

17 July 2023

Bendigo Games Village Site Update

Kangaroo Management at Flora Hill

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

We wrote to you in June with information on our approach to kangaroo management, and upcoming fencing installation.

Staged fencing commenced on site in early June to encourage kangaroos to return to their natural habitat and away from the future Games village, ahead of works commencing in coming months.

This approach has been designed with the safety of the kangaroos as the most important consideration, based on the advice of the ecologists, Ecology and Heritage Partners.

What we've done so far

Since the fencing installation commenced in early June, we have now installed six stages of fencing, and reports from the ecologist who has visited the site observe the remaining kangaroos to be in good health, with no signs of distress.

Based on expert advice, we installed yellow warning signs in the streets surrounding the site to increase driver awareness and encourage a higher level of caution over the coming months.

Signs have also been installed on the perimeter fencing of the site as additional information for the community, to explain the Kangaroo Management Plan, the staged fencing model and our approach to encouraging kangaroos away from the site.

What we've heard

We know how important the welfare of the kangaroos is to the Bendigo community and appreciate the feedback and insights which have been shared with us, to help shape our approach.

Following feedback from locals and consulting with the appointed ecologist some of the existing fence breaks to the south-east of the site have been enlarged to allow kangaroos to exit the site more easily.

We're doing more to raise driver awareness as the kangaroos change their movement patterns across the neighbourhood. We have now installed Variable Messaging Sign (VMS) Boards at key locations near the site to increase the safety of the kangaroos, and the community.

What happens next

The fencing installation will continue in stages over the coming weeks, ahead of construction commencing on site later this year. The ecologist will continue to undertake regular inspections of the site, to monitor the wellbeing of the kangaroos.

Once this staged fencing approach is complete, the kangaroos are expected to have moved away from the Bendigo Games village site, allowing for early works to safely commence.

As we reach the final stages of this fencing, we are asking the community to stay away from the site's perimeter fencing, particularly the fence breaks and exit points, to avoid causing confusion or distress to the kangaroos.

Activity impacts

We do not anticipate any traffic disruptions for the local community, but we're asking drivers to exercise caution in the surrounding streets, as the kangaroos move away from the Osborne Street site.

Additional warning signage has been 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

Resources relating to this project can be found at development.vic.gov.au/commgamesbendigo

Development Victoria respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we are delivering the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games, and throughout Victoria.

We recognise their continuing cultural heritage and connection to land, and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

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