

ACT Government

Attitudes of ACT Residents to Kangaroos and Kangaroo Management

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Date: June 2015



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Background



Methodology & Sample

Data collection

Micromex Research, together with the ACT Government, developed the questionnaire based on the surveys undertaken previously in 2008 & 2011.

Data collection period

Telephone interviewing (CATI) was conducted during the period 15th June – 18th June 2015.

Sample

N=603 interviews were conducted.

A sample size of 603 provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4% at 95% confidence.

This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of n=603 residents, that 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, +/- 4%.

For the survey under discussion the greatest margin of error is 4.0%. This means for example, that the answer 'important' (48%) to the question querying the importance of having kangaroos in Canberra Nature Park could vary from 44% to 52%.

Interviewing

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with the AMSRS Code of Professional Conduct.

Data analysis

The data within this report was analysed using Q Professional.

Percentages

All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.

Comparisons with previous reports

Where applicable, comparisons have been made with the report from 2011. Wording changes in the questions have been indicated as [].



Results

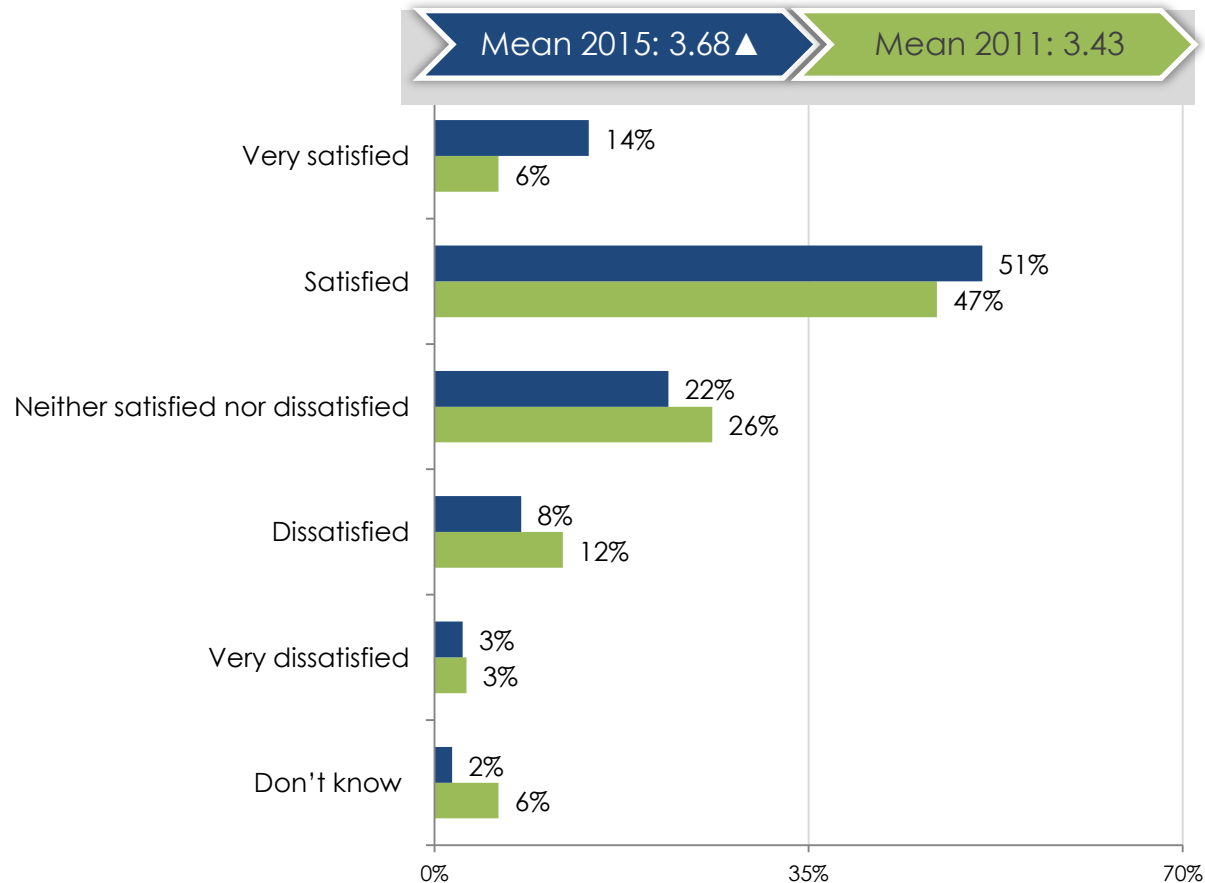
Awareness of Kangaroos in the ACT





Satisfaction with the ACT Government's Current Management of Kangaroos

Q14. How satisfied are you with the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos?



▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower response by year

Base: 2015 N=603, 2011 N=600

Scale: 1 = very dissatisfied, 5 = very satisfied

Mean base: 2015 N=593, 2011 N=580 as 'don't know' was not included in the mean calculation

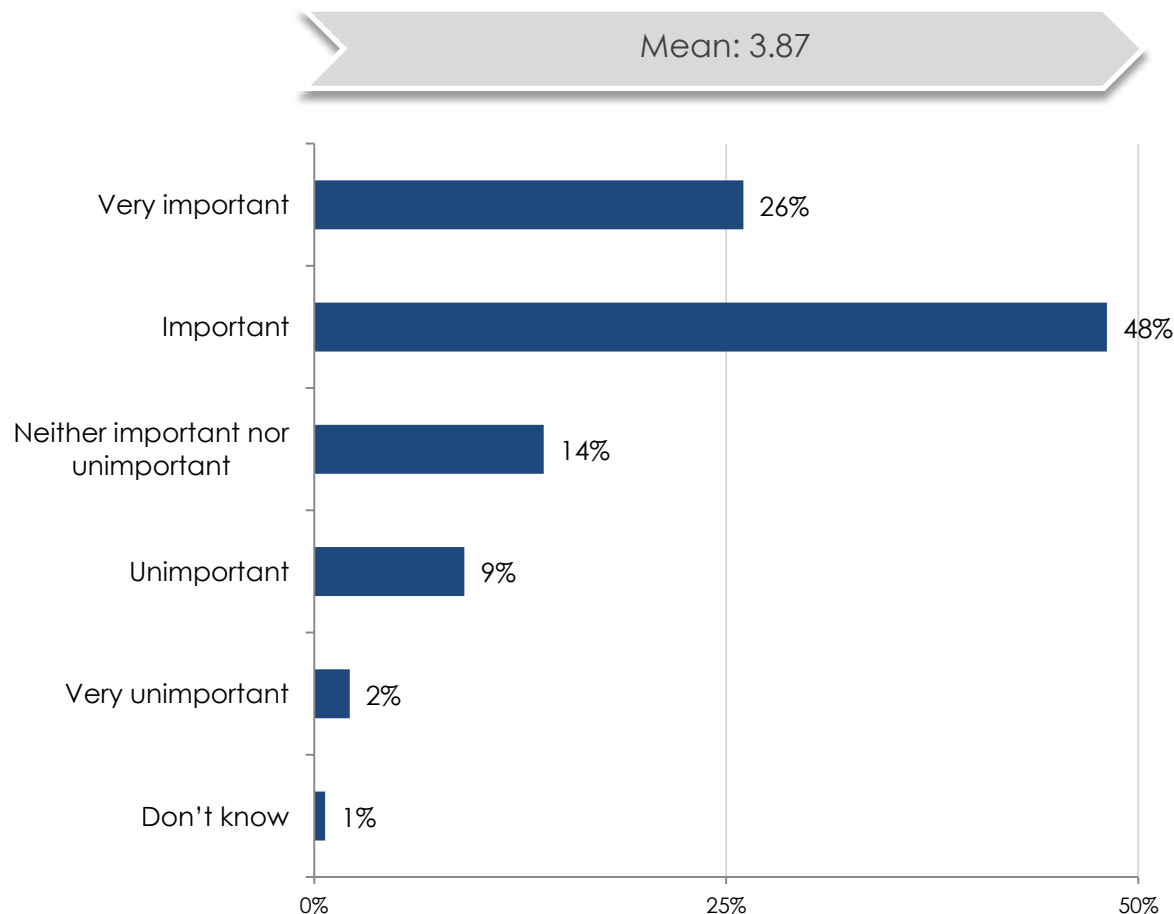
Residents were mainly 'satisfied' to 'very satisfied' with the ACT Government's current management of kangaroos. Only 11% indicated some degree of dissatisfaction



Importance of having Kangaroos in Canberra Nature Park

Q2. *Canberra Nature Park is made up of the bush and grassland nature reserves at the edges of our suburbs. How important is it to have kangaroos in Canberra Nature Park?*

74% of ACT residents felt it was 'important' to 'very important' to have kangaroos in Canberra Nature Park, while 11% rated it as unimportant



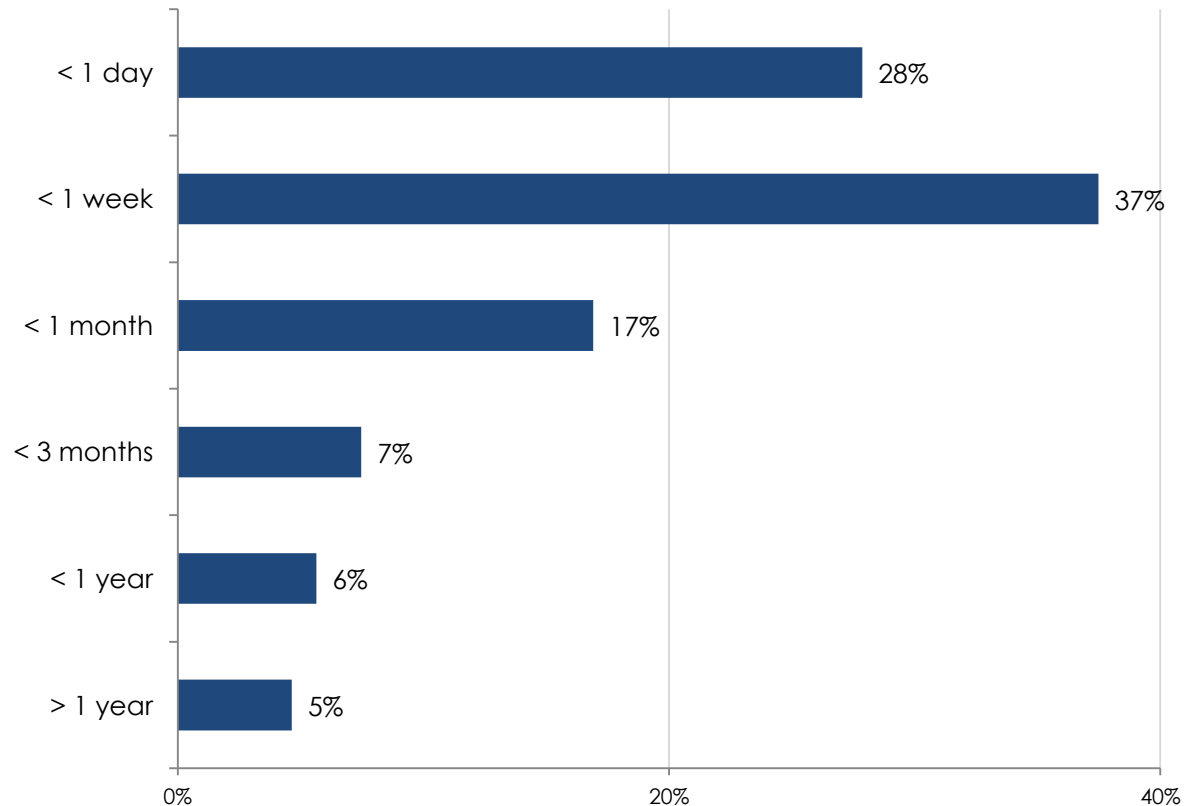
Base: N=603

Mean base: N=599, as 'don't know' responses are not included in the mean calculation

Scale: 1 = very unimportant, 5 = very important

Recency of Sighting Kangaroos in the ACT

Q1. How long is it since you last saw a kangaroo in the ACT?

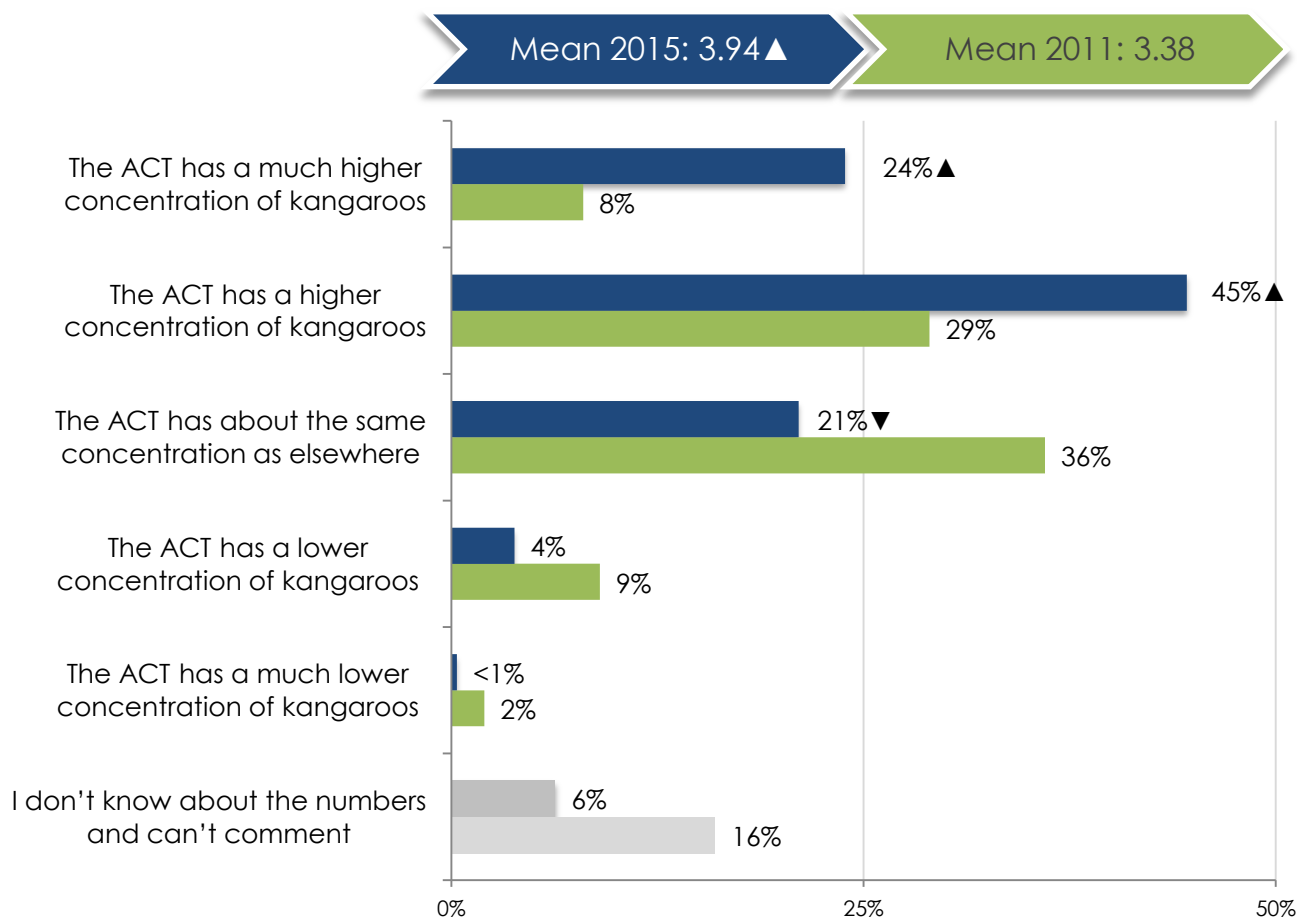


Base: N=603

The majority of respondents (65%) had last seen a kangaroo in the ACT in the last week, with 28% of these seeing one in the previous 24 hours

Concentration of Kangaroos in the ACT

Q3. Compared to Australia generally [NSW], which of the following would best describe the concentration of kangaroos in the ACT?



▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower response by year

Base: 2015 N=603, 2011 N=600

Scale: 1 = much lower concentration, 5 = much higher concentration

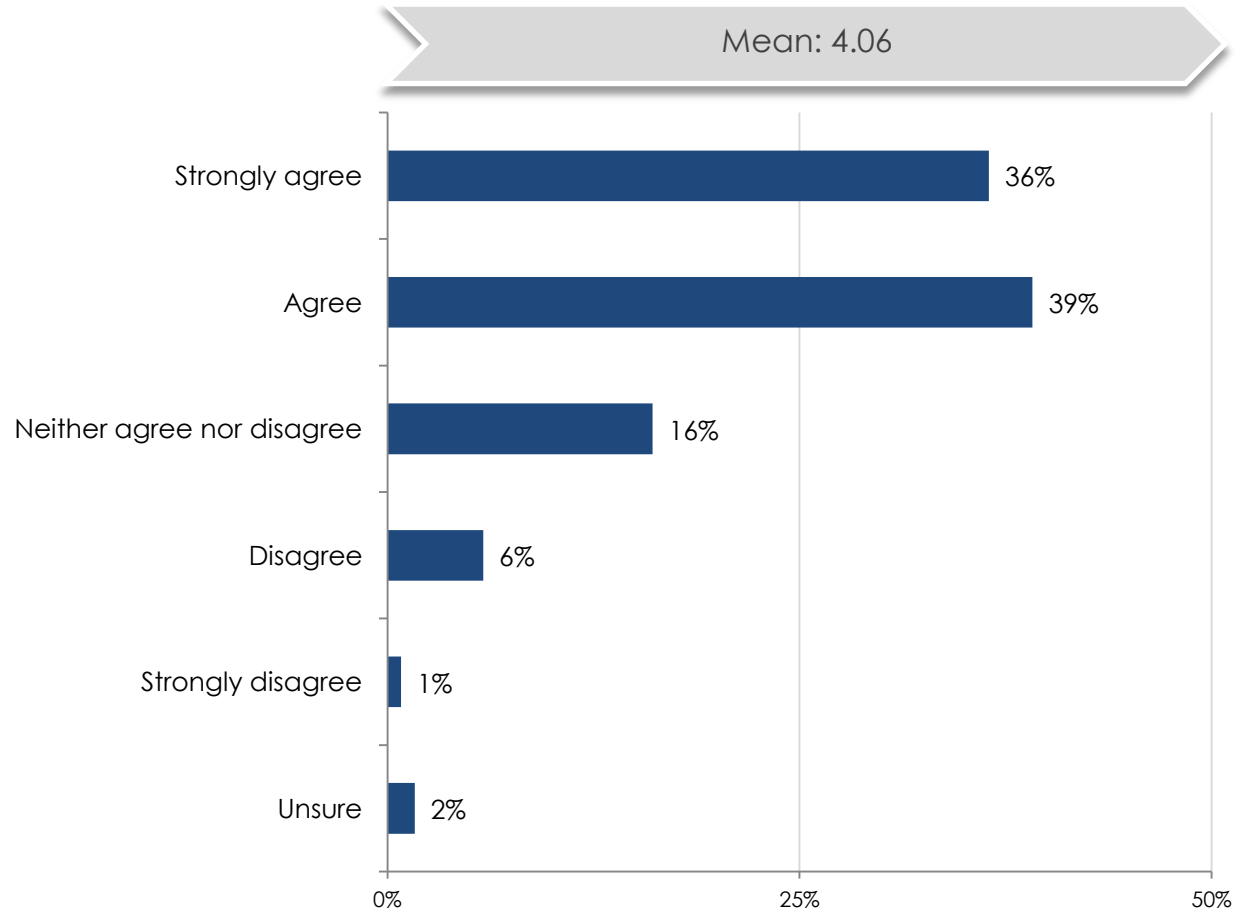
Mean base: 2015 N=565, 2011 N=503 as 'I don't know about the numbers and can't comment' is not included in the mean calculation

69% of residents believe there is a 'higher' to 'much higher' concentration of kangaroos compared to the rest of Australia. This is significantly higher than the results in 2011 comparing to NSW

Reliability of Sighting Kangaroos in the ACT

Q4. An article in the Australian Geographic magazine says Canberra is the best and most reliable place in Australia to go to see kangaroos. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement?

75% of residents 'agree' to 'strongly agree' that Canberra is the best and most reliable place in Australia to see kangaroos



Base: N=603

Mean base: N=593, as 'unsure' responses are not included in the mean calculation

Scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree

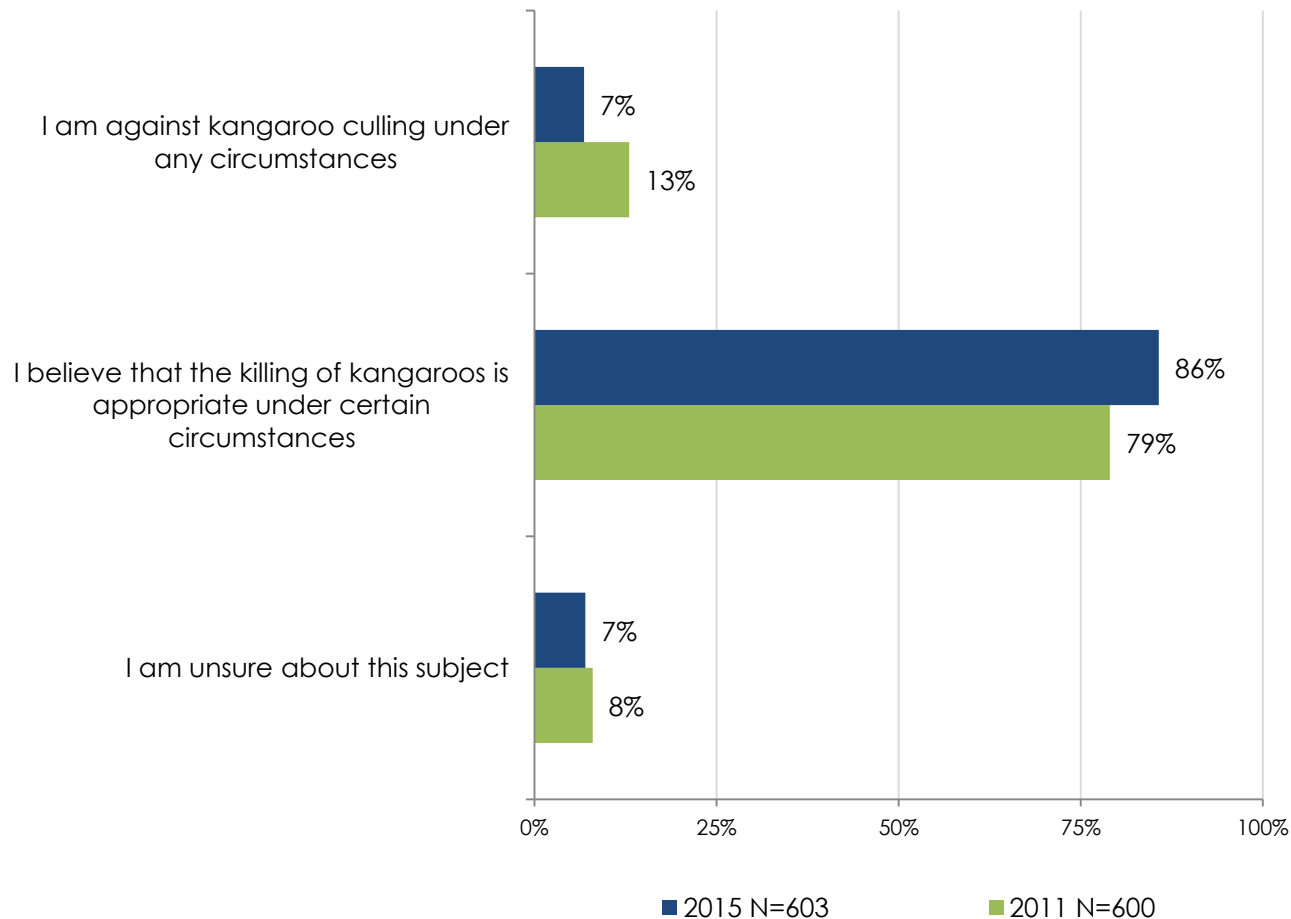
Agreeing with Reasons for Culling Kangaroos



Prompted Statements Regarding Kangaroo Culling

Q5. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion with regards to kangaroo culling?

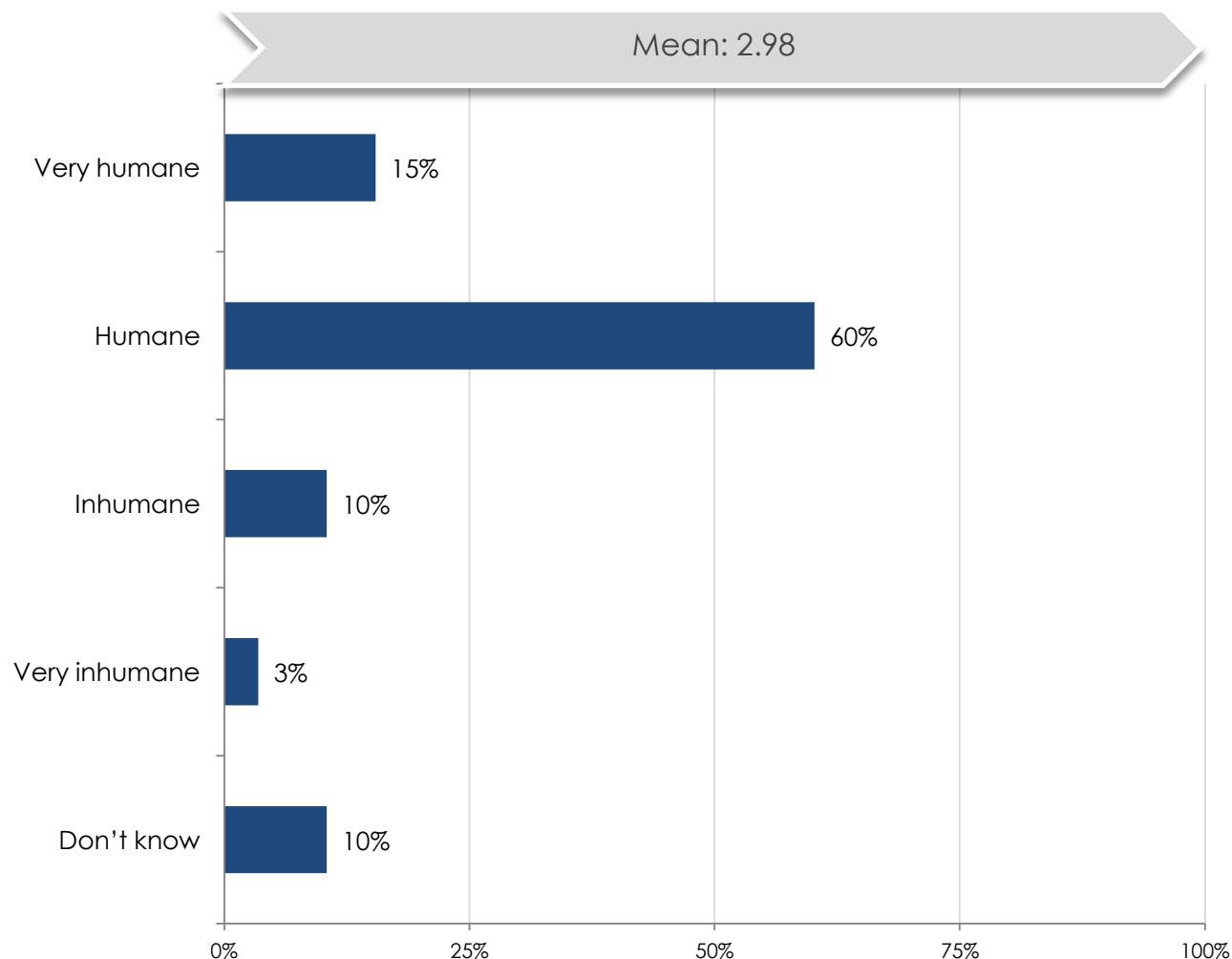
Residents believe that the killing of kangaroos is appropriate in certain circumstances, this statement. This result is higher than in 2011





How Humane is the Culling of Kangaroos?

Q6. In comparison to other methods by which humans control wild animals, how humane is the culling of kangaroos?



Base: 2015 N=603

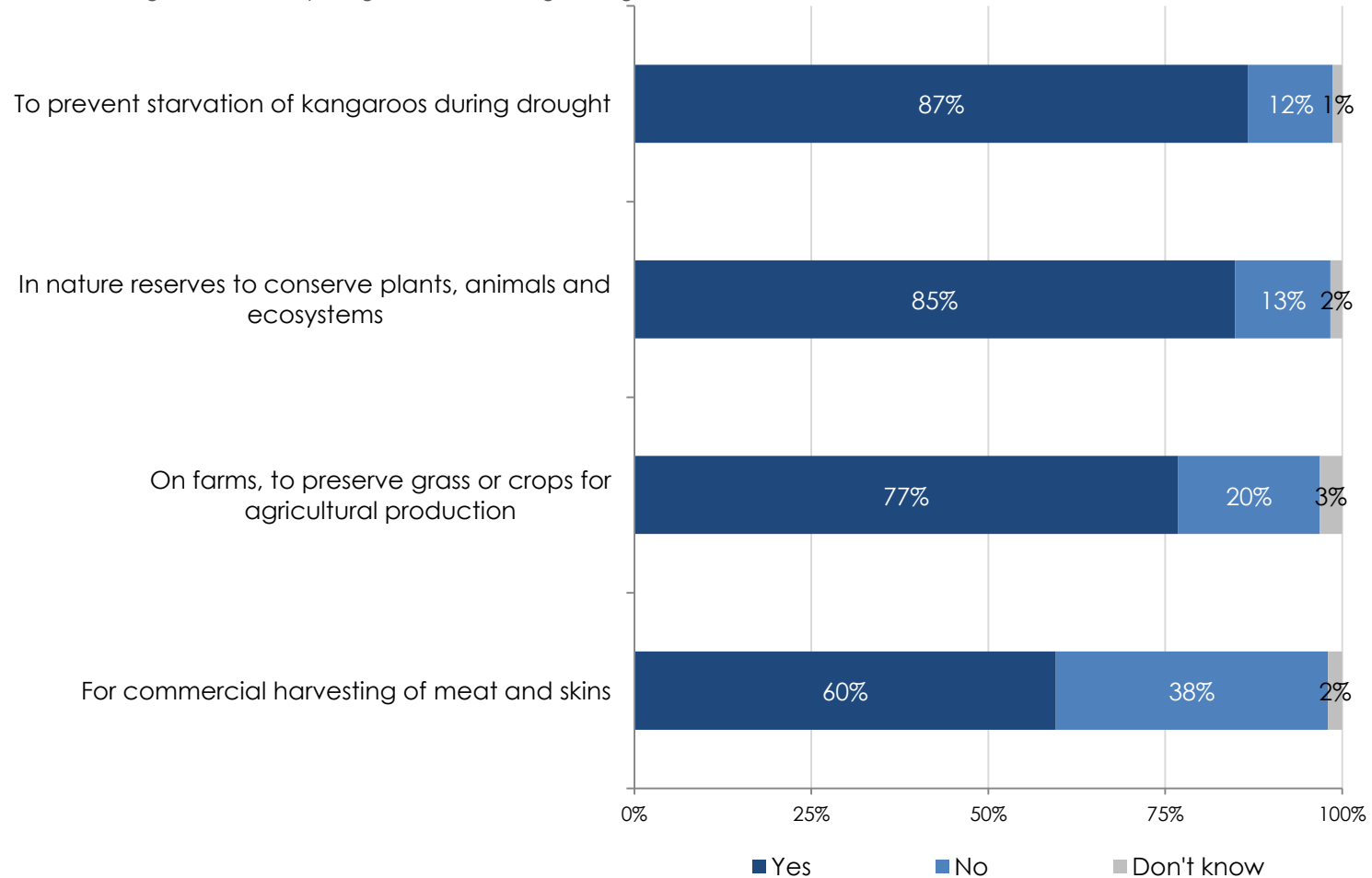
Mean base: 2015 N=540 as 'don't know' is not included in the mean calculation

Scale: 1 = very inhumane, 4 = very humane

75% of residents believe the culling of kangaroos is 'humane' or 'very humane' in comparison to controlling other wild animals

Particular Reasons for Culling Kangaroos

Q7. For which of the following reasons would you agree with the culling of kangaroos?



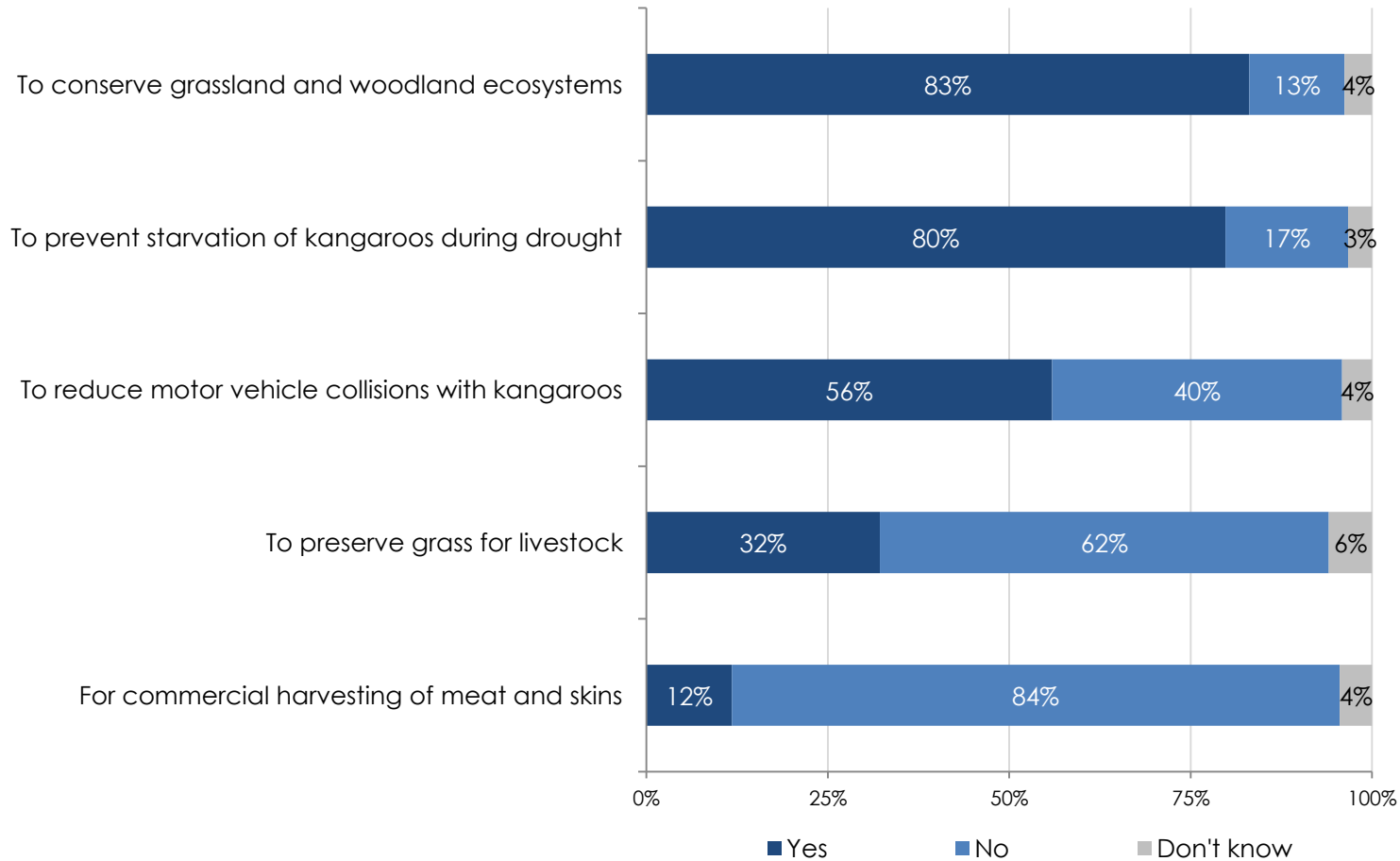
Base: N=603

Residents had strong levels of agreement with the culling of kangaroos ‘to prevent starvation of kangaroos during drought’ (87%) and ‘in nature reserves to conserve plants, animals and ecosystems’ (85%). Agreement tapered off with the reason ‘on farms, to preserve grass or crops for agricultural production’ (77%), to a low of 60% ‘for commercial harvesting of meat and skins’

Agreeing with Reasons for Culling Kangaroos

Reasons for Culling in Nature Reserves

Q8. Kangaroos have been culled in ACT nature reserves since 2008. For which of the following reasons is the culling in nature reserves carried out?

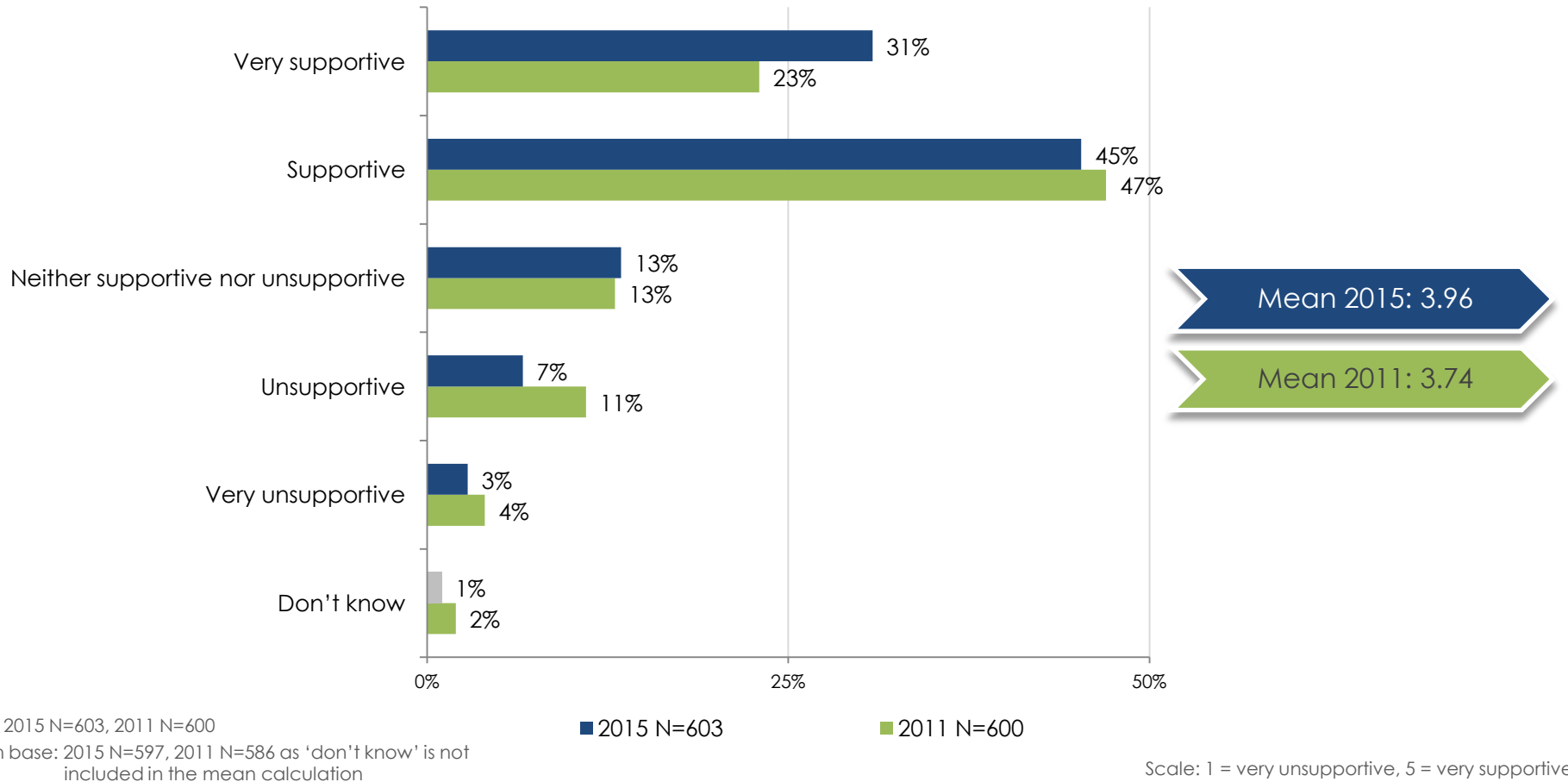


Base: N=603

The majority of residents believe culling in nature reserves is carried out for the conservation of grassland and woodland ecosystems, and to prevent kangaroos starving during a drought. There was less conviction that it was done to reduce collisions with motor vehicles or to preserve grass for livestock, whilst only 12% believe it's for commercial harvesting of meat & skins

Culling for Conservation of Grassland and Woodland Animals

Q9. For seven years, kangaroos have been culled in ACT nature reserves for the conservation of grassland and woodland animals. Can you please rate how supportive or unsupportive you are of kangaroo culling for conservation of these animals?

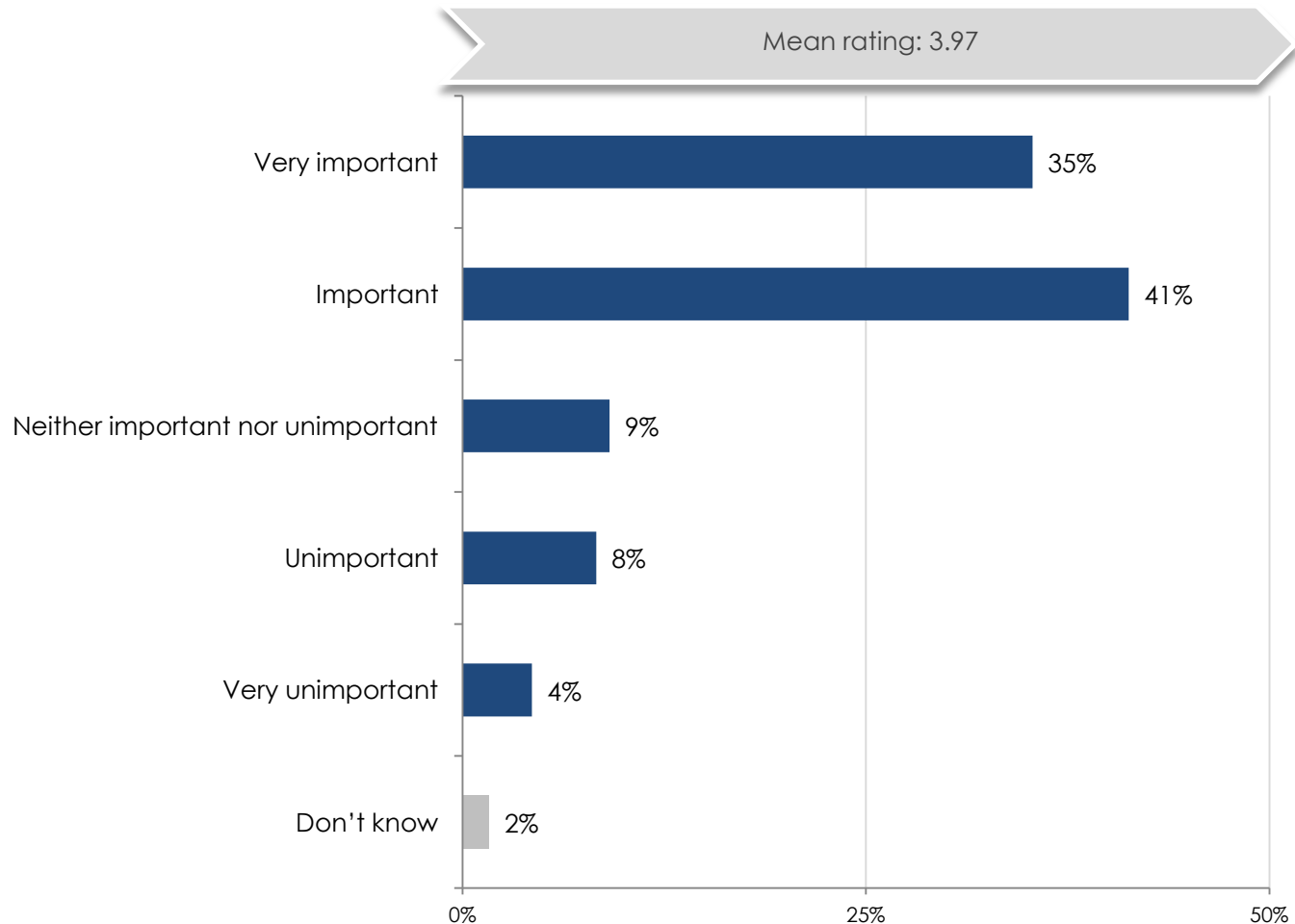


Residents are supportive of kangaroo culling for the conservation of grassland and woodland animals, with 76% stating they were 'supportive' or 'very supportive'. This is an increase on 2011, when 70% gave the same ratings



Importance of Developing and Applying Fertility Controls to Control Breeding

Q10. How important is it to develop and apply fertility control methods to control the breeding of kangaroos in Canberra?



76% found it 'important' to 'very important' that fertility control methods were applied to control the breeding of kangaroos dwelling in Canberra. Only 12% did not find it important

Base: 2015 N=603

Mean base: 2015 N=593 as 'don't know' is not included in the mean calculation

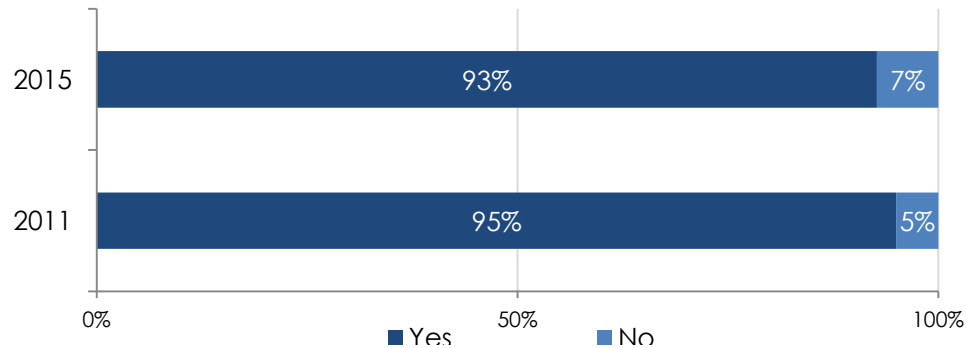
Scale: 1 = very unimportant, 5 = very important

Collisions Between Kangaroos and Motor Vehicles on Roads



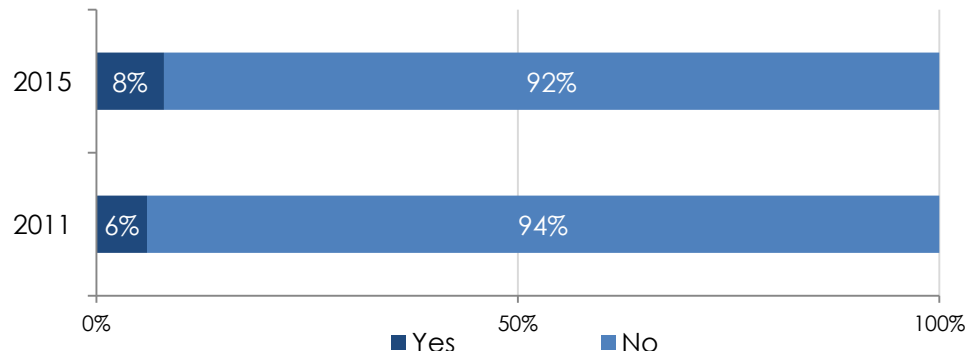
Collisions Involving Kangaroos on Roads in the ACT

Q11. Have you held an ACT licence to drive a motor vehicle for the last three years?
[In the last 3 years have you driven a vehicle in the ACT?]



Base: N=603

Q12. In the last 3 years how many times were you driving a car in the ACT when it was in a motor vehicle collision with a kangaroo?
Note: Data from 2011 has been transposed to enable comparisons with 2011.
[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?]



Base: 2015 N=559, 2011 N=571

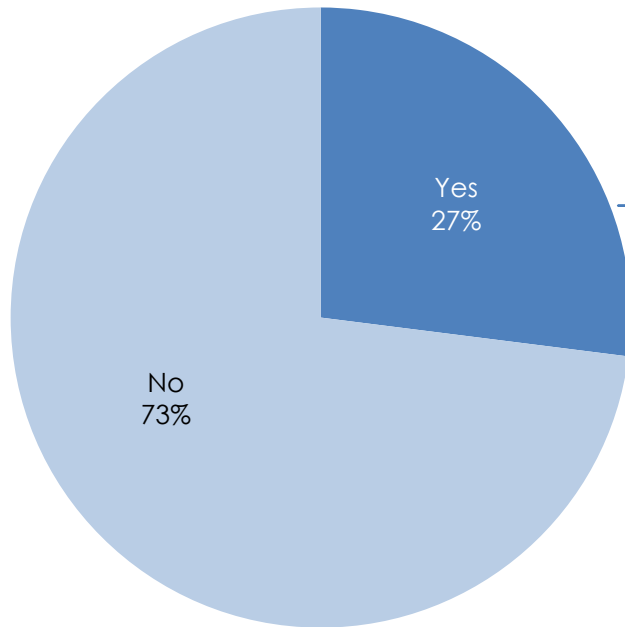
No. of collisions	2015	
	Percentage	Count
0	92%	513
1	6%	31
2	2%	9
3	1%	3
4	<1%	1
6	<1%	1
8	<1%	1
NET	100%	559

8% stated that their vehicle had been involved in a collision with a kangaroo.
This result is similar to 2011

Results of Motor Vehicle Collisions with Kangaroos

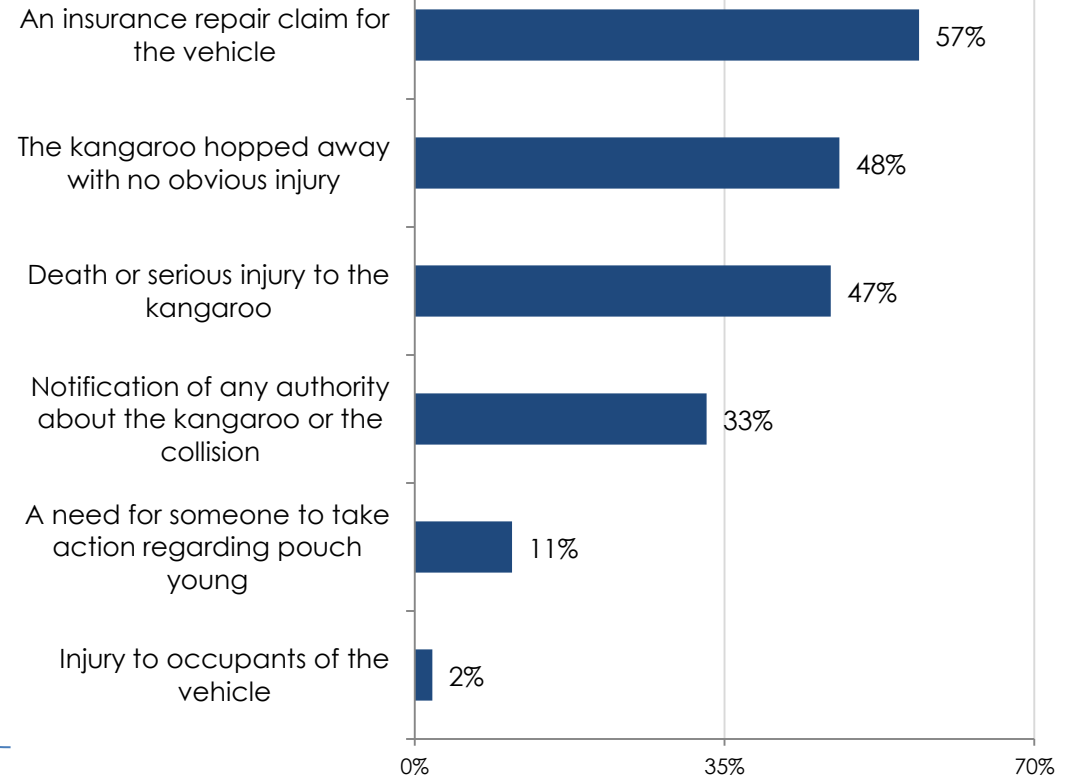
Both drivers and passengers 'ever' involved in a collision with a kangaroo

Q13a. Have you ever been involved in a motor vehicle collision with a kangaroo in the ACT?



Q13b. Have you ever been involved in a motor vehicle collision in the ACT that resulted in any of the following?

Note: This data includes drivers and passengers involved in collisions



Base: N=603

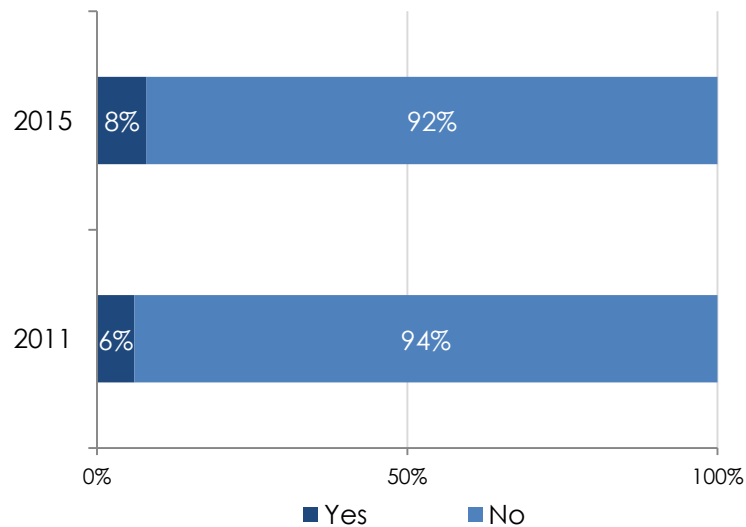
Base: N=160

27% of residents stated they have at some point been involved in a collision between their vehicle and a kangaroo, with 57% stating this collision had resulted in 'an insurance repair claim for the vehicle' and 48% in 'the kangaroo hopped away with no obvious injury'

Results of Motor Vehicle Collisions with Kangaroos

Drivers involved in a collision with a kangaroo in the last 3 years

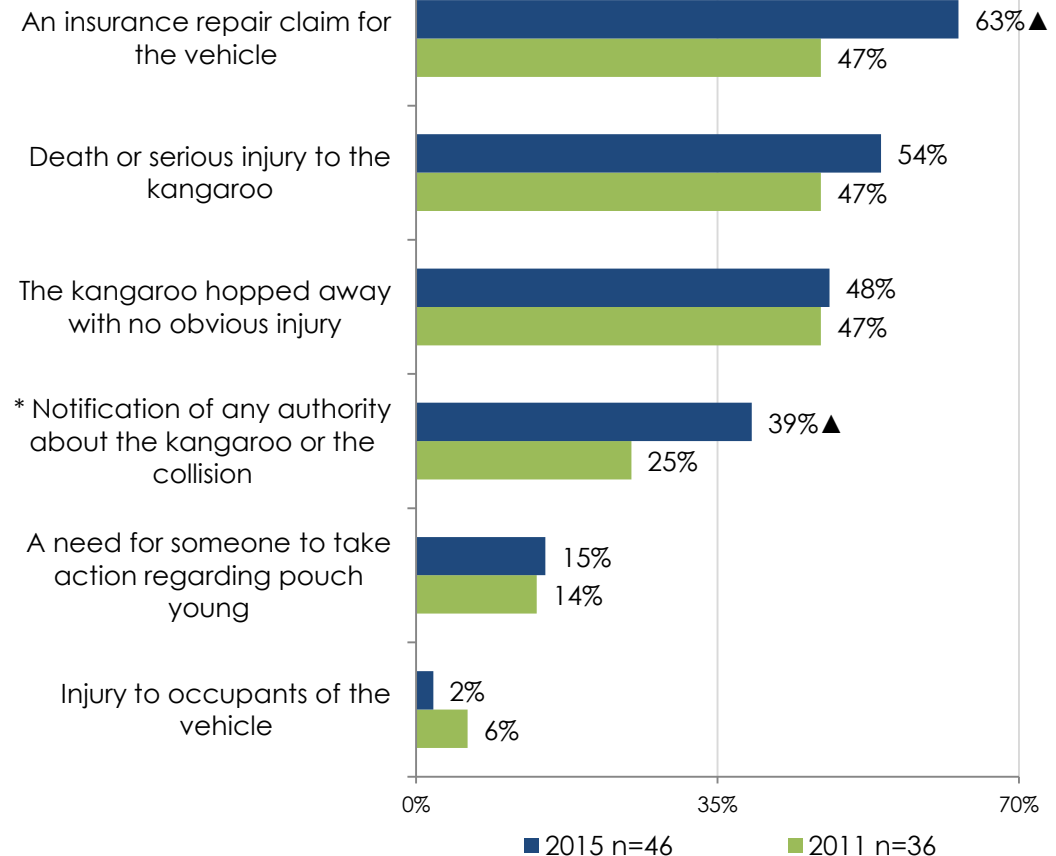
Q12. In the last 3 years how many times were you driving a car in the ACT when it was in a motor vehicle collision with a kangaroo?
[In the last 3 years were you the driver of a vehicle in an accident that involved a kangaroo on a road in the ACT?]



Base: 2015 N=591, 2011 N=571

Q13b. Have you been involved in a motor vehicle collision in the ACT [in the last 3 years] that resulted in any of the following?

Note: This data is from drivers involved in collisions in the last 3 years only



* **Note:** In 2011 the wording for 'Notification of any authority...' was 'a phone call to notify any authority...'

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower response

The majority of drivers involved in a collision with a motor vehicle stated that it had resulted in 'an insurance repair claim for the vehicle'. The outcome for the kangaroo was either 'death or serious injury to the kangaroo' (54%) or 'the kangaroo hopped away with no obvious injury' (48%).

Conclusion



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Conclusion

Satisfaction with ACT Governments Current Management of Kangaroos

Almost two-thirds of residents stated they were 'satisfied' – 'very satisfied' with the ACT Government's current management methods towards kangaroos. This is significantly higher than the results in 2011

Awareness of Kangaroos in the ACT

- There is a high visual level of kangaroos in the ACT, with 65% of residents having seen one in the past week
- 69% of residents believe the ACT has a 'higher' to 'much higher' concentration of kangaroos compared to Australia generally and 75% who 'agree' or 'strongly agree' with the Australian Geographic magazine's article that Canberra is the best and most reliable place in Australia to go to see kangaroos

Agreeing with Reasons for Culling of Kangaroos

- 86% of residents believe the killing of kangaroos is appropriate under certain situations, while 7% are against culling under any circumstances
- 75% believe the culling carried out is 'humane' to 'very humane' compared to other methods used to control wild animals



Conclusion

Reasons for Culling Kangaroos

Residents agree with the culling of kangaroos for the following reasons:

- 87% to prevent starvation of kangaroos during drought
- 85% in nature reserves to conserve plants, animals and ecosystems

The majority of residents believe the reasons for culling in nature reserves were:

- To conserve grassland and woodland ecosystems – 83%
- To prevent starvation of kangaroos during drought – 80%
- To reduce motor vehicle collisions with kangaroos – 56%

Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of residents were 'supportive' to 'very supportive' of kangaroo culling for the conservation of grassland and woodland animals. This result is similar to 2011

76% attributed some level of importance to the development and application of fertility control methods to control the breeding of kangaroos in Canberra.



Conclusion

Collisions Between Motor Vehicles and Kangaroos on Roads

- 27% of respondent indicated that they had ever been involved as either a driver or a passenger in a collisions with a kangaroo
- As a result of these collisions:
 - 57% had 'an insurance repair claim for the vehicle'
 - 48% observed that 'the kangaroo hopped away with no obvious injury'
 - 47% experienced 'death or serious injury to the kangaroo'
 - 33% required 'notification of any authority about the kangaroo or the collision'
 - 11% had 'a need for someone to take action regarding pouch young'
 - 2% observed an 'injury to occupants of the vehicle'





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