

<p>Legend - in no particular order: Greens: The Victorian Greens SAP: Sustainable Australia Party AJP: Animal Justice Party REASON: Fiona Patten's Reason Party. LAB: Victorian Labor Party LIB: Victorian Liberal Party</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WHO TO VOTE FOR? You decide. The best predictor for future behaviour is past behaviour.</p>		
Item	Party Achievement during current term	If elected, what do you commit to doing in first 3 months	Party Policy
<p>Policies to Protect Native Wildlife</p> <p>Build wildlife crossings including land-bridge overpasses, in all shires, in consultation with Wildlife groups immediately. Refer https://www.texasmonthly.com/travel/texas-wildlife-crossings-saving-lives-and-money/</p>	<p>GREENS: The Victorian Greens advocated in Parliament to the Minister for Environment calling for more wildlife crossings to keep wildlife safe around our roads. REASON: Our leader, Fiona Patten, has a long history of voting in favor of forests, challenging forestry behaviours against protestors and ending forestry as an industry. AJP: In 2021, Andy Meddick MP secured \$165,000 funding for a virtual fencing trial along a 17km section of Forest Rd in Anglesea with a high wildlife strike rate. In 2022, we have sought a PBO costing on incorporating wildlife bridges and tunnels as standard practice in the planning of new road and rail infrastructure. AJP has also made a number of submissions to consultations such as 'Future Melbourne' advocating for this. Also, AJP has lobbied the government to reduce the speed limit on a section of road in Inverleigh with a high strike rate of animals. LAB: entertain some other types of crossings but avoided parliamentary QON on land-bridge overpasses which are the most proven effective long term solution for larger wildlife (there are hundreds overseas but none in Vic). LIB: No visible achievement.</p>	<p>The Greens will continue to advocate for wildlife crossings on existing roads and ensure they are built into the planning for any new roads. SAP is happy to advocate for this.</p>	<p>**RVOTDS does not seek to advise people who to vote for, but to bring awareness of party achievements/policies. RVOTDS would like to remind voters they don't need to follow "how to vote cards" which have often been devised based on inter-party deals, but can instead choose to number as many of "the good guys" in the relevant boxes as possible! The more "good guys" voices in our parliament, the more chance our wildlife and regional communities have to be heard. Thank you.</p> <p>Victorian Greens: The Victorian Greens are calling for \$1 billion per year from state budget (1% of the state budget) to be spent restoring our landscapes and wildlife. Further detail at: https://greens.org.au/vic/zero-extinction. AUSTRALIAN GREENS: The Greens plan is to protect our wildlife and halt extinction. The Green Australia Plan will invest \$24.4 billion over the decade to restore habitat, regenerate forest and bushland, coastal areas and rivers. Greens candidate for Bendigo has said she will advocate for building wildlife crossings. REASON: Support. Our party and it's candidates have a strong commitment to wildlife and environment, on the cross bench of the Upper House of Victorian Parliament we work very closely with Andy Meddick from the Animal Justice Party. AJP: Yes, our Land Transport policy includes explicit recommendations to this effect. LAB: No visible commitment for land-bridge overpasses - an essential element in preventing wildlife collisions. LIB: No visible commitment for land-bridge overpasses - an essential element in preventing wildlife collisions.</p>
<p>Incentivise landowners (public and private) to share with & care for wildlife (provision of water, shade, native flora, friendly fencing).</p>	<p>GREENS: Established a Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria's extinction crisis which made many recommendations to the Victorian Labor government for protecting wildlife and habitat, including on private land. Constantly advocated for increased funding for private land conservation (and public land conservation) through the Parliamentary term. REASON: In local council elections in 2022, our candidates called for the greening of suburban corridors and more allocated green spaces, to protect wildlife. This was also a party of a party strategy to negate the impacts of climate change on the entire community. There is no carbon capture technology, we need more trees, we need canopies in our suburbs and cities, we need to protect our water ways. LAB: Provided funding to wildlife rehabilitators but also significant funding to shooting clubs who continue to kill native birdlife and pump toxic lead ammunition into the environment. Labor has a "living with Wildlife Action Plan" however more permits to kill have been issued by this government than the previous, despite the increase in climatic disasters taking a toll on wildlife populations. LIB: None apparent.</p>	<p>GREENS: Advocating for the environment, including private land owner conservation, will continue to be a priority for the Victorian Greens (as it's always been). The Greens committing to protecting public & private land, restoring land and wildlife and stopping destructive environmental policies is outlined here: https://greens.org.au/vic/zero-extinction. SAP is happy to advocate for this.</p>	<p>Victorian Greens: The Victorian Greens are calling for \$1 billion per year from state budget (1% of the state budget) to be spent restoring our landscapes and wildlife. Further detail at: https://greens.org.au/vic/zero-extinction. AUSTRALIAN GREENS: Our Green Australia Plan includes: • Protect all threatened wildlife and species and save them from extinction • Plant 2 billion trees by 2030 • Restore bushfire ravaged forests and bushland • Clean up our rivers, lakes and beaches • Invest in our public parks and conservation areas • Stop invasive species and weeds • Fund local communities to restore nature spots, create green spaces and protect local wildlife • Support farmers and landowners to treat and restore habitat on private land. REASON: Support. SAP: The Sustainable Australia Party 'Regional & Rural Australia' policy can be found here: https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/regional_and_rural_australia. Our policy includes "Further develop land stewardship funds to support relevant farmers and rural landowners to help manage biodiversity values on their properties, including areas that are either high conservation value" so we support this policy. AJP: Wildlife Protection Policy includes an objective to "Take proactive measures, including provision of financial incentives, to restore and preserve functional ecosystems through rewilding." Our Land Clearing Policy also aims to "Amend state-based animal welfare legislation to include an enforceable duty of care towards animals on a landholder's property during all land use changes." LAB: Some positive statements, but no real visible commitment to change the status quo. LIB: Committed to "saving Lake Knox" from development and saving the Brumbies, but otherwise no real visible commitment.</p>
<p>Implement an independent authority, in consultation with wildlife care groups, to manage wildlife, (outside of Depts of Ag). & Remove from wildlife policy decision processes or management, anyone with a real or perceived conflict of interest (such as hunting or ties to commercial industry).</p>	<p>GREENS: Established a Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria's extinction crisis which made many recommendations to the Victorian Labor government for protecting wildlife and habitat, including that the current regulation of wildlife needs urgent reform. Advocated in Parliament for an overhaul of the wildlife act (and laws relating to wildlife in Victoria) to make them fit for purpose and not stuck in the mentality of native wildlife as a "resource" for hunters or a nuisance for land owners. AJP: We have strongly advocated for an Independent Office of Animal Welfare. We have also requested a PBO costing for the establishment of an Animal Crime Division, and this will be one of our state election platforms. LAB: None visible. LIB: None visible.</p>	<p>GREENS: Continuing to advocate for Victoria's Conservation Regulator to be independent, so they will be bold in holding the government and industry to account and protecting nature. Continuing to advocate for modernising wildlife laws so they actually protect wildlife (including overhauling the permits for wildlife killing system). Right now, these laws consider native wildlife to be either a resource or pest, while introduced species, like deer, receive protection. Further information at: https://greens.org.au/vic/zero-extinction SAP is happy to advocate for this.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. REASON: Support. SAP: The Sustainable Australia Party 'Animals & Biodiversity' policy can be found here: https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/animals_and_biodiversity. Our policy includes "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, research, sporting and domestic environments" so we support this policy. In a democracy, anyone should be able to be a part of a process (for example, making a submission to an enquiry about hunting), however we would support vested interests not managing the process. Independent decision making based on science and evidence should prevail. AJP: Our Wildlife Care Policy mentions plenty of consultation with wildlife care groups. Our Animal Law Policy calls for new government bodies to ensure the wellbeing of all different types of animals, separate from the Department of Agriculture. AJP: We don't have such a policy but would more than likely support it. As a principle the AJP supports removing those with a vested interest from overseeing decisions which may benefit them. Per our Corruption Position: "The AJP supports all efforts to improve equity, transparency, integrity and accountability in local, state and federal government elections and decision-making." LAB: No policy visible. LIB: No policy visible.</p>
<p>Provide increased funding for regional veterinarians and wildlife rescue groups.</p>	<p>GREENS: We have strongly advocated for an Independent Office of Animal Welfare. We have also requested a PBO costing for the establishment of an Animal Crime Division, and this will be one of our state election platforms. AJP: Andy Meddick MP has secured funding as part of the State Budget for a variety of wildlife shelter upgrades and works, during every year of his 4 year term. LAB: Provided funding to wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups, but also significant funding to hunt clubs who shoot it for recreation. LIB: None visible.</p>	<p>The Greens know that our wildlife rescue groups do essential work in rescuing injured animals and restoring them to health. We are very happy to incorporate advocating for increased funding for rescue groups and regional vets into our animals advocacy. SAP is happy to advocate for this.</p>	<p>REASON: Support. SAP: The Sustainable Australia Party 'Animals & Biodiversity' policy can be found here: https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/animals_and_biodiversity. Our policy includes "A properly funded and enforced national biodiversity and native species program" so we support this policy. AJP: Yes. We have both Wildlife Care and Wildlife Protection policies. LAB: No policy visible. LIB: None visible.</p>
<p>Ban shooting and killing of native animals/birdlife immediately.</p>	<p>The Greens continue to oppose the duck shooting program and renew our calls to ban it entirely each year. We know that waterbird numbers are in decline and that extended drought conditions make continued shooting seasons untenable. We were highly critical of the government for allowing shooting seasons to go ahead despite the state being under COVID restrictions that limited public gatherings. The Greens have also criticised the commercial killing of kangaroos and tabled petitions calling on the commercial killing program to be indefinitely suspended. SAP have supported organisations via a large number of QONs and parliamentary discussions. AJP: Campaign to force MPs to declare their current stance on duck shooting publicly has resulted in public pressure and many of them declaring their support for a ban on recreational duck shooting. Andy Meddick MP also achieved an Exclusion Zone at Tower Hill to prevent duck shooting in that area. Our report on the Human Harms of Killing Kangaroos won the Presiding Officer's prize for the best report of the program. This report will be used as an advocacy and lobbying tool to further our campaign to end the ruthless killing of kangaroos in Victoria. AJP supported the Victorian Kangaroo Alliance in their campaign to knock back a kangaroo 'processing' facility in Inglewood - and recently won! Ongoing campaign to end the cruel ATCW system that allows the shooting of wildlife with little/no regulatory control or oversight. LAB: None visible. LIB: None visible. Have always backed the Nationals responsible for lowering the age of juniors allowed to kill wildlife with guns to 12yrs old (against the National Firearms Agreement).</p>	<p>GREENS: We'll redouble our efforts to highlight the cruelty of duck shooting early in the next term, especially in late-Jan and early February when the shooting season is usually announced, and keep the pressure on the next government to ban duck shooting for good. SAP is happy to continue to advocate for this.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. The Australian Greens are strongly opposed to duck shooting. Duck shooting is barbaric and inhumane, and it should be banned. REASON: Support. SAP: Support. AJP: Yes. Duck Shooting Policy. And Native Birds Policy. LAB: No visible policy to change current killing. LIB: No visible policy to change current killing.</p>
<p>Ban lead ammunition. Refer https://www.publish.csiro.au/wr/pdf/WR17180</p>	<p>GREENS: Helped shine a spotlight on the dangers of lead ammunition during the Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria's extinction crisis. SAP: Via QONs, SAP has alerted Ministers to the fact toxic shot was found in Gippsland wetlands. LAB: None visible. LIB: None visible.</p>	<p>The Greens will continue to advocate for more human methods of animal control and an end to the suffering of animals, and will incorporate a ban on lead ammunition into our calls.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. REASON: Support. SAP: Sustainable Australia Party supports the highest environmental standards across all industries and therefore supports this policy. AJP: Yes. LAB: No policy visible. LIB: No policy visible.</p>

<p>Ensure ammunition (cartridges and arrows) are traceable to owner to enable prompt prosecution of wrongdoers. Refer https://au.sports.yahoo.com/desperate-search-for-cockatoo-shot-through-head-with-arrow-094219590.html</p>		<p>The Greens will continue to advocate for the recommendations from the ecosystems inquiry to be supported and implemented. We'll look to ensure that any review of penalties for offences that threaten ecosystems and wildlife includes considering improvements to the traceability of ammunition to ensure that perpetrators of animal cruelty are able to be held accountable.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. REASON: Support. SAP: Sustainable Australia Party supports this policy where practicable. AJP: We doubt this is technically possible. We'd be happy to mandate it, but recognise that many shooters load their own munitions, making tracking impossible. LAB: No policy visible. LIB: No policy visible.</p>
<p>OTHER</p>			<p>Under Lib/Lab govts, hundreds of thousands of native animals have been killed via government policy at state level, despite questionable "abundance estimates", little monitoring, known cruelty to the animals and surrounding residents, and added pressures on the wildlife populations of habitat loss through urban development and increasing intensity of fires and floods.</p>

Policies to Mitigate Habitat Destruction

<p>Cease logging native forest supporting listed threatened species.</p>	<p>GREENS: Introduced a Bill to Parliament to repeal the Woodpulp Agreement Act which legislated for Victoria's native forests to be provided to Nipon paper until 2030. Introduced multiple motions calling for VicForests to immediately wound up and for native forest logging to cease. Voted against 2 highly problematic logging Bills brought by the Labor government - 1 which criminalises peaceful forest protestors and citizen scientists, the other which changes logging rules to make illegal logging now legal (for example on steep slopes). Following revelations last year that VicForests spies on citizens, is illegally logging and has failed in it's duty to regenerate forests - referred VicForests to IBAC, the Public Service Commission and the Ombudsman for investigation. Asked many questions during question time calling for an end to native forest logging. Rarely a week in Parliament wen by without the Greens advocating for native forest protection. SAP: Forestry – again this topic has been raised by Cliff nearly every month in Parliament, particularly regarding concerns about Vicforests and alleged illegal logging. He's raised concerns about native forest logging from Toolangi State forest to Arthurs Seat and also pushed for the transition to sustainable plantations. He's met with forestry groups to discuss this topic as well. AJP: Advocated strongly for this across 2 consultations into revisions to the Timber Code. Supported local Wildlife and Advocacy groups in campaigning on this topic. LIB: Criticised attempts by government to end native timber logging by 2030. LAB: Starting to talk of transition away from native forest logging. But State owned VicForests has been in the media for alleged illegal logging. Claims it will continue cutting down thousands of hectares of native forests for another 8 years. Despite setting up a Regulator, state owned VicForests continues to illegally log without penalty. It is currently facing 6 citizen-initiated court cases for destroying protected areas and wildlife. LAB has introduced harsh jail terms and fines for forest protectors.</p>	<p>GREENS: Continue to advocate for a legislated end to native forest logging in 2023. The Greens forest policy for the election includes: 1. Reversing Labor's anti-democratic laws that criminalise peaceful forest protesters, and repealing the archaic laws that lock Victoria into supplying forests to private companies until 2030. 2. Legislating an end to logging in 2023, and protecting native forests for the vital habitat they provide to threatened wildlife and for the carbon they store that protects us from climate change. 3. Establishing a Victorian disaster response team employing former logging contractors to deploy their skills and experience to respond to fire, storm, flood and other emergencies. 4. Processing plantation timber in Victoria and setting up Victoria as a national leader in alternative timber products. 5. Showcasing alternative forest-based economic opportunities, such as an elevated forest walk tourism venture in Victoria's central highlands, working with First Nations people. Further detail at: https://greens.org.au/vic/end-logging SAP is happy to advocate for this.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. REASON: Support. SAP: The Sustainable Australia Party 'Environment' policy can be found here: https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/environment. Our forestry policy includes "Avoiding all habitats of threatened, vulnerable and endangered native species" so we support this policy. AJP: Yes. Per our Wildlife Protection Policy: "Halt further wildlife habitat destruction and fragmentation by prohibiting native forest logging and land clearing for agriculture (especially animal agriculture)." LAB: Policy to transition away from native forest logging but little clarity on when. LIB: Pro native logging.</p>
<p>Rapidly transition the native forest industry to plantations or forest restoration.</p>	<p>GREENS: As above. SAP: As above. AJP: Advocated strongly for this across 2 consultations into revisions to the Timber Code. Supported local Wildlife and Advocacy groups in campaigning on this topic.</p>	<p>GREENS: As above. SAP is happy to advocate for this.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. REASON: Support. SAP: The Sustainable Australia Party 'Environment' policy can be found here: https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/environment. Our forestry policy includes the following: "Given the huge loss of Australia's native forests over the past 250 years, fully consider calls to end all native forest logging and support an appropriate scientific enquiry into logging in Australia to answer this question. In the meantime minimise the scale and improve the practices of native forest logging, including: - Avoiding all habitats of threatened, vulnerable and endangered native species - Increasing the forest reserve system - Operate on long rotations, ideally at least 100 years - Maximising the Australian economic value-add for timber products - Banning the export of raw materials (e.g. woodchips) - Preventing Australian native forests and its waste from being burnt for biomass power as a 'renewable energy' source under any Renewable Energy Target or related scheme (this would be achieved through non-accreditation of such practices)." so we broadly support this policy. AJP: Yes. Wildlife Protection Policy: "Remove other exemptions that allow harm to be caused to native wildlife for commercial activities ("e.g." forestry). LAB: Transition is spoken of, but no clear detail or evidence of expediency. LIB: Although they support plantation development, they are also supporting and expanding native forest industry.</p>
<p>Mandate inclusion of wildlife corridors in all rural, semi-rural and outer metro planning proposals. Refer https://www.austlii.edu.au/other/australianlegaljournal/australian/article/202203/landlocked-kangaroos-trapped-by-urban-sprawl-have-nowhere-left-to-go/?fbclid=IwAR2z6Z31AoN4YsNUbb9AJiQYRVGabeXraD4bFhCNaZlerrWnxS69Zxdxdu</p>	<p>The Greens have advocated for changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions to strengthen wildlife protections, including safeguarding wildlife corridors. We have written to the previous planning Minister Richard Wynne to call for stronger wildlife protections to be incorporated into the planning system. Samantha Ratnam has also spoken about this in parliament. SAP: Cliff has raised the issue of Wildlife corridors many times in Parliament, from his Planning Inquiry committee work, to his Bill work such as getting trying to get environmental and climate change objectives into the Planning Act. Pretty much in every speech relating to biodiversity or the environment, we raise the issue of a lack of strategic planning for wildlife corridors. AJP: Advocated strongly for this across 2 consultations into revisions to the Timber Code. Supported local Wildlife and Advocacy groups in campaigning on this topic.</p>	<p>The Greens will call for the reinstatement of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework, which is considering the effectiveness of the planning system in protecting the environment. The interim report briefly considering submissions that called for the inclusion of habitat corridors in the planning system. SAP is happy to advocate for this.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. REASON: Support. SAP: The Sustainable Australia Party 'Animals & Biodiversity' policy can be found here: https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/animals_and_biodiversity. Our policy includes "Improved and better connected wildlife corridors" so we support this policy. AJP: Yes. See our Wildlife policies mentioned earlier. Our Land Clearing Policy says AJP will "introduce habitat protection as a fundamental and consistent planning principle in all regions and sectors." Furthermore, per our Population Policy: AJP will "ensure that any population increase happens within existing urban boundaries; urban sprawl must cease." Also in our Climate Emergency Policy, "Reimagine urban design to be climate-friendly and climate-resilient, and incentivise research and development into net zero carbon building materials and practices." LAB: No policy visible to include in planning decisions. LIB: No policy visible.</p>

Catastrophe

<p>Ban campfires outside commercial campgrounds or private property. (in 20/21, Forest Fire Management Victoria reported that 860 of the 1435 fires it attended in state forests and other crown land were caused by unattended campfires).</p>	<p>GREENS: Opposed the Labor Governments laws to allow unregulated camping on crown river frontages and raised concerns about the risk of fires. SAP was one of very few parties strong enough to oppose the camping on leased crown land bill which to most regional folks was an ill-conceived bill placing enormous biosecurity and fire risks on regional land owners. LAB: Actively promoted camping on leased crown land against landowners/farmers wishes.</p>	<p>The Greens support investigating ways to reduce the sparking of bushfires.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. REASON: Support. SAP: No position. AJP: Yes. The AJP is currently developing a Fire Management Policy and will include this point. LAB: No policy visible. LIB: No policy visible.</p>
<p>Rapid-attack large capacity water bomber fleet ready and available in each region.</p>	<p>The Greens advocated for this at a state and federal level in the wake of the 2020 black summer fires and had been calling for it previously. LAB: invested \$29 million into aircraft including four water bombers in 2020 which is good but insufficient when fires are predicted to become more frequent and intense. In comparison, over \$70 million has been channelled into hunting/shooting since 2014. LIB: failed to take bushfire threat seriously at a national level https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-15/government-extra-air-support-ahead-of-bushfires/12554300</p>	<p>Will continue to advocate in Parliament and with the Government.</p>	<p>GREENS: Support. REASON: Support. SAP: Support. AJP: Yes. [Not mentioned in any policy] This will greatly increase our chances of saving habitat, animals and people. LAB: Labor appear to have a National policy for improved fire fighting capability. LIB: Appear to promise one new water bomber for the country.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>AJP: As a result of our Private Members Bill to reform wildlife rescue in emergency situations, including bushfires, the government created three roles of Wildlife Welfare Liaison. They are from outside the Department and government and will work to manage wildlife separate to human life/property in the event of a fire. Advocated for a reform in Fire prevention and management strategies that learned from First Nations' strategies and also adopted better animal management strategies, across 4 consultations</p>		

<p>Will you commit to meeting with us at least once a quarter?</p>	<p>The Greens highly value the support of RVOTDS in the campaign against duck shooting and to protect native wildlife. We regularly engage with RVOTDS and have appreciated the information and support provided by RVOTDS members over this last term of parliament.</p> <p>SAP: Have listened to and responded to most constituent communications. Have afforded considerable time to constituents and boldly represented them in parliament. Have raised over 30 Questions on notice to do with the shooting of native quail, native ducks, lead ammunition, safety and economic impacts of hunting as well as planning processes adversely impacting the environment.</p> <p>REASON: Fiona Patten has listened and responded to regional constituents' concerns regarding wildlife and amenity.</p> <p>LAB: Most Labor MPs and Ministers have mostly ignored constituents on wildlife/ regional amenity issues. RVOTDS have appreciated the opportunity to meet with 1 Labor MP and three Senior Advisors, however there has been little if any follow up. Conversely we know through FOI, that Ministers have met regularly with hunting clubs.</p> <p>LIB: Most Liberal MPs have mostly ignored constituents on wildlife / regional amenity issues. RVOTDS have appreciated the opportunity to meet with two Liberal MPs and leader of the Nationals, however there has been little if any follow up.</p>	<p>The Greens are more than happy to arrange a meeting early in the next term of parliament to continue our regular engagement with and support of the RVOTDS.</p> <p>SAP: Yes.</p>	<p>GREENS: Yes.</p> <p>REASON: Yes.</p> <p>SAP: We are happy to meet with your organisation to discuss these important environmental and animal welfare issues.</p> <p>AJP: Yes, we look forward to your guidance and advice.</p> <p>LAB: No commitment received. In the past, meetings which have occurred are few, infrequent with little if any follow up.</p> <p>LIB: No commitment received. In the past, meetings which have occurred are few, infrequent with little if any follow up.</p>
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Disclaimer: Neither Labor nor Liberal responded to our request for their responses to the above. The table reflects our understanding of Lib/Lab based on publicly available information and our own experience. RVOTDS did not seek answers from Shooters Party or Liberal Democrats - if unsure why, please contact us!