

PIEP0001281



ACT
Government

**REVIEW OF THE EASTERN GREY KANGAROO
CONTROLLED NATIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (2017)**

**ON BEHALF OF
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definitions

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CNSMP	Controlled Native Species Management Plan
EGK	Eastern Grey Kangaroo
EHW	Environment, Heritage and Water Group
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
NC Act	Nature Conservation Act 2014
TBD	To Be Determined

1.2. Objective

This consultancy will review the effectiveness of the current management plan and associated legislative instruments for reducing the adverse environmental, economic and social impacts of Eastern Grey Kangaroos (EGK) in the ACT. The following documents will be reviewed:

- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Controlled Native Species Management Plan 2017 (EGK CNSMP)
- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Conservation Culling Calculator Determination 2018
- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Rural Culling Calculator Determination 2017

Based on the review findings, the consultant is expected to recommend improvements to future ACT Government policies and programs that will support ongoing best-practice kangaroo management.

1.3. Background

The Eastern Grey Kangaroo is a declared controlled native species in the ACT. Chapter 7 of the NC Act provides for a controlled native species management plan which details the management of the species on stated lands in the ACT. The controlled native species management plan for EGK (DI 2017-37) was prepared under section 160 of the Nature Conservation Act 2014 (NC Act) and notified in 2017. The plan sets out the approach taken by the ACT to maintain wild populations of the species while managing their environmental, economic and social impacts.

Emphasis is given to the management of kangaroo grazing pressure on native grassy ecosystems to support the conservation of plants and small animals that require the ground-layer vegetation. To moderate kangaroo grazing effects on native grassy ecosystems, conservation culling in protected areas in the ACT is implemented to

maintain kangaroo densities at levels that retain grassland and grassy woodland conservation values. The plan also allows for culling on rural lands to minimise impacts on the economic viability of rural enterprises. Two culling calculators, the EGK Rural Culling Calculator and the EGK Conservation Culling Calculator, set the number of kangaroos to cull in any year for the different land types. These calculators have been in force since 2017 and are both notifiable instruments. Minor updates were made to the Conservation Culling Calculator in 2018.

The NC Act under Section 168 provides for the monitoring of the effectiveness of controlled native species management plans with a review at least once every five years. This consultancy is aimed at fulfilling the requirements of this statutory review. It will review the effectiveness of the controlled native species management plan, including its two associated calculators, in addressing the environmental, economic, and social impacts of wild kangaroo populations in the ACT.

2. SCOPE

The review will assess the effectiveness of the EGK CNSMP and associated legislative instruments for maintaining wild populations of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the ACT while managing their environmental, economic and social impacts. The following documents will be reviewed:

- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Controlled Native Species Management Plan 2017
- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Conservation Culling Calculator Determination 2018
- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Rural Culling Calculator Determination 2017

The consultant will review the policies contained in the EGK CNSMP and where possible will evaluate the degree to which the policies have achieved the management objectives stated in the plan in the last five years (2017-2022).

In particular, the review will focus on evaluating the management of kangaroo grazing pressure on native grassy ecosystems. This will include evaluating the current kangaroo population survey methods and processes for calculating culling targets, as well as the appropriateness of those targets for achieving ecosystem outcomes. This part of the review will be informed by an ACT Government research report assessing the program's achievement of its targets for kangaroo population density and grass structure, as well as other relevant reports and data.

In undertaking the review, the consultant is expected to:

- Review available data and reports from across the years in relation to kangaroo management in the ACT, including the conservation culling program. An initial list of relevant documents is provided in Appendix 1;
- Contact units/offices within EPSDD and other Directorates to obtain information relevant to the review if needed. The Project Team can assist the consultant in this area.

- Conduct targeted interviews with key EHW internal staff (in the Office of Nature Conservation, Resilient Landscapes branch, and the Parks and Conservation Service) and external stakeholders (including ACT Conservation Council, rural land holders and managers of National Land) to gain insights and understanding on current kangaroo management activities and to obtain feedback to inform recommendations.

The consultant will provide the review results in a written report, including recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of kangaroo management policies and programs into the future.

3. DELIVERABLES

3.1 Preliminary Deliverable:

The consultant will provide a workplan one week after signing the contract.

3.2 Final Deliverable:

The final deliverable is a report containing the review findings and recommendations.

The final deliverable will be provided in draft form (MS Word format), to which the project team will aim to provide comments within 7 working days. The final version of the deliverable will then be provided by the consultant, taking into account and addressing the comments provided by the project team.

4. STAKEHOLDERS/USERS

The Contractor will be required to engage with the following stakeholders/users:

- EGK CNSMP review project team
- Office of Nature Conservation, Resilient Landscapes and Parks and Conservation Service staff
- Staff from other ACT Directorates (as required)
- Target external stakeholders such as rural landholders and managers of National Land (as required)

5. REPORTS

The following reports are required from the Contractor:

Report	Format	Due Date
Work Plan	MS Word format	6/11/23
Draft Review Report	MS Word format	22/12/23
Final Review Report	MS Word format	2/2/24

6. MEETINGS

- 6.1. The Territory Contract Officer will coordinate and facilitate the meetings below with the purpose of analysing performance, identifying gaps and agreeing to improvement actions to ensure the Territory's overall objectives are met.

Meetings	Date
Workplan discussion	6/11/23 (approx.)
Draft Report discussion	15/1/23 (approx.)

- 6.2. Either party may request additional meetings throughout the Term of the Agreement to aid communication or resolution of issues, and overall contract management, at no additional costs to the Territory.
- 6.3. The Territory Contract Manager will coordinate and facilitate performance monitoring meetings with the purpose of analysing achievement against the KPIs, identifying gaps and agreeing improvement actions to ensure the Territory's overall objectives are met.

7. MILESTONES

- 7.1. The following are the anticipated milestones and will align to the Pricing Schedule:

Milestone	Due Date
Contract Signing	8/9/23
Draft Review Report	22/12/23
Final Review Report	2/2/24

8. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

- 8.1. The Territory requires regular discussion with the Contractor to ensure that services being undertaken are to the satisfaction of the Territory.
- 8.2. The Agreement will be managed in accordance with the Territory Contract Management Plan and any variations to the Agreement will not be accepted without prior Territory written approval.
- 8.3. The Contractor will nominate a Contract Manager as the authorised representative under the Agreement and the key contact for notices under the Agreement. The Contract Manager will have delegation to represent the Contractor in all respects, including ensuring Contractor alignment with the Territory's strategic priorities.
- 8.4. A Territory Contract Manager with appropriate delegations will engage and work with the Contractor's Contract Manager.
- 8.5. The Contractor's Key Personnel must be available for the term of the Agreement. If for any reason they are not available to deliver the Services, the Contractor must obtain approval from the Territory Contract Manager to appoint any new Key Personnel.

9. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- 9.1. The performance of the Contractor will be monitored against agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which will form part of the Agreement. Additional costs incurred by the Contractor in correcting unsatisfactory achievement of targets will be borne entirely by the Contractor.
- 9.2. Where a deficiency in the Contractor's performance is identified (i.e. the Contractor fails to meet a KPI within the review period), the Territory and the Contractor will work together to develop a means of remedying the deficiency. Where an identified deficiency is unable to be remedied or non-performance continues despite a remedy being implemented, the Territory may seek to terminate the Agreement for default.
- 9.3. Evaluation of activities will be made by a combination of the inputs (the resources expended), the outputs (the numbers attending, value of local services etc.); and the outcomes, which are measurable through a variety of methods including questionnaire, interview or focus group. Advice on the appropriate methods for measuring the outcomes will be agreed upon in discussion with the Authority according to the activities proposed. These take qualitative elements into measurable quantities for systematic review.
- 9.4. The KPIs below will be mutually agreed upon.

KPI	Minimum Standard	Target	Calculation		Source Data	Determined By
			Frequency	Formula		
Submission of specified documentation by the required schedule	95%	100%	As per contract schedule	Acknowledgement of and acceptance by the Contract Manager	Contract	Contract Manager
Attendance at Meetings	95%	100%	As per contract schedule	# of meetings attended against the # of meetings scheduled	Contract	Contract Manager
Invoicing forwarded correctly, on time, as specified and agreed.	95%	100%	As per payment schedule	Acknowledgement of and acceptance by the Authority	Contract	Contract Manager
Meeting deadlines for program content as per the agreed timeline.	95%	100%	As per contract schedule	Acknowledgement of and acceptance by the Authority	Contract	Contract Manager

APPENDIX 1 – Initial list of documents relevant to this review

This is not an exhaustive list of the documents relevant to this review. Other information will be provided by the Project Team as required.

Document	Location
Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan 2017	https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2017-37
Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Conservation Culling Calculator Determination 2018	https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2018-141
Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Rural Culling Calculator Determination 2017	https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2017-224
Research Report – Effectiveness of kangaroo management in achieving target population densities and grass structure	In prep
Eastern Grey Kangaroo Conservation Management Advice reports 2018-2022	https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/wildlife-management/eastern-grey-kangaroos See “ACT Government conservation management advice” section
Relevant research papers published since 2017	https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/conservation-research/macropod-research (not an exhaustive list)
Previous reviews of aspects of kangaroo management in the ACT	https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/wildlife-management/eastern-grey-kangaroos See “Reviews of the ACT management program” section
Opinions of ACT residents to kangaroos and kangaroo management	https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/wildlife-management/eastern-grey-kangaroos See “Opinion polls” section
2010 Kangaroo Management Plan	Kangaroo Management Plan (act.gov.au)

Goods and/or Services REQUEST FOR QUOTATION UNDER \$25,000

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION INFORMATION

The Territory as represented by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate would like to invite *insert supplier's name* to respond to this Request for Quotation (RFQ).

This RFQ comprises:

- Schedule 1 – Statement of Requirements;
- Schedule 2 – General Terms and Conditions for Purchase Orders (Goods and/or Services); and
- Schedule 3 – Supplier's Quotation, including Supplier's declaration.

SCHEDULE 1 - STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT

RFQ Title:	REVIEW OF THE EASTERN GREY KANGAROO CONTROLLED NATIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (2017)		
RFQ Number:	PIEP0001281	Territory Contact Officer:	For all matters relating to this RFQ contact: Claire Wimpenny at +61 2 6205 8252 or Claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au
Purchasing Directorate:	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Section/Business Unit:	Office of Nature Conservation
Issue Date:	16/08/2023	Closing Date:	30/08/2023
Supplies Required by:	02/02/2024		
Lodgement method:	Quotations should be lodged with Claire Wimpenny via email at Claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au in MS Word or PDF format by the closing date specified above. Please note: due to system restrictions responses cannot exceed one file and 3MB.		
Questions	Any questions relating to this RFQ should be addressed to the Territory Contact Officer and sent via email.		

The Requirement

Item	Details
Description of Requirement (including warranties for goods):	Refer to Attachment A – Statement of Requirements_Review of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Controlled Native Species Management Plan 2017
Background Information:	Refer to Attachment A
Delivery Instructions (for goods) or Service Timeframes/ Milestones (for services):	Work Plan – 6/11/23 Draft Review Report – 22/12/23 Final Review Report – 2/2/24 See Attachment A for further details.

Item	Details
Required insurance/s	<p>The Supplier must effect and maintain all insurances required to be effected by it by law and the following insurances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public liability insurance with coverage in the amount of no less than \$10 million in respect of each occurrence; 2. For Supplies that include services, professional indemnity insurance with coverage in the amount of no less than \$10 million in the annual aggregate; and 3. For supplies that include goods, product liability insurance to a value of \$10 million in the annual aggregate. <p>The Supplier must provide evidence of the above insurances.</p>

SCHEDULE 2 - GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PURCHASE ORDERS (GOODS AND SERVICES)

If this quotation is accepted and approved by the Australian Capital Territory (indicated at the end of the document), the following general terms and conditions for purchase orders (Goods and/or Services) will apply to the provision of the supplies.

1. Provision of Supplies

- 1.1 The Supplier must provide the goods and/or services specified in the Purchase Order (**Supplies**) according to the provisions of the Purchase Order and these terms and conditions (collectively, **Contract**) and to a high standard of care, skill and diligence.
- 1.2 Supplies that are goods must be new and unused, free from any security interest, defects in materials and workmanship, of acceptable quality and must conform to any specifications and descriptions set out in the Purchase Order.
- 1.3 If the Supplies contain hazardous substances, the Supplier must provide material safety data sheets for those hazardous substances.

2. Price of Supplies

- 2.1 Except if otherwise stated in the Purchase Order, the price for the Supplies is:
 - (a) payable within 30 days of receipt by the Territory of an Invoice;
 - (b) inclusive of GST and all other taxes, duties and charges; and
 - (c) inclusive of all disbursements, including out of pocket expenses incurred by the Supplier.
- 2.2 An Invoice may be issued by the Supplier upon the satisfactory completion of each milestone set out in the Purchase Order, or if no milestones are specified, on the satisfactory completion of all services and acceptance of all goods comprising the Supplies.

3. Delivery and Acceptance

- 3.1 Supplies that are goods must be delivered at the times and places detailed in the Purchase Order, in good order and condition and marked with the relevant Purchase Order Number and full delivery point details. Delivery will be free into store unless otherwise specified in the Contract.
- 3.2 The Territory may reject Supplies supplied incorrectly, damaged, in excess of or less than specified quantities or otherwise found not to be in accordance with the Purchase Order.
- 3.3 If the Territory rejects any Supplies, the Supplier must, at no cost to the Territory and within any

timeframe specified by the Territory, remove the Supplies (in the case of goods) and:

- (a) replace any rejected Supplies that are goods; and
- (b) re-perform any rejected Supplies that are services; or
- (c) refund any payment for the rejected Supplies.

- 3.4 If the Territory does not reject the Supplies within 14 days of receiving the Supplies, the Territory is taken to have accepted the Supplies.

4. Title and Risk

Risk of loss and damage and title in Supplies that are goods passes to the Territory on its acceptance of those goods.

5. Warranty

For Supplies that are goods, the Supplier must:

- (a) during any warranty period specified in the Purchase Order, at no cost to the Territory, correct all defects in the Supplies by way of repair, replacement or such other means acceptable to the Territory; and
- (b) ensure, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, that the Territory receives the benefit of any warranty given by a third party with respect to any goods,

however, this does not in any way relieve the Supplier of any obligation or warranty by it under the Contract and the Supplier is liable for all costs incidental to the discharge of any warranty under the Contract.

6. Insurance

The Supplier must effect and maintain for the Purchase Order term any insurances specified in the Purchase Order.

7. Indemnity

The Supplier indemnifies the Territory, its employees and agents against all liability in respect of all claims, costs and expenses in relation to all loss, damage, injury or death to persons or property caused by the Supplier, in connection with the provision of the Supplies, except to the extent that the Territory caused the relevant loss, damage or injury.

8. Cancellation

The Territory may cancel the Purchase Order in part or whole, at any time by notice to the Supplier, if the Supplier:

- (a) enters, or in the Territory's absolute opinion, is likely to enter, into any form of external administration or makes any arrangement with its creditors or takes advantage of any statute for the relief of insolvent debtors;
- (b) fails to provide the Supplies within, or to meet any other, timeframes or milestones specified in this Contract; or
- (c) is otherwise in breach of a provision of this Contract, where that breach:
 - (i) if capable of being remedied, is not remedied within the period specified in a notice by the Territory, or
 - (ii) is not capable of being remedied.

9. Assignment and Subcontracting

The Supplier must not assign or subcontract any of its rights or obligations under this Contract without the prior written consent of the Territory.

10. Applicable Law

The laws of the Australian Capital Territory apply to this Contract.

11. Variation

This Contract may be varied only by the written agreement of the parties prior to the expiration of the Contract.

12. Entire Agreement

The Contract constitutes the entire agreement of the parties in relation to the provision of the Supplies and all other agreements, warranties and representations are excluded.

SCHEDULE 3 - SUPPLIER'S QUOTATION FOR SUPPLIES (TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPPLIER)**Supplier's Details**

Full legal name:	Sarah Legge Environmental Consultancy
Registered office or postal address:	Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
ACN/ARBN (if applicable):	Insert your ACN or ARBN if applicable.
ABN (if applicable):	85175593891

Contact Officer for the Supplier

For all matters relating to this RFQ, including any notices, the Supplier's contact officer will be:

Name:	Sarah Legge
Position title:	Sole Trader
Phone:	Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Mobile:	
Email:	

Supplier's Quotation

Details of relevant qualifications and/or certifications held:	BSc (Hons) Zoology PhD (Behavioural ecology)
If insurances are required by the Statement of Requirements, please state the insurances held:	Public liability Professional indemnity (both supplied)
Provide a brief summary of similar work undertaken/goods supplied in the past 12 months.	Developed Fire Research Strategy for Indigenous Desert Alliance Drafted Commonwealth Threat Abatement Plan for Feral Cats (currently open for public comment)

SUPPLIER'S QUOTATION FOR SUPPLIES (CONTINUED...)

Goods (if applicable)

Item Number	Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price (excluding GST)	GST Component	Unit Price (including GST)	Total
1	Workplan	1				
2	Draft review report	1				
3	Final review report	1				
					Total (including GST)	24,000

Details of Warranties (if applicable)	Insert the details of any warranty period that will be offered for these good/s.
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Services (if applicable)

Brief response to Statement of Requirements, including milestones (if applicable)	<p>I expect to carry out meetings to undertake the review, including 2-3 meetings spread over several days, with follow up meetings by phone and zoom.</p> <p>In addition I expect to have a workplan discussion at the start of the contract (early Nov), and then a draft report discussion (mid January), with the Contract Manager.</p> <p>Milestones: Draft report by 22 Dec 2023; Final report by 2 Feb 2024</p>			
Key personnel (if applicable) and pricing Please note: Total Cost field must be completed.	Name and Position (if applicable)	Expected Hours/Days allocated	Hourly Rate (including GST)	Daily Rate (including GST)
				Total Cost (including GST)

SUPPLIER'S DECLARATION



I/We quote to provide the goods and / or services described in the RFQ (Supplies) at the prices specified in this Supplier's Quotation.

I/We understand that if accepted by the Territory, this Supplier's Quotation becomes the purchase order for the provision of the Supplies.

I/We declare I/We have read and, if this Supplier's Quotation is accepted by the Territory, agree to provide the Supplies on the basis of the General Terms and Conditions for Purchase Orders (Goods and/ or Services).

Prior to signing ensure you have the legal authority to be a signatory for this quote.

NB: physical signatures are not required for this document. Complete the information and return electronically to the email address provided in Schedule 1.

Signatory's Full Printed Name:	SARAH LEGGE	Signatory's Title/Position:	Sole Trader
Signatory's Phone Number:	Sch 2.2(a)(ii)	Signatory's email address:	Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Signatory's Signature:		Date:	13/09/2023

TERRITORY APPROVAL FORM (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY)

By signing this form I, *Claire Wimpenny*, within Office of Nature Conservation representing the Environment and Planning Directorate on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory, commit to purchasing the above specified *consultancy services* in accordance with the methodology and price specified in the Supplier's Quotation.

Signatory's Full Printed Name:	Claire Wimpenny	Signatory's Title/Position:	Senior Ecologist
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The Territory accepts the quotation and the Supplier is permitted to commence the provision of the Supplies.

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signature: _

Date: 4/ 10/2023

From: Keighley, Miles
Sent: Thu, 19 Oct 2023 06:28:56 +0000
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: Accepted: meet with Sarah Legge - external reviewer EGK CNSMP

From: Wimpenny, Claire
Sent: Thu, 26 Oct 2023 11:04:59 +0000
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Thanks Sarah,
Sounds good.

[REDACTED] so I will book some dates in for the week of the 20th when I'm back at work on the 6th November.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2023 8:32 PM
To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Hi Claire

All good re the 9th, and I'll await dates for the week of the 20th.

For the stakeholder meetings – yes, I am comfortable facilitating the meetings, and the suggestion of having an introduction from an ACT gov staff member, who then leaves, is good. If a staff member isn't free on a particular date and time, I can also introduce myself.

Thanks
Sarah

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 9:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

That's great. I've booked the project team in from 10am-12pm on the 9th but I'm available for the rest of the day if you would like to keep chatting after that. If you're familiar with at least some of the Canberra Nature Park reserves, there probably isn't any need for site visits. The important thing is just to have a concept of the layout of the reserves and that we are managing discrete kangaroo populations right in the urban area.

Let's try for a visit in the week of the 20th. I'll chat to the project team and get back to you with some suggested dates next week. We have also been chatting about the stakeholder meetings should be run and are thinking that it is probably best for ACT Government people to have minimal involvement in the meetings so you are consulting independently of us. Having said that, we do want to make sure you are comfortable and supported in case there is any hostility (I think this is unlikely, there will be negativity, but our recent dealings have been respectful). So would you be comfortable taking the lead with facilitating the stakeholder meetings? The options that have been suggested at this stage have been to either have an **ACT Government person give a quick introduction to the meeting, then leave**, or we could have someone (not directly working on kangaroo management) to be there with you to support and take notes if required. What do you think?

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 19 October 2023 7:34 AM
To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Hi Claire

All good.

10 am at your office on the 9th is great.

Site visits – im extremely familiar with Majura-Ainslie and Black mountain (I did my PhD in these reserves!), so there is no need to visit them. Are there other sites that have particular issues that we should visit?

A 2 day or even 3 day visit later in the month is fine. The 3 weeks that begin 20 nov are available, in that im not away elsewhere. I have a handful of short meetings to fit in during the day, but I can do them from anywhere. So if you could find 2-3 days that work for everyone else in that 3 week period, I will juggle at my end to make that work.

Sarah

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 3:26 PM

To: Sarah Legge

Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

Yes, I agree and had the same thought after we chatted. I think I was just being overly ambitious with wanting to save you another trip to Canberra when I suggested that!

Also, we will probably want to make the stakeholder meetings late afternoon/early evening so community group members can attend around work commitments which presumably wouldn't work for you on this trip.

Let's just do the project team meeting on the 9th of November, does 10am at our office in Dickson suit you? And is there anything else you would like to do that day? Would some site visits to reserves be useful to give you some context of the scale and environment where kangaroos are managed?

And are there some dates later in November (or early December) that would suit for the stakeholder meetings?

After chatting with Rosie yesterday, we would suggest:

- Evening meeting with conservation, animal welfare, animal rights groups – suggested invite list: Conservation Council and interested member groups (eg Friends of Grasslands, Woodlands and Wetlands Trust), ParkCare Groups (volunteer groups that work in nature reserves), Animal Liberation, Save Canberra's Kangaroos, RSPCA, ACT Wildlife (wildlife rescue/rehab group). Number of representatives from each group would be capped so the meeting isn't too big.
- Evening meeting with rural landholders (who can apply for authorisation to manage kangaroos on their properties)
- Separate meetings during the day with other stakeholders that implement kangaroo management – eg internal ACT Gov staff, potentially Department of Defence, Defence Housing, and managers of sites with captive kangaroos if they are interested in providing input
- Meetings with anyone else you would like to talk to.

How does that sound? That would mean you would need a 2 night visit?

We can be fairly flexible with dates. At this stage, 29th of November wouldn't work for us and I'm away at a conference from the 4th to the 7th December, but any other dates would work.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

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From: Sarah Legge [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 October 2023 9:20 PM
To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Hi Claire

Thinking about what we discussed today: it might be better to meet with the project team before the stakeholders, so I have a better grasp of the whole issue before we talk with the latter?

What do you think?
Sarah

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Oct 2023, at 10:30 am, Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Perfect, thanks!

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment,
Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government
Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.environment.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, 17 October 2023 10:10 AM
To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Sure Claire, I'll call this avo.
Sarah

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 9:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
When you get a chance could you please give me a quick call? I just wanted to chat to you about what level of consultation with external groups and the public will be done during the kangaroo plan review. As per the Statement of Requirements, our proposal was for you to meet with a few key external stakeholder groups while completing your review. Once we received your final report we would then update the Plan and release the new version (informed by your review) for public consultation. However, in recent discussions with the Ministers Office, they have indicated that they are keen to see more consultation with the public at your stage of the review. I just wanted to chat through the options/implications if we go down that route.
The best number to get me on is [REDACTED]

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist
Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment,
Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.environment.act.gov.au

From: Wimpenny, Claire
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 10:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
That's convenient timing! Yes, I think that would work, I'll see what I can book in for that day. If there's any meetings that don't fit on that day I'm sure we can organise to do them remotely.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist
Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment,
Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government
Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.environment.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 7:19 AM
To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Hi Claire
Thanks for that.

I will be in Cba for a meeting on the 6/7/8th Nov. Can we squeeze the meetings into one day of thurs 9th? I need to shoot home on thurs night, as I've a commitment on fri 10th.

Cheerio
Sarah

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 12:10 AM

Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

Sorry for the delay with this, here is the signed contract and updated Statement of Requirements.

Looking forward to chatting to you once you are ready to make a start. Note that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from Friday 27th October to Friday 3rd November inclusive so perhaps we could aim for meetings in Canberra the following week if that timing suits you?

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |

www.environment.act.gov.au

From: Wimpenny, Claire

Sent: Friday, 15 September 2023 4:30 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

Thanks so much for sending that all through. I will get it signed and send you a final version some time next week. Thanks for pointing out the discrepancy in the work plan due date in the Scope document, I will amend that.

Once you are ready, we can discuss meeting dates.

Have a great weekend.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment,
Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.environment.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: Wednesday, 13 September 2023 2:13 PM

To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Hi Claire

Sorry for the delay. Im back, but buried under the usual mountain of emails and work that accumulates when you take time off.

At last here is the Request for Quote document, completed. Note that Im not GST registered, so I tweaked the quote numbers up (to \$24,000) following Rosie's suggestion below about giving us wiggle room.

Ive also attached my insurance certificates.

I hope this is what you need.

Best regards

Sarah

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:10 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

Just following up to make sure you received my email below.

If you are still away, there is no particular rush with the Request for Quote document, we just need that to be finalised before you commence work.

Looking forward to working with you!

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment,
Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government
Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.environment.act.gov.au

From: Wimpenny, Claire
Sent: Wednesday, 16 August 2023 11:24 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

Thanks for agreeing to review the Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Plan, I'm really looking forward to working with you on it.

Could you please complete the attached Request for Quote form and return to me by the 30th of August? This document will become the contract for the project. I have also attached an updated version of the Scope of Requirements which includes milestone dates based on your discussions with Rosie. I have said the draft report is due on the 22nd December 2023 and the final report is due 2nd February 2024. Does that timing work for you? Happy to negotiate dates if required. Once we have the contract sorted, we can discuss dates that would suit you for a meeting in Canberra.

Thanks again and looking forward to meeting you soon!

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment,
Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government
Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.environment.act.gov.au

From: Cooney, Rosie
Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 9:50 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

That sounds great – so let’s do the day rate up to a cap. Let’s cap it slightly higher to give us a bit of leeway – at whatever brings the total with GST to just under 25K (around \$ [REDACTED] if I’ve calculated right). Wonderful – let me talk to Claire and she will likely send you a contract this week and we can discuss when works for you to come to Canberra. Look forward to working with you!
Best Rosie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 July 2023 4:46 PM
To: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Hi Rosie

Thanks for that guidance, that’s really helpful for gauging the volume of work. I suggest then that we cap it at \$20,000, but if the work takes less time we will switch down to a day rate (\$ [REDACTED] a day). Does that seem ok?

And of course, I’m happy to come down to Canberra as needed.

Thanks Rosie
Sarah

From: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:02 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

Dear Sarah,

That's wonderful news! Thank you, we are delighted that your expertise and experience will be informing the further development of the ACT's KMP. I'll introduce you shortly to Claire Wimpenny, our Senior Ecologist for macropods – Claire will be your primary point of contact for the review and has vast experience with the program.

In terms of funding, we are open to negotiation and there are so many factors involved that its hard to be definitive here. We don't have a set day rate, and it is chicken and egg as you say because a review can be as in-depth as the time allows.

So options are we do it at a day rate, and set an upper limit, or alternatively set a total rate for the whole thing, and then it would be up to you to manage it within a reasonable time allocation for you.

In terms of budget, we are hoping for around the 25K mark, but can negotiate upwards if necessary. Keeping the total below \$25K (incl GST) simplifies matters for us - if it is more than that we need to seek approval for going directly to you rather than getting three quotes. However, we would have a strong case so while this would hold up timing a little I don't think it would be any obstacle. Does this sound plausible? While I think the project needs to run over at least two months to ensure you can talk to all the relevant people, it would require probably only a couple of days a week on average over that period – I would think perhaps 15 days work total? 5 days initial reading, 5 days talking to people and digesting input, 5 days writing a report and addressing any comments? But it is really hard to estimate this sort of thing so after looking at the key documents you think it is going to take substantially more funding than this we are open to discussing revising upwards.

Another thing – would you be able to come to Canberra for at least one visit of a few days over the period? We can pay the related travel costs separately.

Thanks again! Look forward to working with you,
Best R

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 July 2023 10:48 AM
To: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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[this is important](#)

Hi Rosie

I've taken a closer look at the plan and the culling calculators, and some of the associated documents. I'd be very happy to do this review.

Timing: I have commitments until mid October that will take all of time, but I can make time after that. So I propose starting in the last week of October, and I will have the draft done by the end of the year. I anticipate that span of time will be enough to pin people down for interviews (and I see you suggested 2 months in your original email below). Most people seem to take time off in Jan rather than Dec, so I think that should work.

It's hard for me to estimate the actual days of work involved for this – it's a bit chicken and egg, so I will be guided by you and your budget there. I guess you have standard day rates for consultants? Do you have a number of days in mind for this task?

Thanks
Sarah

PS _ ive changed the return email to [REDACTED]

From: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 8:03 AM
To: Sarah Legge [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

Hi Sarah,

Great to talk to you yesterday. Just on the timing for report delivery, have spoken to the team and we think if we could get a draft report by the end of the year, the comments/finalisation could all be pushed to the New Year without a problem. Does that sound feasible? We just need to leave ourselves time to make amendments to the plan/program before the next round starts in June.

Best R

From: Sarah Legge [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2023 1:03 PM
To: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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[this is important](#)

All good.

From: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 1:02 PM
To: Sarah Legge [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

Sorry just on phone but will call in 5, best R

From: Sarah Legge [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2023 12:44 PM
To: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Hi Rosie
Im just back in – yes, 1 is good. Talk soon.
s

From: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Sarah Legge [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

You don't often get email from rosie.cooney@act.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Sarah,
Great! What about 1pm today? I'm busy from 2 onwards if that's too early, tomorrow is a bit rammed, but then Thursday before 10.45 is good?
Best R

From: Sarah Legge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2023 7:13 AM
To: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management plan review

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Hi Rosie

Of course I remember! I noticed somewhere that you'd come back to Canberra with this job. That's great!

Thanks for thinking of me regarding this review. It's a very interesting and complex management area. I'm booked up with various commitments to mid October, but I could theoretically make time appear after that. So if that's not an immediate red card, I would like to hear more, to get a feel for whether I'm the right person, and also the tasks and time involved.

I can catch up on the phone this afternoon, or any time tomorrow or Thursday. When would suit you? In the meantime, please do send the Statement of Requirements.

Cheerio
Sarah

Professor (Wildlife Conservation) Charles Darwin University
Honorary Professor, The Australian National University
Principal Research Fellow, University of Queensland
Biodiversity Councillor
[REDACTED]

From: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Sarah Legge <[REDACTED]>
Subject: ACT kangaroo management plan review

You don't often get email from rosie.cooney@act.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sarah,

We haven't been in contact for some years, but I am hoping you remember me from BoZo/Fenner School. I am now Director of the Office of Nature Conservation (ONC) for the ACT, the team driving strategic and coordinated achievement of nature conservation outcomes in the ACT.

We are seeking to engage a highly respected scientist with a background in conservation of threatened species and communities to undertake a review of the ACT's [Eastern Grey Kangaroos Controlled Native Species Management Plan 2017 \(EGK-CNSMP\)](#). The EGK CNSMP sets out the approach taken by the ACT government to maintain wild populations of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the Territory. This statutory review will look at the effectiveness of the current management plan, including the associated culling calculators (Notifiable instruments [NI2018-141](#) and [NI2017-224](#)), in reducing the adverse environmental, economic and social impacts of EGK in the ACT in the last five years.

Might you would be interested in undertaking such a review? This is an extremely important program for conservation in our grassy lowland systems in the ACT, and attracts considerable public interest and its share of controversy. We really need a very strong scientist, with a very clear and strong track record of conservation of threatened species and communities, in order to achieve a very robust and credible review to support the future delivery and evolution of the program. I think your skills, reputation and expertise would be extremely valuable and suitable.

We anticipate the review to take place over approximately two months, and include an evaluation of available data and reports on kangaroo management in the ACT, as well as targeted interviews with key internal and external stakeholders. We are keen to commence this work in the coming months, but we have flexibility in our project schedule and are willing to discuss timelines to suit the availability of the consultant. If you are interested I can forward the Statement of Requirements for your consideration. Also very happy to chat on the phone at a time that suits you – I'm on [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards

Rosie

Dr Rosie Cooney

Senior Director | Office of Nature Conservation

Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment Planning and Sustainable

Development Directorate | ACT Government

e: rosie.cooney@act.gov.au t: [REDACTED]

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Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2602

www.environment.act.gov.au

I work and live on Ngunnawal country. I acknowledge and pay my respects to Elders and Traditional Custodians of this land, both past and present, and acknowledge their continuing cultures and connection to Country.

[<image001.jpg>](#)

<image002.png>

<image004.jpg>

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transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 8 Nov 2023 16:34:27 +1100
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: RE: Kangaroo plan review meeting tomorrow

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Thanks Claire, see you tomorrow.
Sarah

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Kangaroo plan review meeting tomorrow

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
Just confirming the plans for our meeting tomorrow.
Our office is at 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson. Vehicle access to a drop off area and the underground carpark are via Challis Street, Dickson (see map below).
I will meet you in the foyer at 10am, you will need to sign in at the security desk and get a visitors pass to get up to the meeting room.

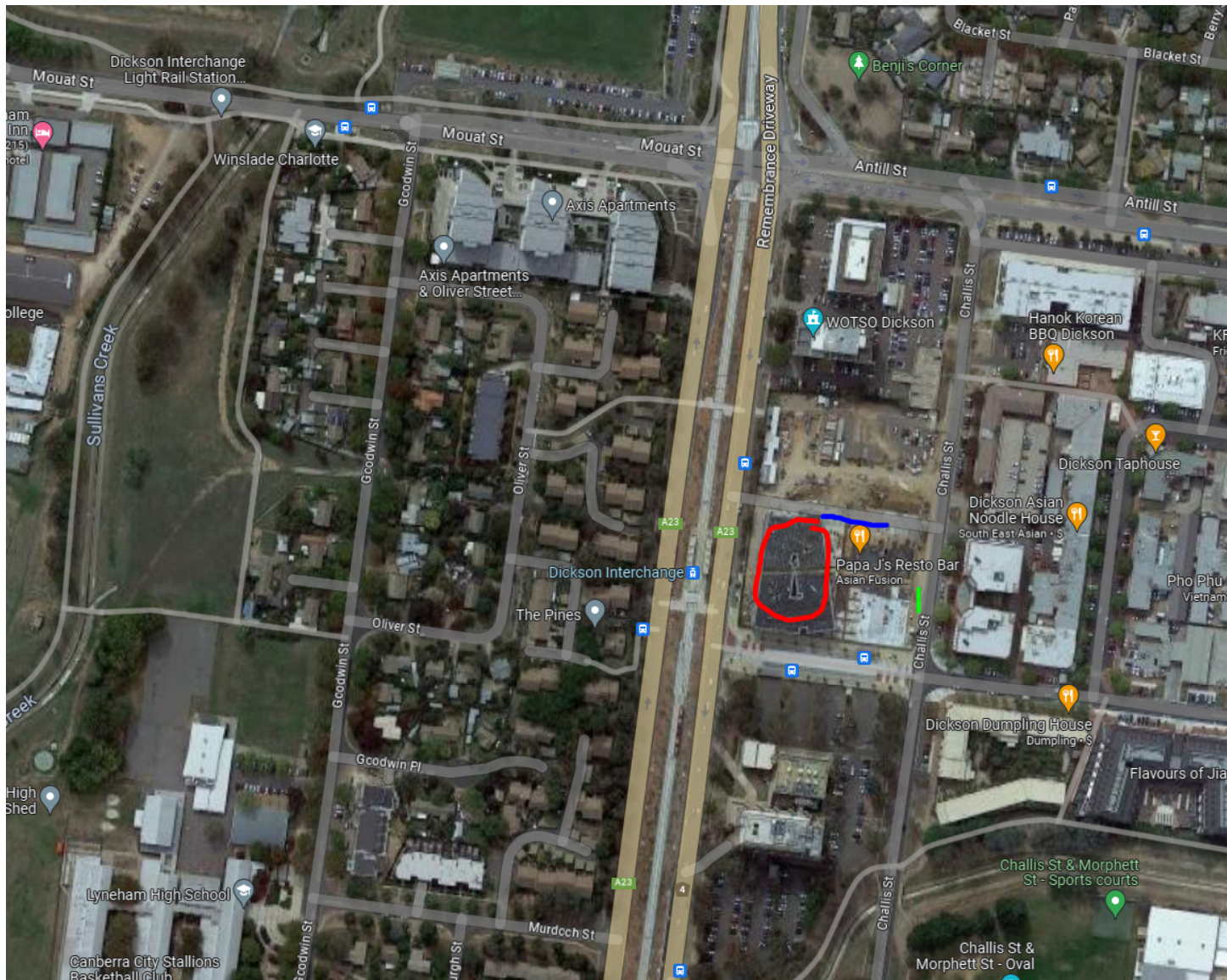
Joining us for the meeting will be:
Miles Keighley from my team
Rheyda Arguelles from the Policy team
Mark Sweaney and Sally McIntosh who are responsible for the coordination and delivery of the kangaroo management program

Rosie said she will pop in and say hi if she can.

I have booked the meeting for 2 hours but I'm free all day so happy to continue chatting after that if required.

You can give me a call on [REDACTED] if you need to.

Red = 480 Northbourne, blue = dropoff zone, green = underground carpark entry/exit (note this airphoto is pretty old, the surrounding buildings are quite different now!)



See you tomorrow!

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

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I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 23 Nov 2023 11:11:18 +1100
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: RE: Vassarotti Media Release - Canberra Liberals election initiative an endorsement of ACT Government policy

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Thanks Claire.
S

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2023 9:46 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Vassarotti Media Release - Canberra Liberals election initiative an endorsement of ACT Government policy

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
FYI see below media release from Minister Vassarotti

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist
Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government
Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 November 2023 9:18 AM
To: #EPSDD EHW All Staff <#EPSDDEHWAllStaff@act.gov.au>
Subject: Vassarotti Media Release - Canberra Liberals election initiative an endorsement of ACT Government policy

OFFICIAL

From: ACT Government Executive Media <ACTGovernment@media.act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2023 8:04 AM

To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Subject: Vassarotti Media Release - Canberra Liberals election initiative an endorsement of ACT Government policy

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Member for Kurrajong

23 November 2023

Canberra Liberals election initiative an endorsement of ACT Government policy

Today, the Canberra Liberals have endorsed a longstanding ACT Government policy to commission an independent review into the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Management Program.

Minister for the Environment Rebecca Vassarotti said the Canberra Liberals announcement is redundant in light of an independent review which is already underway.

“If the Canberra Liberals actually wanted a review into kangaroo management, they would know that the Government has already commissioned an independent reviewer to look over the program,” Minister Vassarotti said.

“This is an independent and mandatory review which is required to take place regularly.

“If the Canberra Liberals were actually interested in evidence-based policy, they wouldn’t be calling for a review when there is already one in progress.

“The Canberra Liberals don’t actually want an independent review. Instead, they’re using this political stunt to try and create a fake narrative that this program isn’t based on evidence.

“They’re trying to create a fake narrative that it isn’t regularly reviewed, and that the Government isn’t actively engaging with community and stakeholders on the evidence.

“Despite this, just last week the independent reviewer wrote to stakeholders, inviting them to participate in this review.

“The annual activation of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Management program is a necessary part of good environmental stewardship.

“The independent review is also a necessary part of good governance. That’s why I stand by the review currently being undertaken.

“It’s not as simple as putting a hold to all program activities. Kangaroo management is the difference between a healthy environment and the destruction of our native ecosystems.

Key review processes that have been undertaken since the program began in 2009 include:

- 2010 – The ACT Kangaroo Management Plan was released. This plan provides principles, objectives and policies relating to kangaroo management in the ACT. Its explanations include over 400 references including approximately 125 peer reviewed science journals and 155 books or book chapters, most of which have been peer reviewed.
- The conservation cull has been challenged in the ACAT three times: 2012 (did not go to hearing), 2013 and 2014 (reported in *Animal Liberation ACT v Conservator of Flora and Fauna (Administrative Review)* [2014] ACAT 35). Additionally, the cull of Eastern Grey Kangaroos on Defence land was challenged in 2009. All four challenges were unsuccessful and the ACAT held that the conservation cull on both Territory and Defence land was valid.
- 2014 – Kurahaupo Consulting independently reviewed the kangaroo population count methods, count results, the method for determining the number of kangaroos to cull in the ACT, and the science behind the relevant parts of the 2010 Kangaroo Management Plan. The review endorsed the ACT Government’s counting methods and culling advice.
- 2017 – The Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan was released. This plan is an update on the 2010 Kangaroo Management Plan and applies only to Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the ACT. It is a statutory plan under the Nature Conservation Act 2014 and includes two instruments detailing the process for calculating the number of kangaroos to cull for conservation and rural purposes. This plan incorporates relevant research conducted since 2010, and some updates to policies and codes of practice.
- 2018 –The ACT Government’s adaptive management approach to managing kangaroo impacts on conservation lands was reviewed by a panel of experts during a Kangaroo Management Research Workshop. A report was prepared detailing recommendations, including the adoption of a

management goal for grassy ecosystems of maintaining native grass heights between 5 and 15cm tall. This recommendation has become a key component of the management program.

- 2008, 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2022 – Phone polls of ACT residents' opinions to kangaroo management have been undertaken.
- In 2021 staff from ACT Government contributed to numerous peer reviewed journal articles that were published in the special issue “Optimum management of overabundant macropods” in the journal *Ecological Management & Restoration*.
- Macropod culling is conducted under the strictest animal welfare standards. An independent audit of compliance with National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes is undertaken at 5–7-year intervals. A 2017 audit found that all aspects of the Code of Practice were complied with.

Current reviews being undertaken by the ACT Government include:

- Update to community support research.
 - Completed in December 2022, the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate contracted Micromex Research to undertake a random telephone survey of 605 ACT residents to gauge current attitudes towards kangaroos and kangaroo management. Key results from the 2022 survey include:
 - 54% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with ACT Government’s current management of kangaroos.
 - 76% believe the culling of kangaroos is appropriate under certain circumstances.
 - 66% are supportive of kangaroo culling for the conservation of grassland and woodland animals.
 - 71% believe it is important/very important to develop and apply fertility control methods to control the breeding of kangaroos in Canberra.
 - Overall, the results of the survey show that most ACT residents value kangaroos and support the ACT Government’s management practices. However, there remains the need for the government to continually remind and reaffirm the goals and purpose of kangaroo management in the ACT to ensure the community has access to information about the program.
- Review the 2017 Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan.
 - A review of the plan is being undertaken in 2023 and will include:

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the conservation culling program in achieving target population densities and grass structure,
- Review of the 2017 Plan, the culling calculator instruments, the methods used to estimate kangaroo density and the above evaluation by an independent reviewer,
- Consultation with key stakeholder groups including the Ngunnawal community.

Statement ends

Media contact:

Jordan Maloney 0478 257 906 Jordan.Maloney@act.gov.au

ACT Legislative Assembly

Phone (02) 6207 8975

Email vassarotti@act.gov.au

Instagram [@RebeccaVassarotti](#)

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sun, 26 Nov 2023 16:21:48 +1100
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: RE: work plan outline
Attachments: Work Plan Outline_20231126.docx

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Hi Claire
Sorry to be a bit slow with this workplan. Its attached.

I guess I am a bit worried about the consultation process blowing up in terms of time required,. But lets see how we go.

Sarah

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2023 4:33 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: work plan outline

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
It was great to meet with you yesterday.
Here is an example Work Plan Outline which might be useful. I don't mind if you don't stick to this format. If you do use this format, the agreed Statement of Requirements is pretty detailed and covers off on the first few points so I'm happy if you to just refer to that doc &/or cut and paste. The key parts for your work plan to cover are the Methodology (can simply be a task list and timeline) and the Risk Assessment (addressing risks to completing the project on time and on budget). As discussed yesterday, the work plan can be a working document that is updated as you progress. If any issues with timing or budget do come up just let me know and I'm sure we can work something out.

I still need to find a few more stakeholder contact details so I will send that to you next week. We are aiming to get the Conservators letter to the stakeholders out early next week.

Let me know if you need anything else from me at this stage.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government
Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au
- [Conservation Research Website](#) | [EPSDD Environment Science Platform](#) | View our story map collection [here!](#)



I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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REVIEW OF THE EASTERN GREY KANGAROO CONTROLLED NATIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (2017)

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Work Plan

The Work Plan is the key governance document for the engagement. It is a point in time deliverable but can be updated throughout the project if and as required. It will confirm purpose and scope, describe key activities and deliverables, provide a detailed timeline and a risk management strategy. The final plan will be provided to EPSDD.

I. Project Context

The Eastern Grey Kangaroo is a declared controlled native species in the ACT. Chapter 7 of the NC Act provides for a controlled native species management plan which details the management of the species on stated lands in the ACT. The controlled native species management plan for EGK (DI 2017 -37) was prepared under section 160 of the Nature Conservation Act 2014 (NC Act) and notified in 2017. The plan sets out the approach taken by the ACT to maintain wild populations of the species while managing their environmental, economic and social impacts.

Emphasis is given to the management of kangaroo grazing pressure on native grassy ecosystems to support the conservation of plants and small animals that require the ground-layer vegetation. To moderate kangaroo grazing effects on native grassy ecosystems, conservation culling in protected areas in the ACT is implemented to maintain kangaroo densities at levels that retain grassland and grassy woodland conservation values. The plan also allows for culling on rural lands to minimise impacts on the economic viability of rural enterprises. Two culling calculators, the EGK Rural Culling Calculator and the EGK Conservation Culling Calculator, set the number of kangaroos to cull in any year for the different land types. These calculators have been in force since 2017 and are both notifiable instruments. Minor updates were made to the Conservation Culling Calculator in 2018.

The NC Act under Section 168 provides for the monitoring of the effectiveness of controlled native species management plans with a review at least once every five years. This consultancy is aimed at fulfilling the requirements of this statutory review. It will review the effectiveness of the controlled native species management plan, including its two associated calculators, in addressing the environmental, economic, and social impacts of wild kangaroo populations in the ACT.

II. Project Overview and Objective

This consultancy will review the effectiveness of the current management plan and associated legislative instruments for reducing the adverse environmental, economic and social impacts of Eastern Grey Kangaroos (EGK) in the ACT. The following documents will be reviewed:

- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Controlled Native Species Management Plan 2017 (EGK CNSMP)
- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Conservation Culling Calculator Determination 2018

- Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Rural Culling Calculator Determination 2017

Based on the review findings, the consultant is expected to recommend improvements to future ACT Government policies and programs that will support ongoing best-practice kangaroo management.

III. Project Deliverables

Draft Report by 22 December 2023

Final report by 2 Feb 2024

IV. Methodology

Activities	Due date
Review Plan and related documents (see II)	22 December 2023
Review literature that has emerged since the Plan came into force	22 December 2023
Conduct targeted interviews with key EHW internal staff (in the Office of Nature Conservation, Resilient Landscapes branch, and the Parks and Conservation Service) and external stakeholders (including ACT Conservation Council, rural land holders and managers of National Land) to gain insights and understanding on current kangaroo management activities and to obtain feedback to inform recommendations	22 December 2023
Draft report, and include recommendations for updates to the Plan based on the steps above.	22 December 2023

V. Risk Management

Risk	Managed by...
Stakeholders difficult to contact or reluctant to comment	Approach stakeholders using a range of methods, with those methods tailored designed to be preferred by the stakeholder group
Stakeholder consultation step becomes protracted and blows out the delivery deadline for the draft report	Negotiate for an extension from the ACT government
Some stakeholders use the review opportunity to politicize the issue, causing complexity and delay	Communicate and engage with all stakeholders respectfully and constrictively.

From: OLoughlin, Luke
Sent: Tue, 28 Nov 2023 01:01:36 +0000
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: RE: latest version of EGK cull evaluation doc

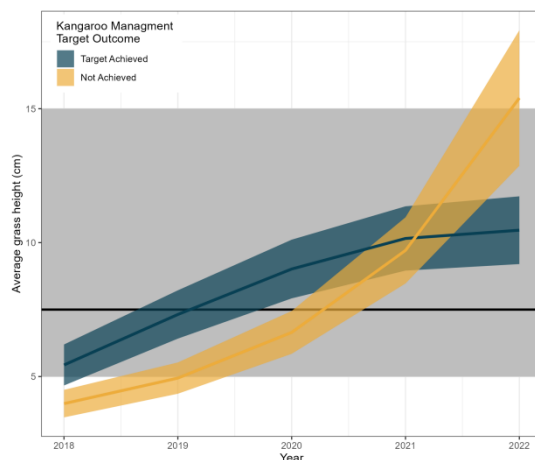
OFFICIAL

Hi Claire,

That doc hasn't been updated from version 1 so you should just send that.

But in your send you could add something like –

We are however continuing to refine how we are approaching Question 2 (effects of kangaroo management on grass height). The current preliminary results had our analysis more focussed on just identifying the factors that explain variation in grass height that was not really the right approach to identify an effect of kangaroo management if it was there. We have since started looking at the contrast between average grass height where kangaroo populations are within target densities and where kangaroo populations are greater than target densities (as opposed to the coarser managed vs unmanaged comparison, OR more specific “deviation from target density” comparisons in the version 1 doc). Our first look at this has indicated that there is probably a clear effect of managing kangaroos to the target density (below figure, blue curve) compared to where the grazing pressure remains higher than we desire (yellow curve) in 2018-2020. We've also started talking about not simply looking at average grass but rather variability in grass height as our response variable as we would be hoping to see more heterogeneity in successfully managed areas. But none of these new ways of approaching Question 2 have been written into a document yet.



From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 3:53 PM
To: OLoughlin, Luke <Luke.OLoughlin@act.gov.au>
Subject: latest version of EGK cull evaluation doc

OFFICIAL

Hi Luke,

Could you please send me the most recent version of the EGK cull evaluation doc (not sure if you've changed it since the last version I've seen)? And are you happy for me to share that with Sarah Legge? We have included this doc as one that she is to consider as part of her review, I have suggested the two of you chat through it together too if that's ok?

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

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I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Wimpenny, Claire
Sent: Tue, 28 Nov 2023 05:19:07 +0000
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE:
Attachments: ACT KMP - peer review.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
[REDACTED]

Here's the Coulson review of the 2010 plan. You're not blind, it's not online.

We also now have 2023 vet audit of the ACT Gov cull, it's just going through some final approvals, with the aim of having it published online in mid-December. I will get a copy to you before then.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

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From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, 28 November 2023 4:07 PM
To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Subject:

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Hi Claire

I cant find the review by Coulson of the 2010 management plan. It is probably a blindness! Can you tell me where it is online, or send it to me?

Thanks
S



INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW

Dr Graeme Coulson
Department of Zoology
The University of Melbourne



This independent peer review evaluates the final ACT Kangaroo Management Plan (KMP) against five specified criteria:

- Comprehensiveness, including structure and content.
- Policies based on evidence as far as possible.
- Scientific robustness of the material.
- Presentation of statistical material.
- Overall assessment as a wildlife management plan.

Comprehensiveness

The purpose of the KMP is stated explicitly (s. 1.3), leading to two clear goals:

- “maintain populations of kangaroos as a significant part of the fauna of the ‘bush capital’ and a component of the grassy ecosystems of the Territory
- “manage and minimise the environmental, economic and social impacts of those kangaroo populations on other biota, grassy ecosystems, ACT residents and visitors” (s. 1.3).

The structure of the KMP opens with the reasons that a management plan for eastern grey kangaroos (hereafter kangaroos) is required in the ACT, justifying the focus on this species, and summarising the environmental, economic and social impacts of kangaroos. Chapter 2 outlines the legislative and policy framework applying to kangaroos in the ACT. While there is no legislative requirement to produce a plan of this type (s. 2.1), there is a clear management imperative to do so (s. 1.5).

Chapter 3 provides essential background biology for kangaroos, with appropriate emphasis on their population ecology, particularly their potential for irruptive dynamics. However, the claim that kangaroos are both ‘keystone species’ (s. 3.4.2) and ‘ecosystem engineers’ (s. 3.4.3) is difficult to support, since these terms are normally reserved for species that have a strong ecological influence disproportionate to their abundance (Caro and Doherty 1999). It is sufficient to recognise that kangaroos are the dominant herbivores in the temperate grassy ecosystems of the ACT, and have lost their top predators, so will almost certainly have a major top-down influence on ecosystem processes. The second half of this complex chapter introduces the native grassy ecosystems of the ACT, which provide often ideal habitat for kangaroos. It evaluates the role of kangaroos, among other threatening processes, in the conservation issues facing these grassy ecosystems. Economic and social impacts of kangaroos are also identified at the end this chapter.

Chapter 4 sets out the principles and policies to guide kangaroo management in the ACT, regardless of land tenure or location. The key principles are environmental, economic and societal, and practical, recognising that intervention may be necessary to manage kangaroo impacts, and that policies and actions must be informed by good science and strong safeguards. The valuable role of the former Kangaroo Advisory Committee (KAC) is evident in a number of sections. The welfare of humans, and the risks arising from unrestrained dogs, are considered in the context of 'living with kangaroos' (s. 4.5). The welfare of kangaroos is examined in detail, with particular attention to the benefits and risks of translocation as a tool to manage kangaroo populations (s. 4.4.6). The summary of the poor success of conservation-based translocations (s. 4.4.6 (d)) is valid, but of little use in predicting the outcome of translocation of this large, relatively robust species, which has few threats. The powerful arguments against translocation of kangaroos are that the inevitably high costs are not warranted for this common species (s. 4.4.6 (b)), removing sufficient numbers of kangaroos to mitigate damage is impractical (s. 4.4.6 (c)), and sufficient suitable, secure release sites are not available (s. 4.4.6 (e)). Options for managing kangaroo densities (s. 4.6) are also evaluated. The section on capture darting and lethal injection (s. 4.6.1 (b)) entangles techniques for capture and euthanasia: kangaroos can be captured by other techniques (e.g. trapping, oral sedatives) prior to treatment. The section on fertility control (s. 4.6.2) outlines the available techniques in terms of their mode of action and longevity of effect, but underplays the problems of delivery. Techniques requiring capture of kangaroos have obvious limitations; remotely delivered 'bio-bullets' require accurate placement of implants and identification of treated animals; oral delivery raises other difficulties of bait palatability and uncontrolled dosage.

Chapter 5 focuses on the management of environmental impacts of kangaroos on different land areas in the ACT. It introduces an interactive grazing model for kangaroos and herbage in the ACT, and extends the herbage component of the model to consider species composition, structural attributes and habitat quality (s 5.1). This model underpins much of the chapter, which addresses the links between kangaroo density and ecosystem function in Public Land (s.5.3), other land managed or leased by the ACT (s.5.4 – 6) and National Land within the ACT (s.5.7). These include sites where kangaroos have been actively managed and public scrutiny has been intense in recent years: Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Googong Foreshores, Majura Field Firing Range and Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station.

Chapter 6 complements Chapter 5 by focusing on the management of economic and social impacts of kangaroos. Much of it focuses on rural lands (s. 6.2), which are managed primarily for agricultural production. The interactive grazing model (s 5.1) applies to these lands too, although domestic stock also consume herbage, and lessees shoot kangaroos. Since 1998, kangaroo populations have been controlled through culling permits issued to lessees, and the numbers of kangaroos reported to be shot per unit area has changed little over time. This chapter evaluates the alternative strategy of commercial harvesting, integrated into the South-East NSW Commercial Zone, which has intuitive appeal for some stakeholders (s. 6.4). Aside from the administrative load needed to meet the Commonwealth requirements for commercial harvesting, the plan concludes that a commercial harvest quota would not remove a sufficient proportion of a

population to reduce grazing pressure to desirable levels on rural lands or conservation reserves. This chapter also evaluates methods for reducing collisions with vehicles (s. 6.5), concluding that modifications to roads (e.g. fencing and underpasses), and periodic driver awareness campaigns, offer the best potential for reducing the high road-kill rate in the ACT.

Evidence-based policies

This plan acknowledges that scientific knowledge about kangaroos in the ACT is incomplete, so policy must be formulated, and management actions taken, in the face of uncertainty. The plan espouses 'evidence-based management', involving observation, experimentation and modelling. Where possible, the plan takes an 'adaptive management' approach, linking ecological research to the management of natural resources, to provide a 'solid scientific foundation for future management policy'. It is clear that a program of directed research conducted in the last decade has contributed strongly to this evidence base, particularly for road collisions, population density, grass biomass and fertility control. However, the plan has many specific objectives, and it is less obvious how feedback from the possible actions taken to meet these objectives will be assembled and used to expand the evidence base and inform management policy in the future.

A major gap in the evidence base is the limited data on kangaroo population density on rural lands. The most recent (and only) estimate is for 1995, prior to 2003 fires (s 6.2.2 (b)). Interpretation of the culling statistics (s. 6.2.2 (c)), and policy setting for rural lands, is constrained by this knowledge gap. The plan notes that achieving a precise and accurate estimate of kangaroo density across the rural lands would be costly (s. 6.2.2 (c)), and a broad-scale survey may not be needed. However, it will be necessary to develop targeted, cost-effective survey protocols, perhaps implemented by lessees themselves, to provide feedback on management actions on these lands.

Scientific robustness

As noted in Chapter 1 (s.1.2.3), the plan is informed by extensive use of the literature. Nearly 300 references are cited ^[1], covering the output of professional scientists, government agencies and advocacy groups, accessed through formal publications, unpublished reports and web sites. Use of the scientific literature is measured and pertinent; no key paper is missing.

Some minor points require illumination:

3.2 Comparisons with densities at other sites are of dubious value. They should at least be compared across temperate ecosystems rather than western greys and reds in semi-arid Kinchega National Park. More importantly, density *per se* is uninformative: managers should be concerned about the relationship between kangaroo density and progress towards specific management objectives (Coulson 2007). This point is echoed in the discussion of overabundance (s. 4.4.5).

5.3.1 (b) The phrase "roving mobs of kangaroos" is meaningless and has been criticised before (Martin et al. 2007).

5.3.1 (c) The statement that kangaroo populations "have not yet reached equilibrium...and are still increasing" is not supported by data.

5.3.2 (c) The probable role of parasitic nematodes as a proximal cause of mortality of young kangaroos at Tidbinbilla is not discussed.

Statistical presentation

Most numerical data on kangaroos is presented graphically, which best conveys patterns in the data. For simplicity and clarity, measures of sampling variation (e.g. standard error) are not included on these graphs. More elaborate versions of these graphs could be made available in electronic form. One exception is the culling statistics for rural lands, which are presented in tabular form (Table 6.1) to handle a complex set of data. Another exception is the output of the interactive herbivore-vegetation model (Table 5.1), which is presented with means and standard errors, as is appropriate when the variation in model projections reflect a mix of measurement error and model uncertainty.

Overall assessment

This management plan is unique. It is unlike any other plan of kangaroo management, which typically deal either with a single location and jurisdiction (e.g. a national park or a development site), or with a single aspect (e.g. commercial harvesting or animal welfare). This plan is comprehensive in its scope, covering environmental, economic and social aspects of kangaroo populations across all jurisdictions in the ACT. Importantly, this breadth of coverage does not result in a fragmentation of content. The plan is unified by a set of seven principles (s 4.2), which are linked to clear policies to generate specific and explicit objectives for each kangaroo issue and kangaroo population. This plan will serve as a model for the management of kangaroos, and other wildlife, elsewhere in Australia.

References

- Caro, T.M. and Doherty, G. (1999) On the use of surrogate species in conservation biology. *Conservation Biology* 13: 805-814.
- Coulson, G. (2007) Exploding kangaroos: assessing problems and setting targets. In Lunney, D., Eby, P., Hutchings, P. and Burgin, S. (eds.) *Pest or Guest: the Zoology of Overabundance*. Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, Sydney, 174-181.
- Martin, J. K., Coulson, G., Di Stefano, J., Ritchie, E. G., Greenfield, A., Catanchin, H. and Evans, L. N. (2007) The Viggers & Hearn conundrum: a kangaroo home range study with no implications for land management. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 44: 1080-1085.
-

[1 Note that the number of references in the final document is 404.]

From: Wimpenny, Claire
Sent: Thu, 30 Nov 2023 22:51:39 +0000
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Conservator of Flora and Fauna - Invitation to participate in an independent review of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Controlled Native Species Management Plan
Attachments: 20170319 Kangaroo management in the ACT - final.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
See attached the Conservation Council's position on EGK management.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

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From: ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 11:59 AM
To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Conservator of Flora and Fauna - Invitation to participate in an independent review of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Controlled Native Species Management Plan

OFFICIAL

Eliza Larson | Conservator Liaison

Phone: +61 2 6207 7009 | Email: eliza.larson@act.gov.au

From: Executive Director <director@conservationcouncil.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:56 AM
To: ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Correspondence from Conservator of Flora and Fauna - Invitation to participate in an independent review of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Controlled Native Species Management Plan

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[this is important](#)

Good morning Eliza,

Thank you for the Conservator's invitation for the Conservation Council to participate in the review of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Controlled Native Species Management Plan.

As a contribution, please see attached the Conservation Council position on the matter, developed in 2017.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend and send my apologies. The Conservation Council is a very small organisation with limited capacity. Due to our limited staff we cannot participate in natural resource management matters, and instead must prioritise focus on our advocacy purpose.

Thank you for organising the roundtable, we send our best for its success.

Warm regards,



On Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 9:53 AM ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Good morning,

Please find attached correspondence from the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, Mr Bren Burkevics.

Kind regards,

Eliza Larson

Conservator Liaison | Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna

Phone: +61 2 6207 7009 | Email: eliza.larson@act.gov.au

Environment Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

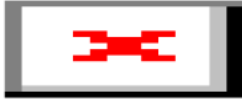
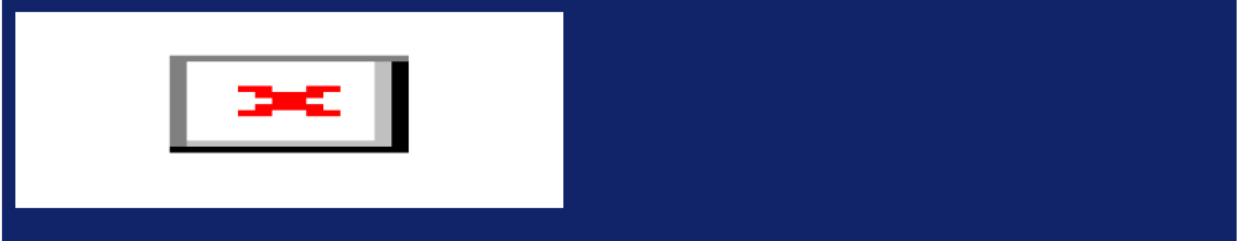
This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.



t. 



a. 14/26 Barry Drive, Canberra ACT 2601



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, and their deep and continuing connection to Country. We pay our respects to Elders.

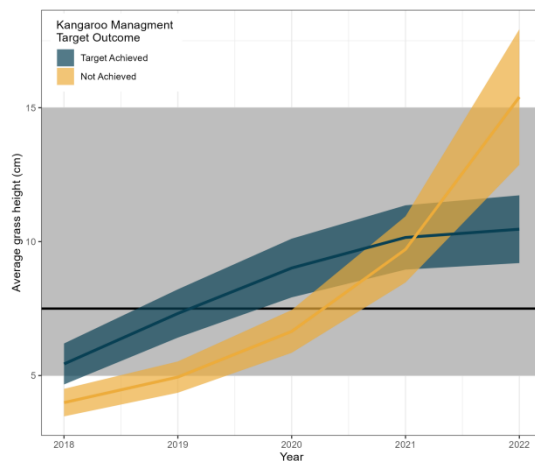
From: Wimpenny, Claire
Sent: Fri, 1 Dec 2023 03:34:31 +0000
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: draft report
Attachments: RoomgmtEval_PreliminaryResults_version1.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

Here is Luke's current draft report (preliminary results) of the evaluation of whether kangaroo management in ACT urban nature reserves has been achieving the key ecological objectives of (1) sustainable (target) kangaroo densities, and (2) desirable grass heights.

We are continuing to refine how we are approaching Question 2 (effects of kangaroo management on grass height). The current preliminary results had our analysis more focused on just identifying the factors that explain variation in grass height that was not really the right approach to identify an effect of kangaroo management if it was there. We have since started looking at the contrast between average grass height where kangaroo populations are within target densities and where kangaroo populations are greater than target densities (as opposed to the coarser managed vs unmanaged comparison, OR more specific "deviation from target density" comparisons in the version 1 doc). Our first look at this has indicated that there is probably a clear effect of managing kangaroos to the target density (below figure, blue curve) compared to where the grazing pressure remains higher than we desire (yellow curve) in 2018-2020. We've also started talking about not simply looking at average grass but rather variability in grass height as our response variable as we would be hoping to see more heterogeneity in successfully managed areas. But none of these new ways of approaching Question 2 have been written into a document yet.



I'm sure Luke would be happy to chat you through the evaluation whenever it suits (after next week because he will be away at the AWMS conference too).

It would be good to get your thoughts how best to to incorporate this report into your review given its draft form. I'm assuming Luke will have time to update the doc over the next couple of months, but I will have to confirm that with him.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 26 November 2023 4:45 PM

To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>

Subject: draft report

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Claire

Have you sent me the draft report that we looked through onscreen when I was in Canberra (“ACT Government research report assessing the program’s achievement of its targets for kangaroo population density and grass structure”).

Sorry if you already have and I cant put my hands on it....

S

Effectiveness of kangaroo management in achieving target population densities and grass structure

A CEMP Priority Management Evaluation: Preliminary Results Report [version 1]

Luke O'Loughlin | 2022-08-09 | luke.oloughlin@act.gov.au

Summary

Background Eastern Grey Kangaroos can reach high population densities that have negative direct and indirect impacts on the ecological values of these threatened grassy ecosystems. Eastern Grey Kangaroos are managed in the ACT with the aim of maintaining sustainable kangaroo populations that minimise the negative effects the species. This report is a program-level evaluation of kangaroo management in the ACT using existing data to contribute to the *Controlled Native Species Management Plan 2017* review being undertaken in 2023.

Aim This report aimed to evaluate how effective ACT kangaroo management has been at achieving sustainable kangaroo populations and minimising the negative effects of the species. This evaluation asks two questions, (1) does kangaroo management result in target kangaroo densities being achieved, and are there other factors that most strongly influence that outcome? and (2) is the management of kangaroo populations associated with desired outcomes for grass height, and are there other factors that most strongly influence that outcome?

Methods This project used kangaroo population and management data from 2008 to 2022 and herbage mass data from 2019 to 2022. Generalised Linear Mixed Models were used to test how various environmental, operational, landscape, and vegetation properties affect whether kangaroo management has achieved its two key objectives.

Results We found that kangaroo populations in managed areas were on average closer to target densities, and had trended closer overtime, compared to unmanaged areas where populations were consistently around 200% higher than targets. Management frequency was the most important aspect of management for predicting management outcome, where increased number of culls led to less deviation from density targets. Average grass height also differed between managed and unmanaged areas, and while both kangaroo management and the effectiveness of that management did explain some observed variation in grass height, those effects were very small compared to the large effects of the climatic conditions of the season, site-level tenure, and the dominance of native of exotic groundcover.

Implications Kangaroo management in the ACT has been effective at achieving its two key objectives of achieving sustainable kangaroo populations (population densities within targets), and minimising their direct negative effects (grass height within desirable range). However, these outcomes have only been achieved in the most recent years, and are the combination of sustained management effort to reduce overabundance and wet years that facilitated grass growth.

Question 1

The first question of this evaluation of the effectiveness of the kangaroo management program was *Does kangaroo management result in target densities being achieved, and are there other factors that most strongly influence that outcome?*

Target kangaroo densities are population-specific and vary over years based on (i) current population, (ii) estimated population growth, (iii) composition of vegetation types (food productivity), (iv) composition of grass species (food palatability), and (v) herbage mass (food accessibility). Target densities were relatively consistent from 2011 to 2016 at an average of 0.84 (± 0.27 sd) EGK per ha, declined from 2017 to an average of 0.54 (± 0.19) in 2020, and has since increased to an average of 1.31 (± 0.80) in 2022 (Figure 1). Achieved densities were consistently higher than target densities from 2009 to 2014 at an average of 1.97 (± 1.26) EGK per ha, declined from 2015 to an average of 1.12 (± 0.83) in 2020, and has since stabilised to be predominantly within target density at an average of 1.28 (± 0.71) in 2022 (Figure 1).

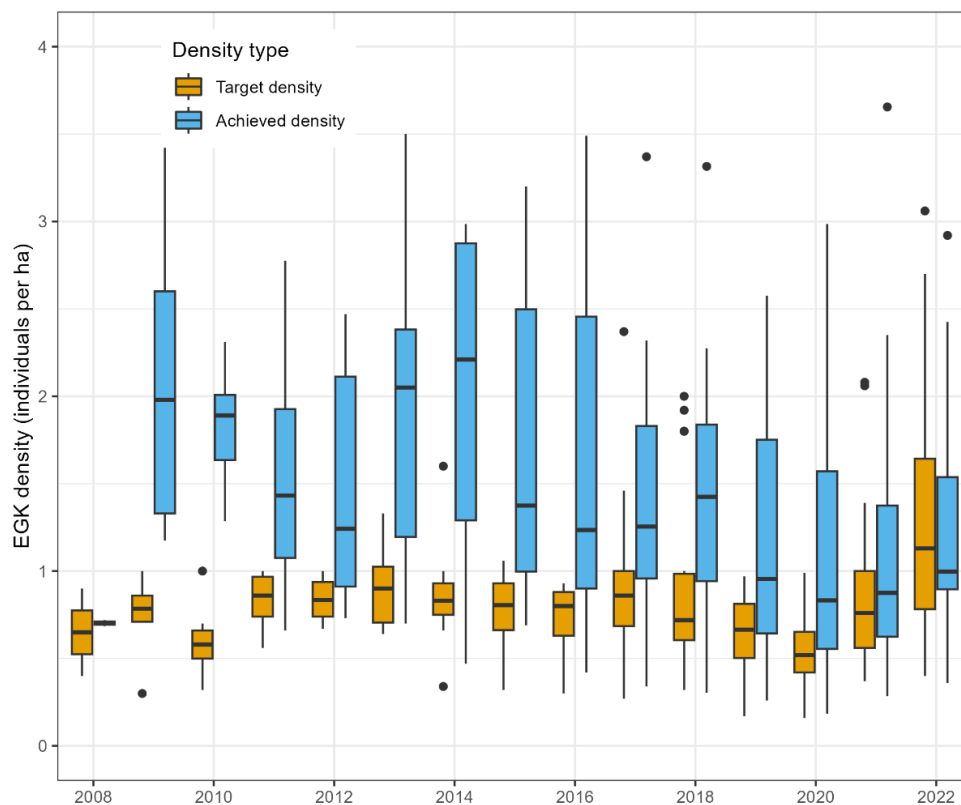


Figure 1. Boxplots of target (orange) and achieved (blue) eastern grey kangaroo densities for each calendar year. Achieved EGK density is the midpoint between the post-management observed EGK density in that year (either observed density if no management or observed density minus cull density if management occurred) and the observed density the following year. Four outliers where EGK density was greater than four per ha omitted for clarity.

Descriptive results

Given the context-specificity of whether an observed EGK density is or is not desirable, we investigated the relative difference between the “target density” and “achieved density” to indicate effectiveness (i.e. if there was low deviation between achieved and target density (close to zero) then management was more effective). There was 203 “deviation from target EGK density” observations from 2008 to 2022 across 23 different sites. The number of sites monitored increased almost linearly from 6 in 2009 to 19 in 2017, and has since decreased slightly to 16 in 2022 (Figure 2). The number of sites has increased through time as new sites join the program, and has decreased in some cases where sites were either dropped from the program or lumped together after learning they were not independent EGK populations. Since 2011, around 3-quarters of sites monitored each year have been subject to at least one previous management cull (“managed” site) while 1-quarter of monitored sites were yet to be subject to any management (“unmanaged” site) (Figure 2). Around one-third of total observations ($n=76$, 37%) have been within their target density ($\pm 20\%$). The proportion of sites within target density was consistently low (mean = 0.31 (± 0.11)) between 2011 and 2019 (Figure 2). However, since 2019 the proportion of sites within target density has increased to 0.81 in 2022 (Figure 2)

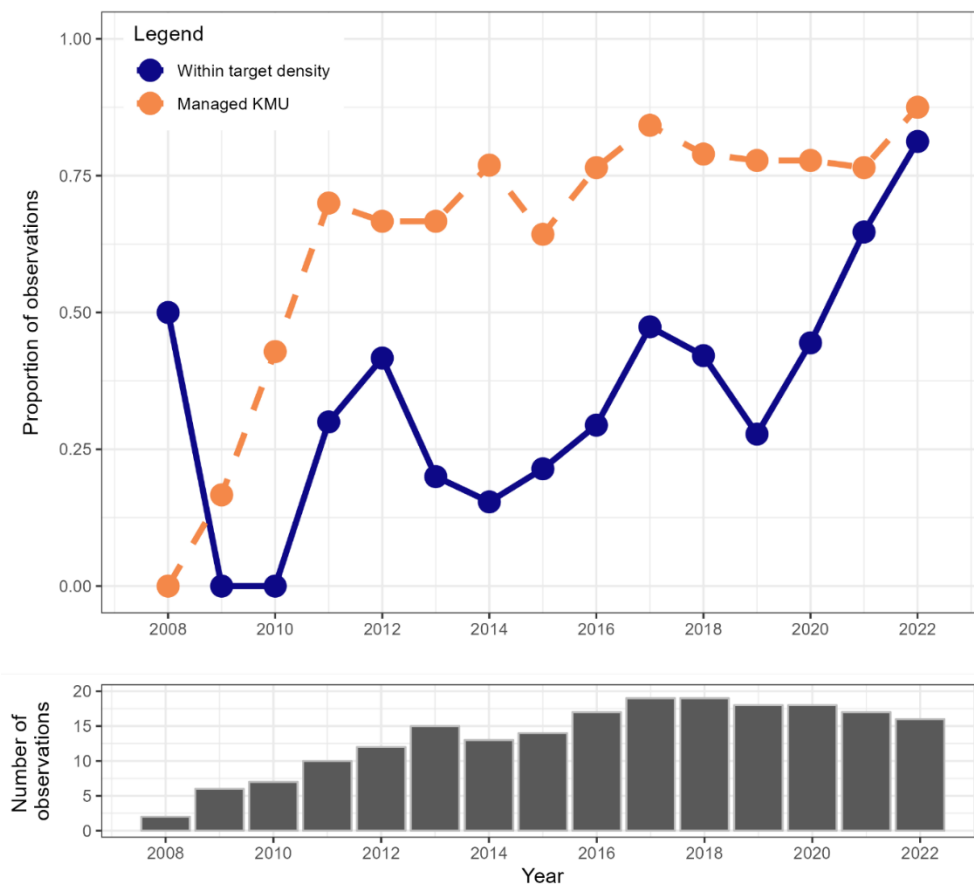


Figure 2. Proportion of observations for each calendar year where the site has been managed at any time during the program (orange line) and where the achieved EGK density was within 20% of the target density (blue line). The bottom panel is the total number of observations from each year.

Q1 Model 1: Effects of management and time on achieving targets

The purpose of the first model is to test how deviation from target EGK density in managed and unmanaged sites has changed overtime. Our hypothesis was that managed sites would be closer to target densities, and would improve overtime, compared to unmanaged sites. We found that the deviation from target EGK density was significant associated with the interactive effects of treatment and year ($Z = -2.40, P = 0.02$). Average EGK density at managed sites was predicted to be around 100% greater than target densities until around 2017 when it began declining to be within target by 2021 and 2022 (Figure 3). Conversely, average EGK density at unmanaged sites was predicted to have slightly increased from 150% greater than targets in 2009 to 200% greater than targets in 2022 (Figure 3).

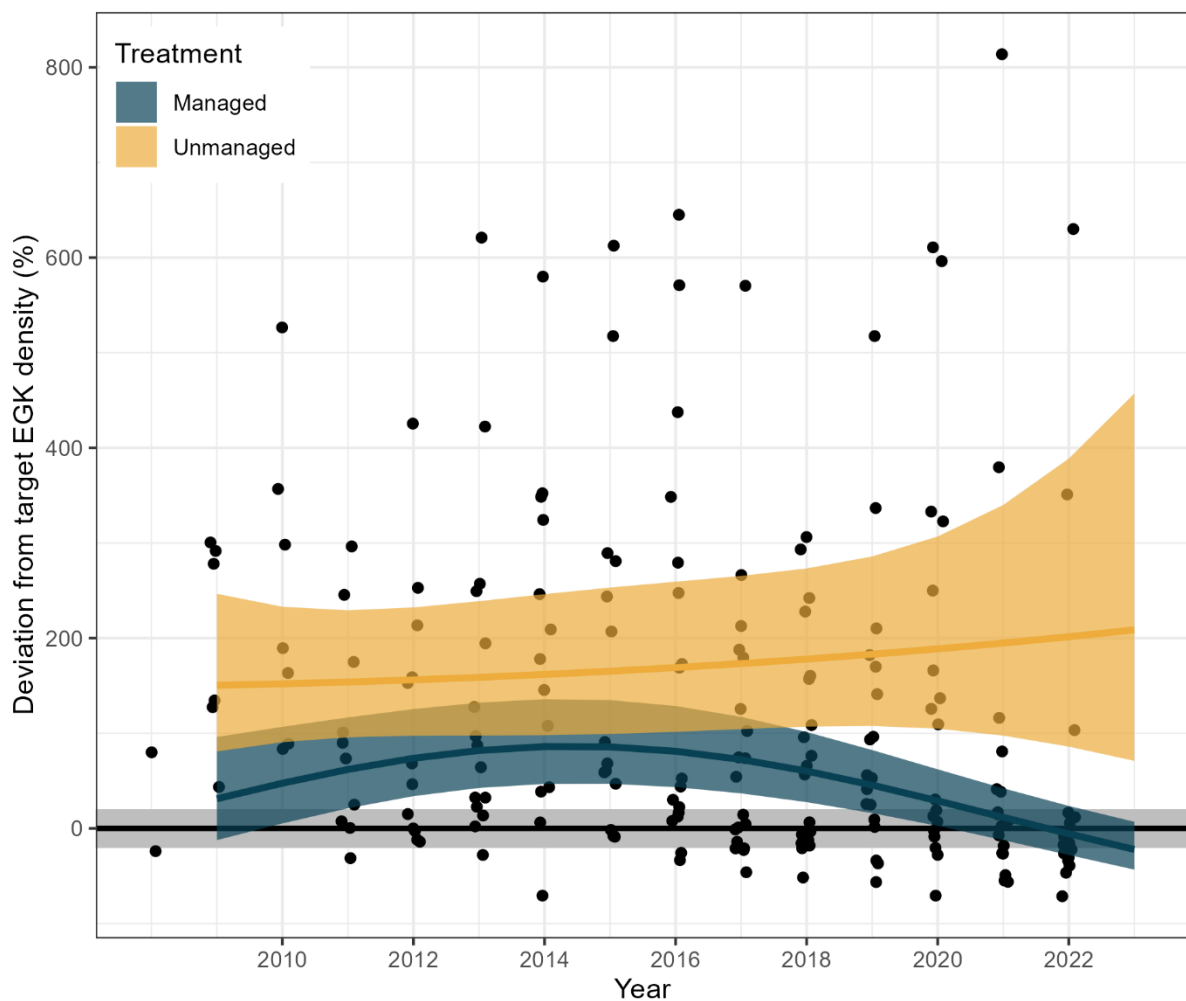


Figure 3. Predicted average response ($\pm 95\%$ confidence intervals) of deviation from target EGK density in managed and unmanaged sites overtime. Zero line represents no deviation from target and grey area denotes $\pm 20\%$ deviation from target. Predictions made from the GLMM where *year* was modelled as a polynomial factor (linear and quadratic) to improve model fit (lower AICc). Points represent the raw data.

Q1 Model 2: Effects of management timing and frequency on achieving targets

The purpose of the second model was to test how the timing and frequency of management actions influence management outcome. We started with a full model that included *number of previous culls* and how that interacted with *time since first cull* and *time since last cull*, and used model selection to determine the best model. Our hypotheses were that sites subject to more culls (greater frequency), whose management started earlier (earlier first cull), and/or whose management was more recent would be closer to target densities. The best model included the interaction of *number of culls* and *time since last cull*, however a model that included only *number of culls* was also supported ($\Delta AICc = 1.69$). We found that the deviation from target EGK density was significantly associated with the interactive effects of number of culls and time since last cull ($Z = 2.28, P = 0.02$). Average EGK density was predicted to be 63% greater than targets after a single cull, and decrease to be well within targets by their seventh cull when culled every year (Figure 4, time since last cull = previous year). However, average EGK density was predicted to be 182% greater than targets after a single cull if it was three or more years since the sites last cull (Figure 4). Increased time since last cull predicted higher deviation with increased number of culls than if culls were occurring every year until there had been four culls, from which point increased time since last cull did not lead to greater deviation from target EGK density (Figure 4).

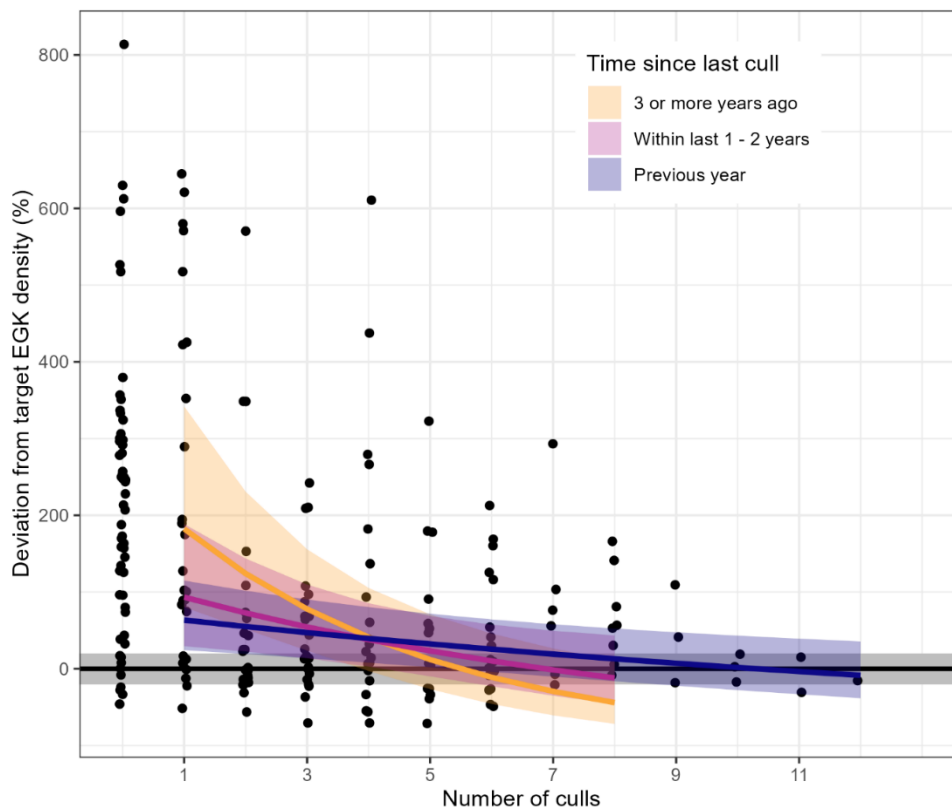


Figure 4. Predicted average response (\pm 95% confidence intervals) of deviation from target EGK density to increasing number of culls and time since last cull. Zero line represents no deviation from target and grey area denotes $\pm 20\%$ deviation range from target. Predictions made from the best

supported GLMM (lowest AICc). Points represent the raw data.

Q1 Model 3: Effects of vegetation type, land tenure, operational considerations and EGK population size on achieving targets

The purpose of the third model was to test if vegetation type, land tenure, operational limitations and the EGK population size influenced management outcomes. We started with a full model that included the additive effects of four vegetation effects (proportion of site that is grassland, woodland, forest, or “other” vegetation), four land tenure effects (proportion of site that is conservation land, rural land, other public land, or private land), two operational consideration effects (proportion of conservation advice and proportion of operational advice achieved by the cull), and the current size of the EGK population at the site. Our hypotheses were that sites with greater proportion of conservation land, more open vegetation types, with larger populations (more targets) and where a greater proportion of the cull advice was achieved would be closer to target densities. All predictor variables were scaled to a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one prior to modelling to allow direct comparison of regression coefficients and we used model selection to determine the best model. We found four models were equally supported, each of which contained a unique combination of seven of our initial 11 explanatory variables (eight different variables in total). We used model averaging of those supported models to calculate effect sizes (Figure 5) and make predictions for significant effects (Figure 6). We found that the deviation from target EGK density was negatively associated with the proportion of grassland and proportion of cull advice achieved (meaning effectiveness increased when these variables were higher), and was positively associated with the proportion of private land and kangaroo population size (meaning effectiveness decreased when these variables were higher) (Figure 5; Figure 6). Proportion of rural land, other public land, conservation land, and other vegetation type improved the explanatory power of our model but were not significant predictors of deviation from target density themselves.

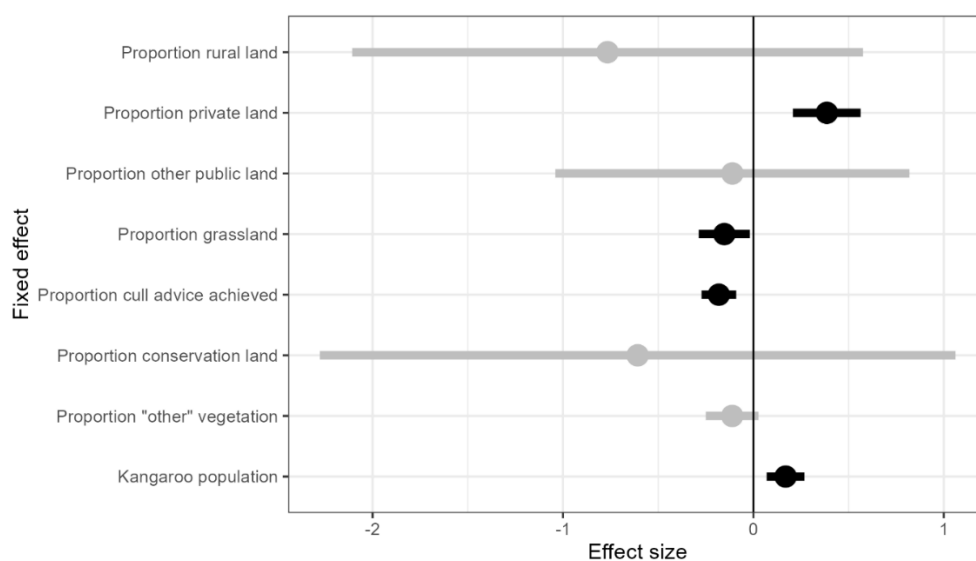


Figure 5. Averaged estimated coefficients and 95% confidence intervals from the best supported models. Significant effects ($P < 0.05$, where 95% confidence intervals do not cross the zero line) are indicated in black.

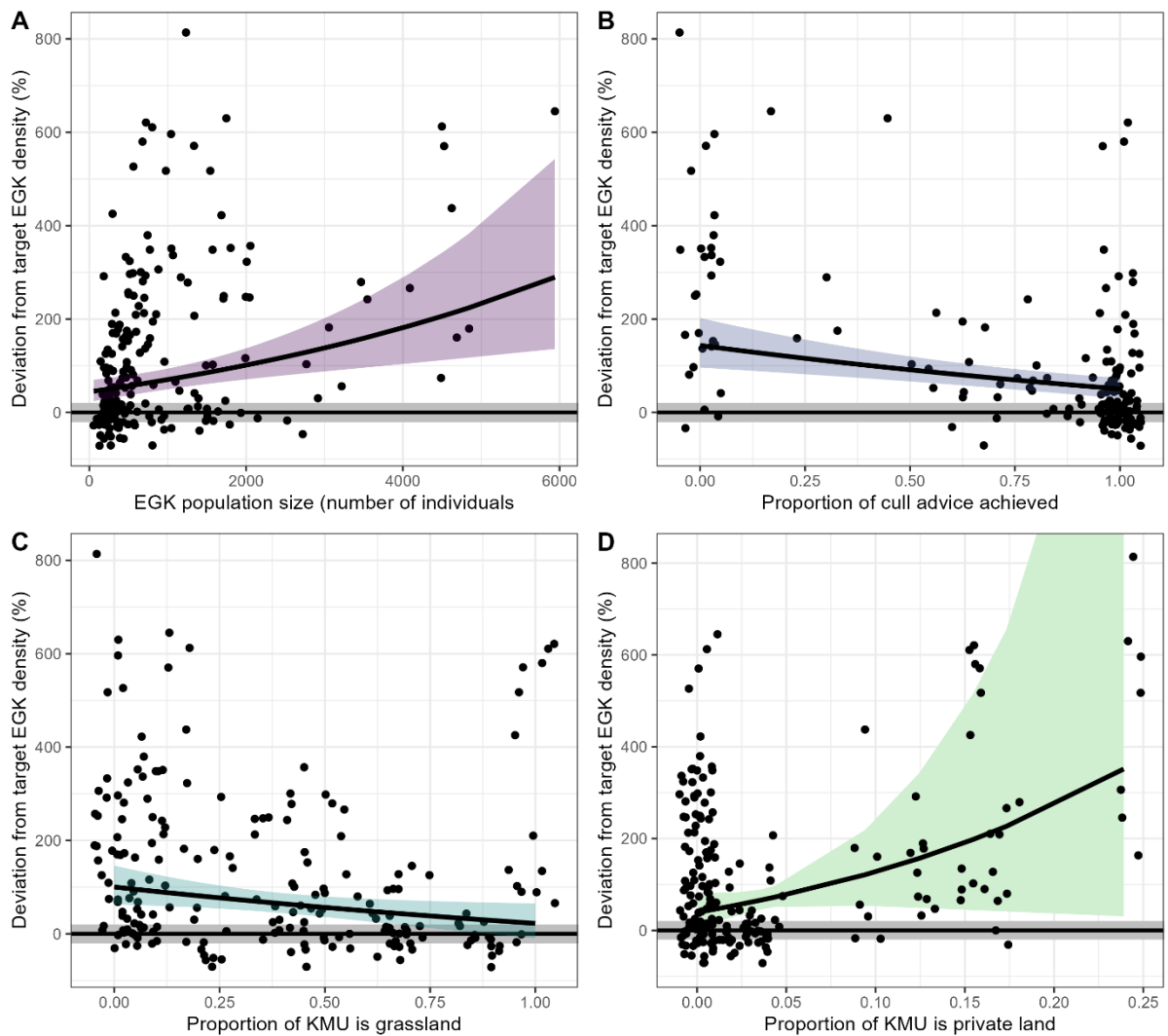


Figure 6. Predicted average response (\pm 95% confidence intervals) of deviation from target EGK density to the four significant explanatory variables from Model 3 (Figure 6). Zero line represents no deviation from target and grey area denotes $\pm 20\%$ deviation range from target. Predictions made using model averaging of 4 best supported GLMMs (lowest AICc), where all included variables are held at their mean values except for the variable of interest. Points represent the raw data.

Question 2

The second question of this evaluation of the effectiveness of the kangaroo management program was *Is the management of kangaroo populations associated with desired outcomes for grass height, and are there other factors that most strongly influence that outcome?*

Target grass height in the lowland grassy ecosystems of the ACT is set at 7.5 cm with a desirable range of between 5 cm and 15 cm. This is the height range identified from previous research that provide the most suitable habitat and resources for the greatest amount of grassy ecosystem biodiversity. The four years of extensive grass height monitoring comes from the ACT Government Herbage Mass Assessment program that comprises monitoring in Canberra Nature Park (CNP) and many types of Environmental Offsets (Offset) that are part of the KMU-based kangaroo management program (“Kangaroo Herbage Mass”) or are monitored for other land management reasons (“Other Herbage Mass”). Plots monitored for “Other Herbage Mass” reasons do not have corresponding kangaroo population monitoring or density targets. They are not part of the Kangaroo Management Program because kangaroos have not been identified as a threat that requires management (e.g. the sites may not have any or only very few resident kangaroos). Our four years of monitoring include one El Niño year (2019) that had lower grass heights than the last three La Niña years (2020-22) (Figure 7). In those La Niña years, average grass height in Offsets was higher than in CNP, irrespective of whether areas were part of the kangaroo management program or not (Figure 7).

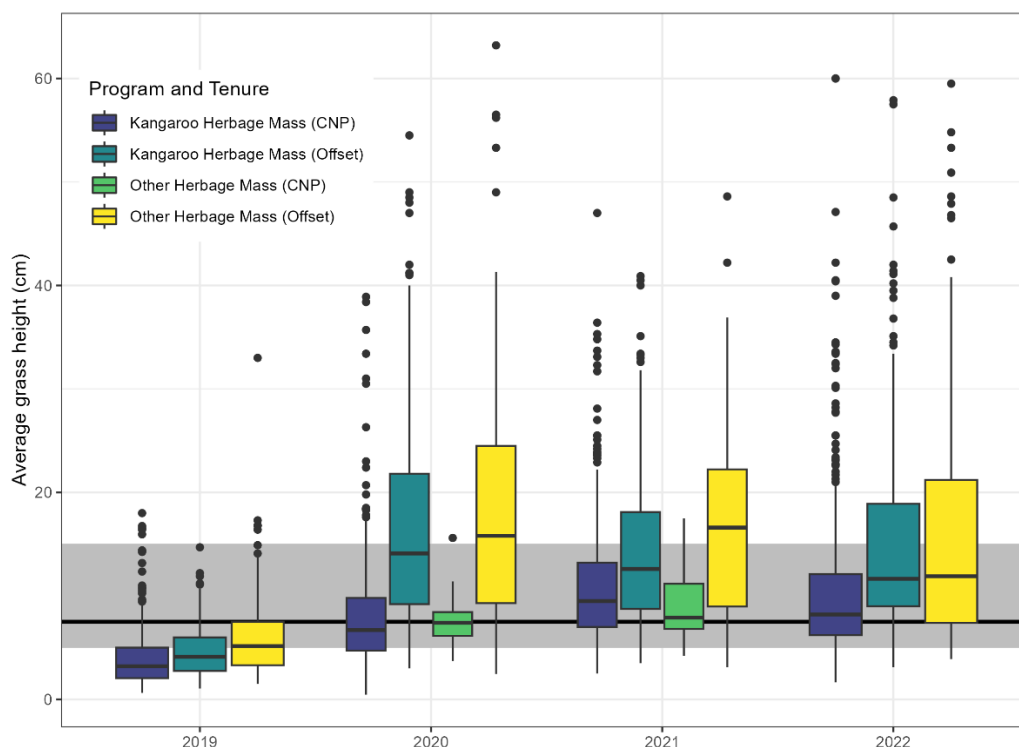


Figure 7. Boxplots of average grass height (cm) from 2019 to 2022 from different combinations of “Program” (Kangaroo Herbage Mass = area is part of the kangaroo management program; Other Herbage Mass = area is not part of the kangaroo management program) and “Tenure” (CNP =

Q2 Model 1: Effects of management and time on achieving grass height targets

The purpose of the first model is to test how average grass height in managed and unmanaged sites has changed overtime. Our hypothesis was that managed sites would be on average closer to target grass height and more likely within the desirable range compared to unmanaged sites, but that grass height would be most strongly associated with the climatic conditions of the year. We found that when we considered all herbage mass data (n =2823 plots) where the majority of “unmanaged” observations (n=629/729 plots) were from areas with none or very few kangaroos (i.e. not considered as part of the kangaroo management program), there was not a strong effect of management ($Z = 1.87$, $P = 0.06$), only year ($Z = 41.92$, $P < 0.001$) (Figure 8). However, when we considered just the herbage mass data from KMU areas (n = 2194 plots) where all “unmanaged” observations (n = 100) were from areas that do have an abundant kangaroo population (i.e. that just have not been managed yet), there was a clear interactive effect of management and year ($Z = -6.04$, $P = <0.001$) (Figure 8). In this case, average grass height at unmanaged KMUs had not increased to >10 cm in 2021-22 as it had elsewhere, but stayed around the lower end of our desirable range (Figure 8)



Figure 8. Predicted average response (\pm 95% confidence intervals) of average grass height (cm) in managed and unmanaged sites overtime. Black line represents the target grass height of 7.5 cm and the grey area denotes the 5-15 cm desirable range. Predictions made from the GLMM where year was modelled as a polynomial factor (linear and quadratic) to improve model fit (lower AICc). “All Herbage Mass” are model outputs when all data were used (Kangaroo Herbage Mass points and Other Herbage Mass points) whereas “KMU-only Herbage Mass” are modelled outputs when only

Kangaroo Herbage Mass data were used (i.e. only sites that are part of the kangaroo management program).

Q2 Model 2: Effects of management effectiveness on achieving grass height targets

The purpose of the second model was to test how the effectiveness of management actions influence average grass height. Our model included 'deviation from target EGK density' (i.e. our response variable in Q1) as our only fixed-effect, but included the random effects of "site/plot" and "year" to account for spatial and temporal variation in grass height that we were not interested in. Our hypothesis was that average grass height would be higher and more likely within our desirable range where kangaroo densities were closer to targets (i.e. where management was effective), and decrease with increasing deviation from targets (i.e. with less effective management). We found that average grass height was negatively associated with increasing deviation from target EGK densities ($Z = -2.12$, $P = 0.03$), however the effect size (estimate = -0.034 [-0.064 - -0.002 95% Confidence Interval]) was very small (Figure 9). Additionally, our full model (fixed-effect and random-effects) explains a good amount of our observed variation in average grass height (Conditional $R^2 = 0.713$), however this explanatory power is essentially all related to our random-effects, with deviation from target EGK density itself explaining almost none of the observed variation (Marginal $R^2 = 0.003$).

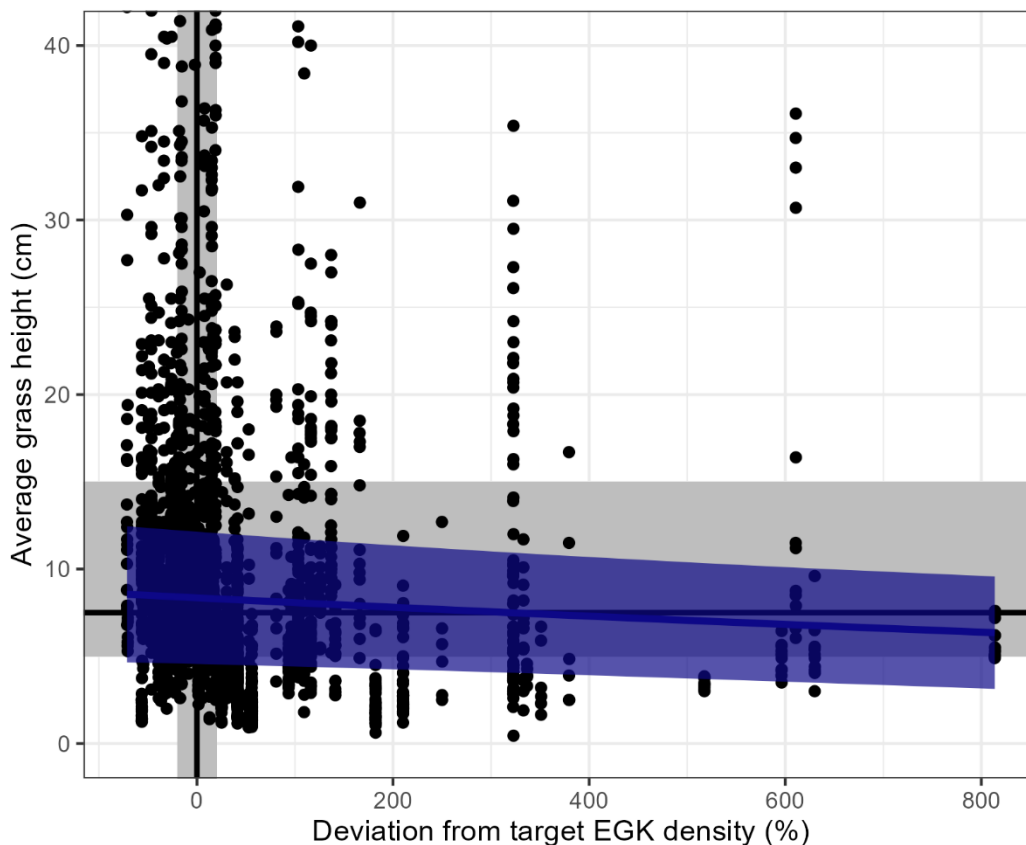


Figure 9. Predicted average response (\pm 95% confidence intervals) of average grass height (cm) to increasing % deviation from target EGK density (i.e. decreasing effectiveness of kangaroo management actions). Vertical black zero line and grey area represent no deviation and $\pm 20\%$ deviation range from target respectively. Horizontal black line and grey area represent the target grass height of 7.5 cm and 5-15 cm desirable range respectively. Points represent the raw data where outliers > 40 cm grass height are not shown for visual clarity.

Q2 Model 3: Effects of ground cover, program and tenure achieving grass height targets

The purpose of the third model was to test what ground cover (e.g. native grass cover) and other program/tenure/management variables best explain the variation in average grass height. We first performed a principal component analysis on the 12 ground cover and vegetation variables of interest (average thatch depth, the percent cover of native grass, native forb, native shrub, rock, bare ground, thatch, exotic broadleaf, exotic grass, total exotic, total perennial exotic, and proportional nativeness of perennial vegetation) to identify potential co-linearity among variables and broad gradients in environmental variation. This analysis reduced our 12 variables to four new axes that accounted for approximately 73% of total variation in those variables. The first axis PC1 (Eigenvalue = 4.5, 38% variance explained) had high negative loading for proportional nativeness and native grass cover, and a high positive loading for total exotic and exotic grass cover. The other three axes accounted for 8-13% of additional explained variance each and represented co-linearity between the cover of exotic broadleaf/native forbs and the cover of bare ground/thatch on PC2, thatch cover/thatch depth/exotic broadleaf cover and bareground/rock on PC3, and increasing native shrub cover on PC4.

We started with a full model that included the additive effects of four principal components (PC1, PC2, PC3, PC4), dominant grass species (Themeda, Rytidosperma, Austrostipa, Other Native and Exotic), tenure (CNP vs Offsets), program (Kangaroo Herbage Mass vs Other Herbage Mass), and treatment (Managed vs Unmanaged), along with the random effects of “site/plot” and “year” to account for spatial and temporal variation in grass height that we were not interested in. Our hypothesis was that higher grass heights would be associated with more exotic dominated groundcover. We used model selection to determine the best model and found only one supported model that included all variables except for “program”. We used that model to calculate effect sizes (Figure 10) and make predictions for the largest significant effects (Figure 11).

The combined fixed-effects of our best model explained 44% of the variation in average grass height (Marginal R^2), with the combined fixed and random effects explaining 73% (Conditional R^2). We found that PC1 had the largest effect of any variable on average grass height, with grass height being positively associated with PC1 (increased grass height with increased exotic cover) (Figure 10). Treatment (kangaroo management) was featured in the best model but was not a significant predictor itself. Average grass height was also positively associated with PC2, Offsets, and where exotic grass species or *Austrostipa* dominate, and negatively associated with PC3, PC4, and where *Rytidosperma* and other native grass species dominate (Figure 10).

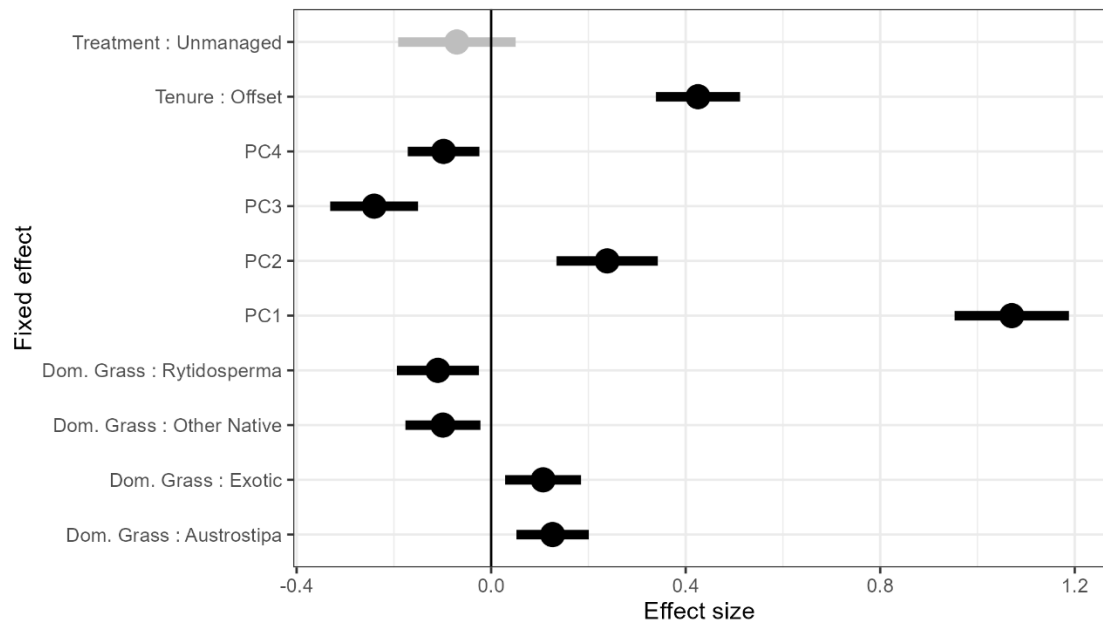


Figure 10. Averaged estimated coefficients and 95% confidence intervals from the best supported model for explaining variation in average grass height. Significant effects ($P < 0.05$, where 95% confidence intervals do not cross the zero line) are indicated in black. PC1, PC2, PC3 and PC4 refer to the Principal Components that 12 different groundcover variables have been simplified into.

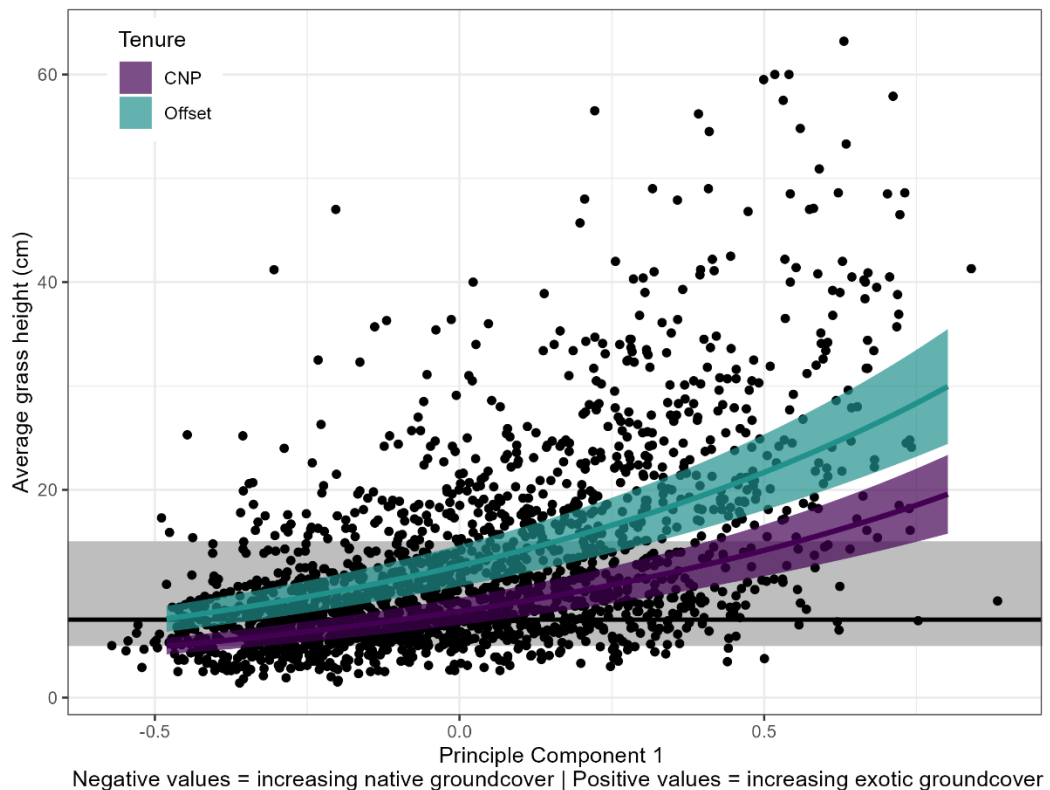


Figure 11. Predicted average response (\pm 95% confidence intervals) of average grass height to the two largest effects from Model 3 (Figure 10). Black line represents the target grass height of 7.5 cm and the grey area denotes the 5-15 cm desirable range. Predictions made by varying PC1 and Tenure with all other included variables are held at their mean or reference values. Points represent the raw data.

From: Pulsford, Stephanie
Sent: Fri, 8 Dec 2023 05:17:54 +0000
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: Accepted: Chat with Sarah Legge about EGK CNSMP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 8 Dec 2023 16:26:43 +1100
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: RE:

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Ah Claire – you did tell me that about the TOs and I forgot. Apologies.
Yes please I would like to come to that meeting in Jan if its considered ok.
S

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 4:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE:

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

Graeme Coulson - [REDACTED]

I have sent email invites for the meetings. Those times looked best in peoples calendars, let me know if any don't suit and I can change them (Noting Luke doesn't work Thursday and I assume Miles will be doing fieldwork on Thursday).

By TOs do you mean traditional owners? If so, we are planning to run a separate consultation process with the Ngunnawal community. Our process for consulting on issues is that we take proposals to the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee who provide advice and assistance as to how best to engage with the community. We have provided the committee with a brief and have proposed a Yarning Circle. We have been sent a placeholder for Saturday the 20th January but haven't had any other feedback yet. The committee is pretty busy so we thought it was best to do this consultation separately to your review so that timeframes didn't blow out, but we would be more than happy for you to come along to the yarning circle if you like?

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

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From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: Friday, 8 December 2023 3:00 PM

To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE:

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Hi Claire

Could I also have Graeme Coulson's contact.

Oh – and a stakeholder group we haven't talked about are the TOs. Can I talk to them?

It would be ace if you could help me set up times to talk to:

- You and Miles
- Luke
- Brett and Steph

Any time on Thursday or Friday next week.

S

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 12:25 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE:

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

The conference was good! Back today.

Jim - [REDACTED] (don't have a mobile number, sorry). I spoke to Jim the other day, he has submitted a manuscript on the ACT kangaroo population growth rate predictions but it's still in review. When I get a chance, I am going to have a closer look at how his prediction formula performed against observed population growth from 2022 to 2023 (and then 2023-24 once we finish the current count season).

Don - [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Don expressed interest in attending the stakeholder meetings (as a representative of the National Parks Association) but he got the dates wrong and didn't respond until after the meeting had already occurred! I'll let him know you are planning to contact him as an individual. He might have some NPA views to share as well.

What would be easiest for you for organising the internal stakeholder meetings? I'm happy to do it if that saves you time?

The wildlife callout data is managed by PCS. Data from Jan 2016 to Dec 2022 is publicly available here:

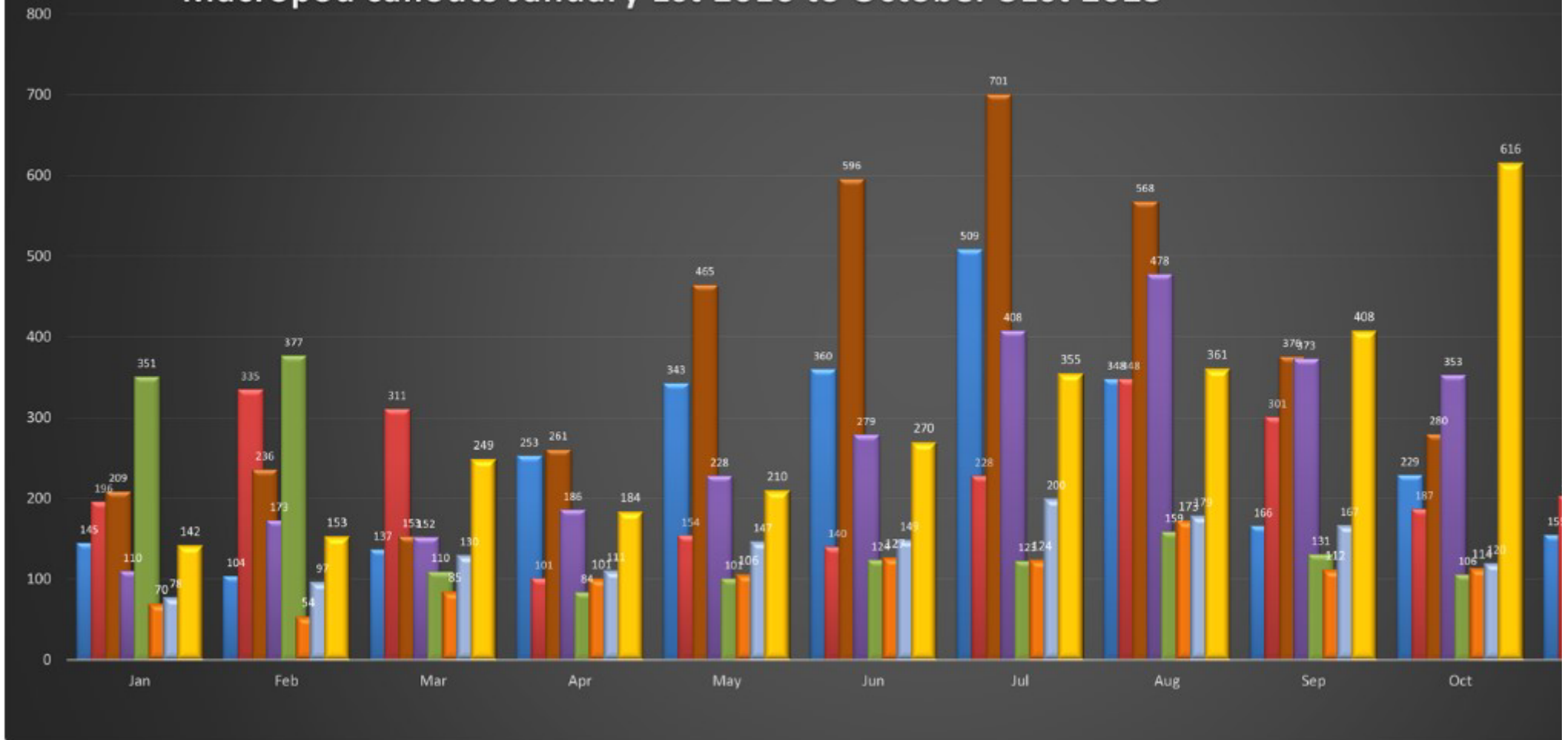
<https://www.data.act.gov.au/browse?q=wildlife&sortBy=relevance>

There are a 4 different options (raw data, by month, year, heatmap). Note that all species are included, but the data can be filtered by species. Also, that this dataset will underestimate the number of EGK collisions because only those that the rangers attend are included. They only attend ones that require euthanasia or the carcass to be moved. The Micromex Opinion Poll reports include some questions about kangaroo-vehicle collisions including a breakdown of what level of reporting people did following a collision. These reports are available under "Opinion Polls" on this page:

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/wildlife-management/eastern-grey-kangaroos> .

Below is a screenshot including more recent wildlife callout data for all macropods. I can ask PCS to provide this for just EGKs if you like? If so, would a graph, summary data or raw data be best?

Macropod callouts January 1st 2016 to October 31st 2023



I've also got some notes from the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee meeting that I will type up and send you soon. In short, they are interested in chatting with you and are going to form a subcommittee.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: Friday, 8 December 2023 11:09 AM

To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>

Subject:

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Hi Claire

I hope the conference was good! I have a handful of questions for you.

Do you have contact details for

- Jim Hone
- Don Fletcher

Do you have data on the # roos killed on the roads through time? (Should I contact Pawel about this?)

I would like to set up some meetings with ACT gov staff over the next 2 weeks (but Im nervous key people will be taking off for hols!). Should I contact them myself or would you rather coordinate?

Priorities are:

- You and Miles
- Luke
- Brett and Steph
- Kyelee (I will contact myself)

Then

- Mark/Sally

- Parks and cons service
- Kirk
- Comms

Cheerio

S

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 14 Dec 2023 09:13:14 +1100
To: Driver, Kyelee
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management

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Hi Kyelee
thanks for getting back to me so fast. Yes – I could do 9, or 10 am. Do either of those times work?
S

From: Driver, Kyelee <Kyelee.Driver@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:04 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ACT kangaroo management

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

[REDACTED]

Are you available earlier than 4pm tomorrow (Friday 15 December 2023)?

Regards,

Kyelee

Dr Kyelee Driver BVSc | Acting Chief Veterinary Officer
T 02 6207 2357 | M [REDACTED] | Kyelee.driver@act.gov.au
Biosecurity and Agriculture Policy | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au



I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:00 AM

To: Driver, Kyelee <Kyelee.Driver@act.gov.au>
Subject: ACT kangaroo management

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Hi Kyelee

I hope you are well. I'm carrying out the external review of the ACT kangaroo management plan, at the request of the Conservator.

I am hoping to line up a time to talk to you (online, via zoom) about some aspects of the plan and its operation.

Do you have a spare hour either tomorrow at 4pm, or Monday avo next week, or anytime on Tuesday next week?

Many thanks
Sarah

Professor (Wildlife Conservation) Charles Darwin University
Honorary Professor, The Australian National University
Principal Research Fellow, University of Queensland
Biodiversity Councillor
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 14 Dec 2023 09:46:21 +1100
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: RE: meetings confirmed

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All good, thanks Claire.
Are you working next week as well?
S

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: meetings confirmed

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
Just realised you wouldn't be getting confirmations for the ONC staff meetings because I set them up. Brett and Steph have both confirmed for today and Luke, Miles and I are good for tomorrow.

Chat tomorrow!

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

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I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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From: Wimpenny, Claire
Sent: Thu, 14 Dec 2023 02:25:31 +0000
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MEDIA RELEASE: Independent animal welfare audit from 2023 kangaroo management program released

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
Sure - [REDACTED]

The Minister also raised a couple of queries when she was briefed on the report which I thought might be worth mentioning to you. We can chat about those tomorrow.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment, Heritage and Water Division | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Phone +61 2 6205 8252 | Email claire.wimpenny@act.gov.au

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 December 2023 12:37 PM
To: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RELEASE: Independent animal welfare audit from 2023 kangaroo management program released

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Thanks Claire. Do you mind if I contact Jordan?
S

From: Wimpenny, Claire <Claire.Wimpenny@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 12:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: MEDIA RELEASE: Independent animal welfare audit from 2023 kangaroo management program released

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,

The independent vet audit of the 2023 cull has just been released:

https://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/2358007/animal-welfare-assessment-of-kangaroo-culling-ACT-2023.pdf

Plus see media release below.

Regards,

Claire Wimpenny

Senior Ecologist

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From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 14 December 2023 12:18 PM

To: #EPSDD EHW All Staff <#EPSDDEHWAAllStaff@act.gov.au>

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: Independent animal welfare audit from 2023 kangaroo management program released

OFFICIAL

From: EPSDD Media <EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 12:09 PM

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: Independent animal welfare audit from 2023 kangaroo management program released

OFFICIAL



Media release

14 December 2023

Independent animal welfare audit from 2023 kangaroo management program released

The report from the independent animal welfare assessment of the kangaroo management program released today has confirmed the program complies with the *National code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos and wallabies for non-commercial purposes* in all aspects and that current shooting protocols should be maintained.

ACT Conservator of Flora and Fauna Bren Burkevics said he welcomed the report as a measure of transparency and reassurance to the Canberra community that animal welfare standards are being achieved as part of an important conservation program.

“The independent animal welfare assessment has confirmed that the 2023 kangaroo management program complies with the national code of practice in all aspects and that current shooting protocols should be maintained,” Mr Burkevics said.

“The outcome of the report reflects the significant planning, training, professionalism and operational discipline that is delivered by Conservation Officers as part of a complex program where there are a significant number of variables that influence program delivery.

The report has noted that a minority (5%) of animals were missed, non-fatally wounded or not rendered immediately insensible by initial shooting but has recommend that current shooting protocols be maintained.

“Whilst a low percentage of kangaroos were not deemed immediately insensible, the report confirms that the overall percentage is higher than for most published studies of wildlife shooting and similar to that observed for the same management program in 2015 and 2017.

“The report notes the challenges that exist with night-time shooting methods and has reaffirmed the importance of exercising caution when approaching culled female kangaroos for pouch young.

“Conservation Officers that deliver the kangaroo management program are retrained each year and are required to achieve high standards of target identification and firearm use.

“In addition, the ACT is the only jurisdiction that restricts culling of female kangaroos to a specific time period each year to reduce the risk of orphaning young and increase welfare outcomes for kangaroo populations.

“With the ACT entering into another El Nino and the likelihood of hot and dry conditions likely, the ongoing management of the ACT’s kangaroos will be critically important to ensure they don’t starve or overgraze the ACT’s natural temperature grasslands which are critical endangered and home to many threatened species.

“As another measure to support best practice in the kangaroo management program, the ACT Government has engaged an independent expert to conduct a five-year review of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Controlled Native Species Management Plan, which covers all management techniques for this species, including fencing and fertility control.

“As part of this process, invitations to provide feedback on current management processes have been extended to known interest groups.”

For further information on Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the ACT or to read the 2023 Animal Welfare Assessment of Kangaroo Culling report, visit the [ACT Government Environment website](#).

Statement ends

Media contact:

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From: Keighley, Miles
Sent: Fri, 15 Dec 2023 03:36:12 +0000
To: Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: Accepted: chat with Sarah Legge about EGK cull evaluation

From: OLoughlin, Luke
Sent: Fri, 15 Dec 2023 04:40:29 +0000
To: Sarah Legge
Cc: Keighley, Miles; Wimpenny, Claire
Subject: ACT roos poster
Attachments: AWMS-poster-v4.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah,
Here's the key-message-only poster version of the preliminary evaluation draft you have.
Luke

Citation:
O'Loughlin L, Keighley M and Wimpenny C (2023) Has the last 15 years of kangaroo management in the ACT achieved its key objectives? Poster presentation at the Australasian Wildlife Management Society Conference, 5th-7th December 2023, Melbourne.

Luke S. O'Loughlin (he/they) workdays: M|T|W|F

A/g Senior Conservation Officer

Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna | ACT Government

 | Luke.OLoughlin@act.gov.au | CPSU Delegate

Level 2, Naas neighbourhood, 480 Northbourne Ave, Dickson

<https://lukeoloughlinphd.wordpress.com/> | <https://www.cpsu.org.au/join>

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal People as the Traditional Custodians of this land – and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge their continuing culture and connection to Country and community and the contribution they and the broader ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community make to the ACT and region.