

Kangaroo Management FAQs

Bendigo Games Village Site – Osborne Street Flora Hill

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.

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

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.

How long will this process take?

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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.

Map of Staged Fencing Approach

