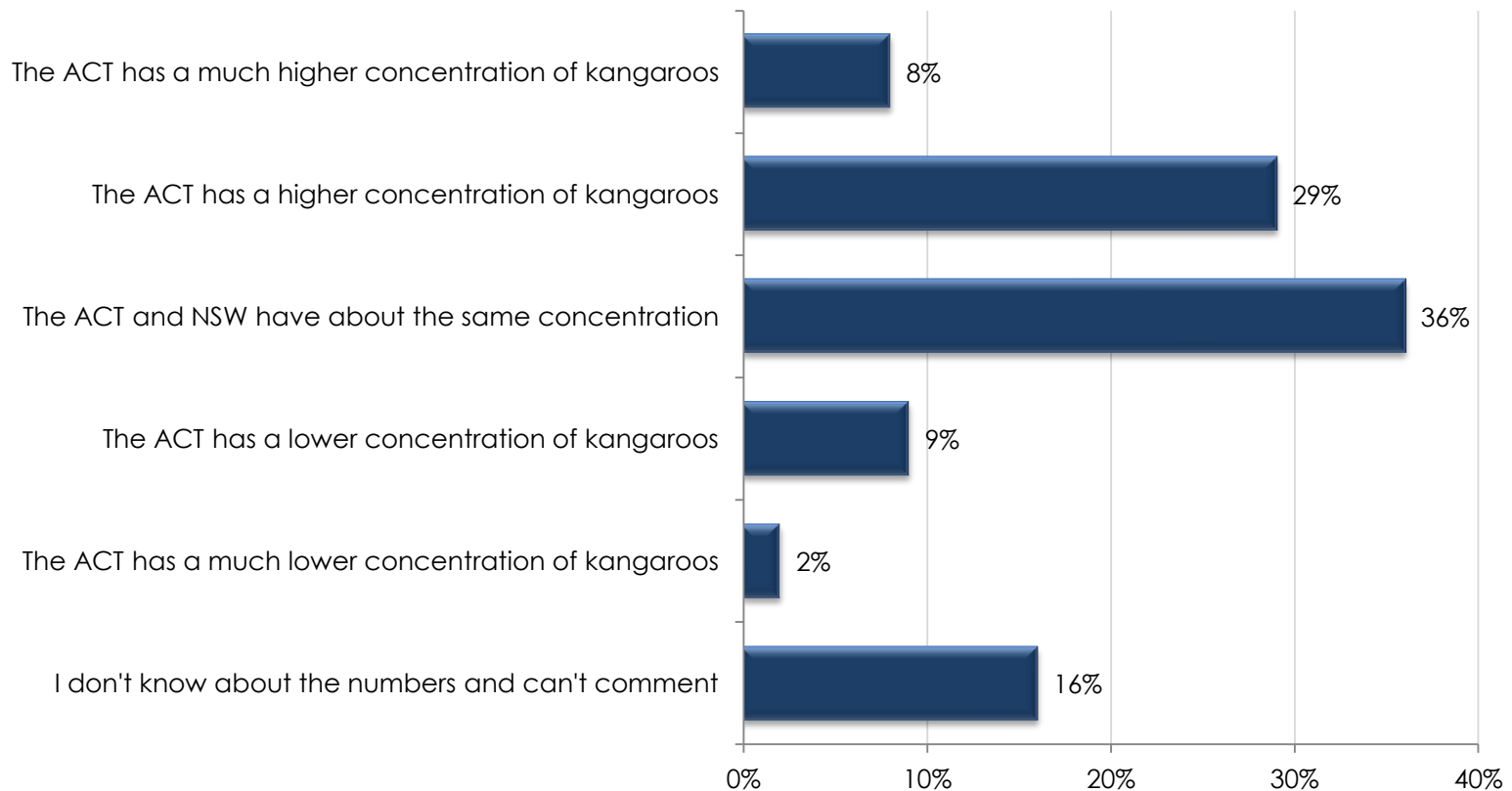


**No respondents were able to correctly identify only the four species of wild kangaroo or wallaby living naturally in the ACT**

# Generally, ACT residents believe that the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT is about the same or higher than in NSW



Q.10. Compared to NSW, which of the following would best describe the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT?

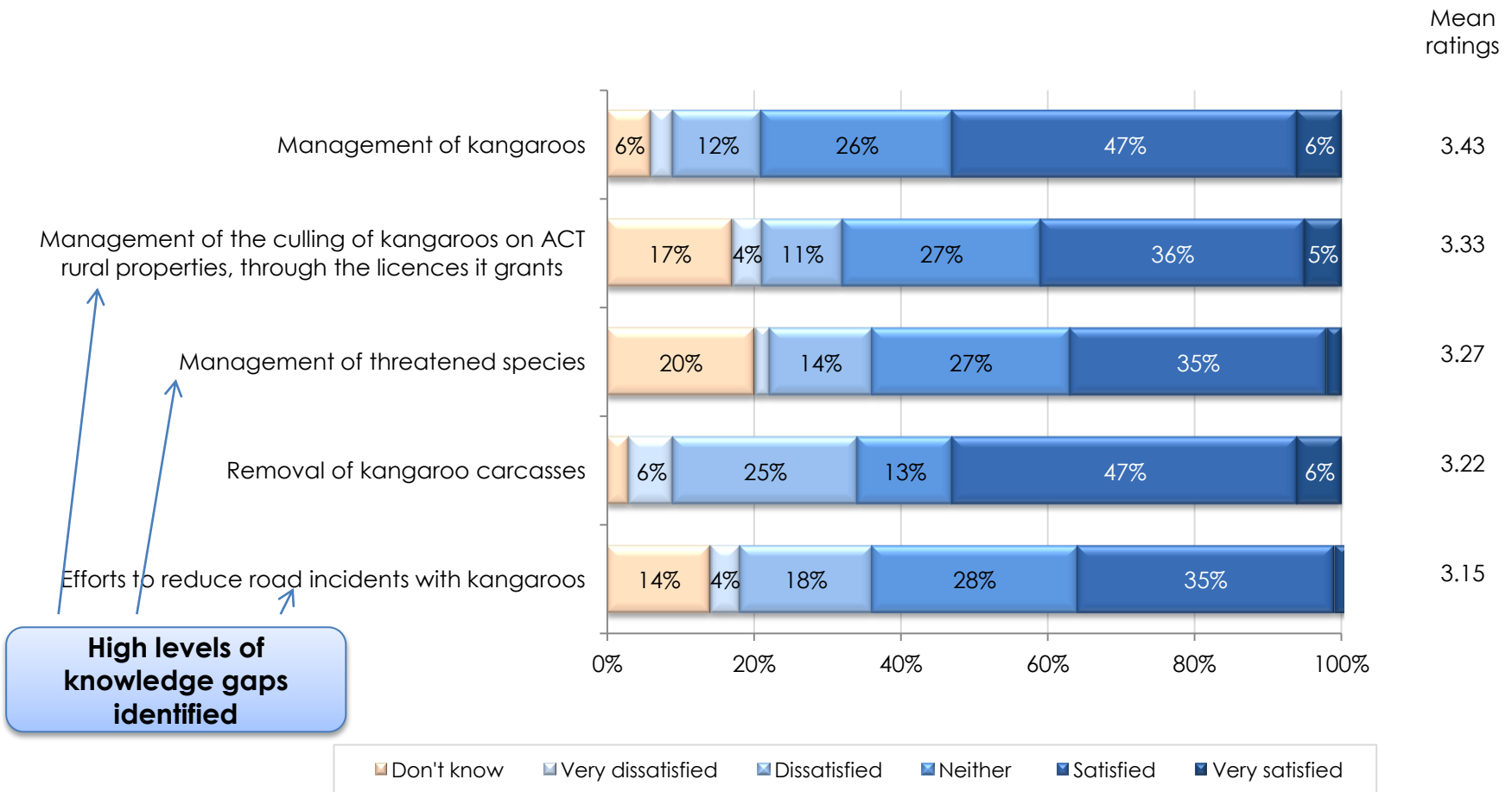


Base n=600

# ACT residents are identified as being generally 'neutral' or 'satisfied' in regards to their satisfaction with the ACT Government's handling of the criteria rated below



Q11. Level of satisfaction with the following:



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

Base n=600

**Dissatisfaction is identified as highest with regards to the removal of kangaroo carcasses and efforts to reduce road incidents with kangaroos**



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