

2020 Victorian kangaroo population survey

Latest survey on Victorian kangaroo numbers released

About the survey

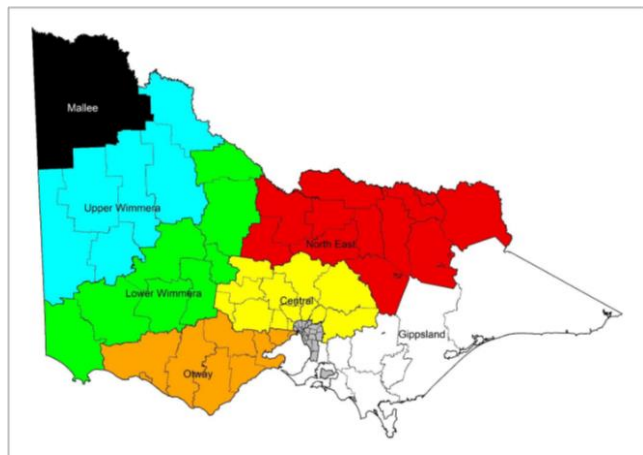
In October and November 2020, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) surveyed populations of Victoria's three kangaroo species, the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, the Western Grey Kangaroo and the Red Kangaroo.

The latest survey builds on those from 2017 and 2018, the results help us understand Victoria's kangaroo populations and their locations.

The results are used to help us ensure authorised kangaroo management in Victoria is sustainable

Where are the survey zones?

To help analyse the survey data and develop estimates, the state is divided up into seven survey zones. Each zone is made up of ecologically similar local government areas (LGAs). LGAs within metropolitan Melbourne, and French Island are not included in any of



the survey zones.

Figure 1. Map of survey zones.

What did the 2020 survey find?

The overall kangaroo population in Victoria, at the time of the survey in 2020 was estimated to be 1,942,000, an increase of over 500,000 from the 2018 survey. See the estimated population for each species in Table 1

This is approximate as forests and urban areas aren't included in the survey.

Table 1: Estimated populations of Victoria's three kangaroo species (rounded to the nearest 1000).

Species	Estimated population in 2018	Estimated population in 2020
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	1,251,000	1,717,000
Western Grey Kangaroo	130,000	195,000
Red Kangaroo	44,000	30,000
Combined	1,425,000	1,942,000

How was the survey conducted?

In 2020, DELWP used experienced operators in aerial counting by helicopter to cover 3,234km of transects.

It is difficult to distinguish between Eastern Grey and Western Grey Kangaroos from the air, to address this . 2,195km of ground surveys across the state were also completed to refine the distribution of the two species in areas where they overlap.

How did the 2020 survey differ from 2018?

The 2020 and 2018 aerial and ground survey methods differed slightly as;

- Some areas couldn't be studied from the air safely in 2018, so those were changed in 2020; and
- Additional transects were surveyed in 2020 to increase precision

How do the 2020 results compare to the 2018 survey?

The 2020 estimates were larger than those from 2017 and 2018. There were an estimated 1,942,000 kangaroos in 2020 in total, 36% more than the estimated 1,425,000 in 2018. While overall populations have increased, in some areas such as the Mallee and North East of the state the numbers have fallen since 2018.

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Which areas of Victoria had the most kangaroos?

As in previous surveys, kangaroo numbers varied considerably across the state.

Table 2 lists the LGAs with the highest estimated populations. When comparing estimates, it's important to consider that there are large differences in size between LGAs. The full report includes the area (km²) of habitat within each LGA.

The Mitchell Shire had the highest estimated abundance of kangaroos.

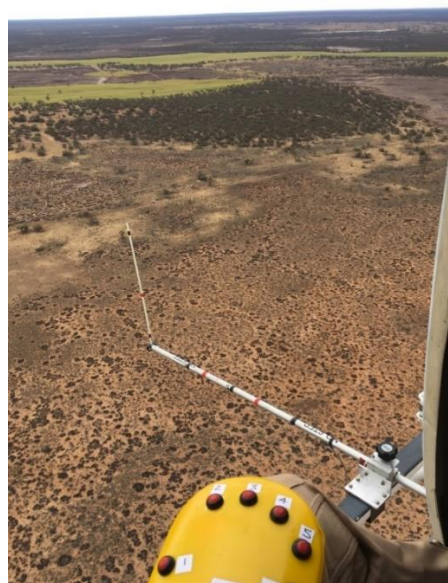


Figure 2: View from the helicopter conducting the aerial surveys

Credit: Michael Stead, EcoKnowledge

How many kangaroos were found in my local area?

We estimated kangaroo numbers for 58 LGAs. The ten LGAs with the highest estimated numbers of kangaroo are listed below.

Table 2. Ten LGA's with the highest combined abundance of kangaroos.

LGA	Eastern Grey	Western Grey	Red	Total
Mitchell	123,500			123,500
Murrindindi	99,400			99,400
Loddon	52,300	31,500		83,800
Moorabool	77,600			77,600
Southern Grampians	59,500	16,500		76,000
Moyne	75,800			75,800
Macedon Ranges	74,400			74,400
Mildura	1,000	36,300	30,400	67,700
Mount Alexander	66,300			66,300
Northern Grampians	53,700	8,800		62,500

Estimates for the 58 LGA's surveyed are listed in the full survey report.

Find out More

Keep up to date on Victoria's wildlife at www.wildlife.vic.gov.au

Read the full report at www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/kangaroos

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ISBN 978-1-76077-029-7 (Online)

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