

# Kangaroo Management Plan

Bendigo Games Village – Flora Hill

1 June 2023



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
Why is this work important?	3
What to expect	3
Activity impacts	4
<b>Summary of Kangaroo Management Plan</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Management Approach</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Staged Fencing Plan</b>	<b>7</b>
Map of Staged Fencing Approach	8
<b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>	<b>9</b>

# Introduction

We're delivering a Games village at Flora Hill to host approximately 1,600 athletes and officials during the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Activities will soon commence at the village site at Osborne Street, Flora Hill to encourage kangaroos to return to their natural habitat and away from the Games village, ahead of works commencing in coming months.

This Kangaroo Management Plan has been prepared by Development Victoria. This Plan is backed by analysis undertaken by qualified, independent ecologists, considered by the Conservation Regulator at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), and an Authority to Control Wildlife permit has been issued for the disturbance of kangaroos.

A key measure outlined within the plan will see the installation of staged fencing onsite from early June 2023.

This approach ensures the Eastern Grey Kangaroo population is safely and gradually encouraged away from the site.

## Why is this work important?

The Eastern Grey Kangaroo regularly moves through the site at Osborne Street, to and from its natural habitat in the Greater Bendigo National Park and surrounding bushland.

The welfare of the kangaroos is important to Development Victoria, and to the community, and steps will be taken to maximise their safety prior to and during construction. To do this, kangaroo fencing will be progressively installed onsite over the coming months.

This is the recommended approach identified within the Kangaroo Management Plan and is designed to progressively encourage the kangaroos away from the site, back into their natural habitat, ahead of construction commencing.

## What to expect

Development Victoria, the delivery partner for the Games villages, will install fencing in stages, prior to the start of construction. See map on page 8.

We do not anticipate any traffic disruptions for the local community, but we do ask drivers to exercise caution in the surrounding streets, as kangaroos change their habits and move away from the Osborne Street site.

Additional warning signage will be installed around the site to alert drivers to the presence of kangaroos in the area and increase awareness of kangaroo movements. Regular inspections will be carried out by a qualified ecologist to ensure the kangaroos have been safely and progressively encouraged off the site before works commence.

We expect the first stage of the fencing to be installed in early June 2023, and for these activities to continue for approximately two months.

The staged installation of this fencing will occur on weekdays only, commencing the week of 5 June 2023 and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2023.

## Activity impacts

We do not anticipate any traffic disruptions for the local community, but we do ask drivers to exercise caution in the surrounding streets, as kangaroos change their habits and move away from the Osborne Street site.

Additional warning signage will be installed around the site to alert drivers to the presence of kangaroos and increase awareness of kangaroo movements.

If you become aware of a kangaroo within the fenced area, or an injured/distressed kangaroo in proximity to the site, we request that this is immediately reported to one of the locally operating wildlife rescue organisations listed below, so that the kangaroo can be safely attended to by an expert.

**Wildlife Victoria** – 03 8400 7300

**Wildlife Rescue and Information Network (WRIN)** – 0419 356 433

**Wildlife Rescue Emergency Service (WRES)** – 0427 301 401

**Bendigo Animal Hospital** – 03 5443 3322

# Summary of Kangaroo Management Plan

This Kangaroo Management Plan has been developed to minimise potential risks to the Eastern Grey Kangaroo population at Flora Hill, as well as the local environment and the community, as we prepare to commence construction of the Games village.

The safety and welfare of kangaroos is of the utmost importance, as is the safety of the community.

Ecological surveys have demonstrated that the kangaroos do not reside at the Games village site, and no permanent water sources are present within the site. Some water may be found seasonally in a drainage area to the west of the site.

Kangaroos form part of the broader landscape of the area and move freely through the site to and from natural bushland. Kangaroo travel routes encompass the village site, as well as surrounding areas including residential areas, road reserves, the electrical easement to the south-east of the site and Greater Bendigo National Park further to the east.

Fence breaks currently exist along the perimeter of the Games village site. These fence breaks mean the site is fully accessible to the kangaroos from adjacent areas, with limited restrictions or impediments.

Kangaroos have been observed utilising the electrical easement as a movement corridor to access the Greater Bendigo National Park approximately 600 metres to the east. The National Park is vast and contains adequate habitat for sustaining the population of kangaroos.

The recommended approach to kangaroo management (outlined in greater detail under Management Approach) will be adopted by Development Victoria and involves the progressive installation of fencing ahead of construction to gradually encourage the kangaroos away from the site, towards known movement corridors.

Kangaroos will be monitored by qualified ecologists during the installation of this fencing, during construction and after construction has concluded to ensure the kangaroos have been safely and progressively encouraged off the site toward their natural habitat.

Kangaroos will not be culled as part of this plan to manage kangaroos off the site.

Signage and traffic calming measures will also be adopted to maximise the safety of both the kangaroos and the local community.

# Management Approach

Development Victoria will adopt a management approach which will see the installation of staged temporary fencing at the Games village site, to gradually move the kangaroos towards the Greater National Bendigo Park.

This approach also includes adaptive management measures which could be implemented in response to unplanned conditions at the site, only if deemed necessary by the ecologist during staged fencing.

These measures have been considered by the Conservation Regulator, with an Authority to Control Wildlife issued for disturbance of the kangaroos at the Bendigo Commonwealth Games village site.

If additional measures are required to support the staged fencing approach, controlled herding (which is the non-lethal, human-induced movement of kangaroos out of a certain area) is the only disturbance method approved by the Conservation Regulator and this will not be undertaken unless required. If controlled herding is required, this will be at the direction of Development Victoria's ecologist and will be strictly in accordance with the approach which was provided to the Conservation Regulator.

Prior to herding proceeding, a suitably qualified veterinarian will be present to conduct health checks on the kangaroos present. Any kangaroos deemed by the veterinarian to be injured or in considerably poor health will be tranquilised and taken to a wildlife shelter/veterinary practice for assessment and care.

This method is not the primary approach for the site and will only be implemented if deemed necessary by the ecologist during the staged fencing.

# Staged Fencing Plan

The Kangaroo Management Plan is a staged fencing plan which will avoid land-locking the kangaroos within the site. It involves minimal human intervention and will encourage migration of the Flora Hill kangaroo population towards their known movement corridors to the south of the site.

The fencing must occur prior to construction commencement and has been recommended to occur across eight individual stages. Fencing stages are planned to occur at weekly intervals. Once the boundary of each subsequent stage has been fenced, any internal fencing between the stages can be removed.

A suitably qualified ecologist or wildlife spotter will be on site on the day of deployment of each fencing stage to observe the behaviour of the kangaroos. If it is confirmed by the ecologist on the day of fence deployment that the subsequent stage is also free of any kangaroos, one additional stage may also be fenced to streamline the staged fencing process (i.e., during Stage 1 fencing, if Stage 2 is confirmed to be free of kangaroos, this stage may be fenced concurrently with Stage 1). A maximum of one additional stage may be fenced at any time to allow the kangaroos time to adjust their movement patterns.

## Fence Staging Schedule.

Fencing Stage	Approximate Fencing Timing
1	June 2023
2	June 2023
3	June 2023
4	June 2023
5	July 2023
6	July 2023
7	July 2023
8	July 2023

## Map of Staged Fencing Approach





# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why are you erecting new fencing at the Bendigo Games village site?**

The Bendigo Games village at 2 Osborne Street, Bendigo will accommodate Commonwealth Games athletes and officials during the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games.

A number of kangaroos are known to spend time at the Games village as they travel between other locations, and their natural habitat in the Greater Bendigo National Park and surrounding bushland.

Commencing in early June 2023, fencing will be installed in stages on the Bendigo Games village site to encourage kangaroos away from the site ahead of construction works commencing. The welfare and safety of the local Eastern Grey Kangaroo population is a key priority.

This Kangaroo Management Plan has been prepared by Development Victoria. This Plan is backed by analysis undertaken by qualified, independent ecologists, and considered by the Conservation Regulator at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The Plan outlines the steps which will be taken to ensure the safety of the kangaroos during this time.

Regular inspections will be carried out by qualified ecologists to ensure the welfare of the kangaroos is managed in accordance with best practice, as they are safely encouraged away from the site and back towards their natural habitat.

## **Why has Development Victoria prepared a Kangaroo Management Plan for the Bendigo village site?**

A number of kangaroos are known to spend time at the Games village site as they travel between other Bendigo locations, and their natural habitat in the Greater Bendigo National Park and surrounding bushland.

Once works commence on site, the area will no longer be safe for the kangaroos. Construction sites contain a variety of hazards, and proximity to workers and noisy machinery may be distressing to the animals.

## **When will this work begin and how long will it take?**

Development Victoria has engaged contractors to install the fencing in stages prior to the start of construction, encouraging kangaroos away from the fenced areas. The first stage of fencing will be installed in the week commencing 5 June 2023.

The staged fencing process is expected to be completed within two months.

## **How will you ensure the safety of the kangaroos?**

Development Victoria has engaged contractors to install the fencing in stages prior to the start of construction, encouraging kangaroos away from the fenced areas. Regular inspections will be carried out to ensure the kangaroos have moved away from the Games village before works commence.

This approach will commence with a small fenced off area which is free from kangaroos. The fenced area will be increased gradually over many weeks until the site is completely free of kangaroos. Kangaroos will not be fenced in at any point during this process.

Kangaroos will be monitored by qualified ecologists during the installation of this fencing, during construction and after construction has concluded to ensure the kangaroos have been safely and progressively encouraged off the site toward their natural habitat.

In the event that a kangaroo is sighted within the enclosed area, we request that the community reports this to a locally operating wildlife rescue organisation including: Wildlife Victoria, Wildlife Rescue and Information Network (WRIN), Wildlife Rescue Emergency Service (WRES), or Bendigo Animal Hospital (contact information listed below), so that the kangaroo can be safely attended to by an expert.

### **What impacts will there be for the community and local businesses?**

We do not expect any direct impacts for local residents while the staged fencing is implemented on site, the behaviour patterns of the kangaroos are expected to evolve as they shift away from the Osborne Street site.

Drivers are encouraged to exercise caution when driving in streets surrounding the site, and to be aware that kangaroos may begin using new routes to navigate through the area.

Additional warning signage will be installed around the site to alert drivers to the presence of kangaroos and increase awareness of kangaroo movements.

### **What should I do if I see an injured kangaroo on site, or nearby?**

If a member of the public becomes aware of a kangaroo either within the fenced area, or an injured/distressed kangaroo in proximity to the site, we request that this is immediately reported to a locally operating wildlife rescue organisation including: Wildlife Victoria, Wildlife Rescue and Information Network (WRIN), Wildlife Rescue Emergency Service (WRES), or Bendigo Animal Hospital (contact information listed below), so that the kangaroo can be safely attended to by an expert.

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### **How long will this process take?**

The staged fencing process is scheduled to commence in early June 2023 and is expected to be completed within two months.

Over the coming months, drivers are encouraged to be aware that kangaroos may begin using new routes to navigate through the suburb, and to exercise additional caution on local roads.

### **Where will the kangaroos go?**

This approach has been developed to encourage the kangaroos back to their natural habitat in the Greater Bendigo National Park and surrounding bushland.

### **Who prepared the Kangaroo Management Plan?**

This Kangaroo Management Plan has been prepared by Development Victoria. This Plan is backed by analysis undertaken by qualified, independent ecologists, and considered by the Conservation Regulator at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

**Will the Kangaroos be culled or sedated and moved off the site individually?**

No. The wellbeing of these kangaroos is important and the staged fencing approach will allow us to encourage the Eastern Grey Kangaroo population to return to their natural habitat, with minimal stress to the kangaroos.

## Development Victoria

Level 9, 8 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne 3000  
VIC Australia

GPO Box 2428  
Melbourne 3001  
VIC Australia

+61 3 8317 3400  
[development.vic.gov.au](http://development.vic.gov.au)