

Submission from the Animal Justice Party ACT to the Draft Buru (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Controlled Native Species Management Plan, October 2025

To the Conservator of Flora and Fauna,

The Animal Justice Party ACT unequivocally reject the Draft Buru Management Plan (October 2025) and its predecessor, as it fundamentally continues to endorse and facilitate the cruel, unnecessary, and unscientific mass culling of Buru (Eastern Grey Kangaroos). The claim that the “unchanged” primary goals of maintaining populations while “managing and minimising their negative environmental impacts” is a semantic shield for a lethal program that fails to protect this iconic native species.

We reject the premise that Buru are responsible for negative impacts on lowland grassy ecosystems. This narrative ignores the root cause: habitat fragmentation, urban encroachment, and past land management practices. The focus must shift entirely from lethal control to genuine non-lethal, long-term coexistence strategies.

We oppose all suggested changes and refinements within the draft plan that relate to lethal control. Specific rejections include:

1. **Retention of Culling as the Primary Tool:** We demand the immediate cessation of all culling activities. The use of shooting, capture darting, lethal injection, or the penetrating captive bolt gun is unacceptable and fails to meet any ethical standard, regardless of the 'One Welfare Framework' used. True animal welfare means ensuring the animal's right to life, not refining its execution.
2. **Changes to Shooter Competency and Auditing:** Revising the retesting schedule from every two to every three years is a reduction in oversight and is irrelevant; no degree of training can justify the practice of killing native wildlife in this manner.
3. **Grass Height Targets (5-12cm):** This focus on achieving an arbitrary 'safe operating environment' via population reduction is flawed. Management should focus on ecosystem health indicators, not on using culling to achieve a cosmetic measure of grass height.

The only acceptable management plan is one that mandates a non-lethal approach, that may include fertility control, fencing, nature corridors, permanent habitat protection, and public education campaigns focused on human coexistence, not eradication.

Therefore, the Animal Justice Party ACT demands that the Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Controlled Native Species Management Plan 2017, and its deeply flawed 'cull calculator' be completely removed or so revised as to reflect that the Buru is not a pest to be managed but a resident that deserves protection.

Additionally, we would seek repeal or amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* to remove culling as an option within wildlife or conservation management.

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