Version dated 17 November 2026

Victorian Election Scorecards - Responses

Ahead of the Victorian Election 2026, the Alliance for Animals contacted all major parties and registered independent candidates in targeted electorates asking for their responses to six key policy issues (listed below).

The following table sets out the responses received from each party or independent candidate and the Alliance's view of their position based on this response. In completing the scorecards, we took into consideration responses to our emails as well as policy statements in the previous term of government.

The scorecards were prepared to raise awareness of the interests of animals and prevent animal suffering by summarising the position of political parties on key animal welfare policy issues relevant to the charitable purposes of the Alliance. The scorecards represent the view of the Australian Alliance for Animals and should not be relied upon. The Alliance does not promote or oppose political parties or direct people on how to vote.

All scorecards are accessible on the Alliance website: https://www.allianceforanimals.org.au/victorian-election-2026

Policy issues

We asked each party/candidate for their response to the following policy issues:

1. **Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill**

   Expedite the passage of the Animal Care and Protection Bill to replace the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Vic) before the end of 2027, ensuring the explicit legal recognition of animal sentience.

2. **End recreational duck shooting**

   Introduce legislation to ban recreational duck and quail shooting consistent with the recommendation of the Legislative Council Committee on Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements.

3. **End the public funding of greyhound racing**

   Commit to phasing out the public funding of greyhound racing in the next parliamentary term by ceasing distribution of the Point of Consumption Tax towards greyhound racing, ending all greyhound-related grants from the Victorian Racing Industry Fund, stopping one-off payments and by mandating that no funds are directed towards the greyhound code from industry funding agreements.

4. **State Animal Welfare Authority**

   Strengthen animal welfare enforcement arrangements by recognising Animal Welfare Victoria as an independent statutory body under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Vic) with responsibility for administering the Act, and with an appropriate budget allocation to ensure adequate resourcing. (Note: this would not replace RSPCA inspectors – they would report to the Authority).

5. **Wildlife protection & reform**

   Reforming the Wildlife Act 1975 (Vic) to:

   (a) Improve ATCW accountability: Mandate substantive evidence of damage and the exhaustion of non-lethal options; require the publication of application decisions, reasons and kill data; and enforce strict welfare and competency standards; and

   (b) Enhance emergency responses: Integrate qualified NGO disaster response wildlife teams into incident control centres and grant them fireground access equivalent to other emergency response professionals.

6. **Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing)**

   Introduce legislation within the next parliamentary term to commence a phase out of live lamb cutting (mulesing), require multi-modal pain relief while the practice continues, and promote the breeding of fly-strike resistant sheep.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

NAME	RESPONSE Plain text = direct responses from parties. *Italicised text* = Alliance commentary.	POSITION
Animal Justice Party	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support No MP has fought harder for this Bill. Animal Justice Party MP Georgie Purcell has repeatedly pressed the Government in Question Time to introduce this legislation, including asking for strengthened penalties which are currently among the lowest in the nation. Georgie also sponsored and tabled a petition of over 10,000 Victorians calling for the Animal Care and Protection Bill's immediate introduction, which triggered a debate in Parliament. If re-elected, we will do everything we possibly can to ensure this life-saving legislation is introduced as a priority.	**SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Support When Animal Justice Party MP Georgie Purcell was first elected, she said her number one priority was to ban duck shooting in Victoria. As a volunteer duck rescuer for the past 16 years, this remains to be true, and she has worked relentlessly throughout the last parliamentary term to bring it closer. This included being a member on the Legislative Council Select Committee into Native Bird Hunting, which delivered a recommendation to completely ban duck and quail shooting across Victoria. When the new Premier rejected that recommendation in one of her first acts, Georgie moved a motion forcing the production of documents behind this decision, and has kept the issue before Parliament ever since, including closing a record number of wetlands to shooting activity. If re-elected, ending duck shooting will continue to be one of Georgie's most important campaigns.	**SUPPORT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support In 2025, Animal Justice Party MP Georgie Purcell commissioned an independent Parliamentary Budget Office costing which found that Victoria would save half a billion dollars over ten years by ending tax-payer subsidies to greyhound racing. She has used Question Time to challenge the Victorian Government on this, including over the $3 million emergency payment to Greyhound Racing Victoria while it ran a $23 million loss. In 2023, she successfully secured mandatory whole-of-life tracking for greyhounds in the racing industry, and in 2026, secured funding for community greyhound rescue groups for the first time. Every single sitting week of the	**SUPPORT**

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	term, Georgie has also read in a motion naming the dogs that have been injured and killed since the sitting week before. Ending all subsidies towards greyhound racing has been a long-standing campaign of the Animal Justice Party, and we will continue to fight for an end to this industry that causes so much suffering to animals.	
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support The Animal Justice Party supports strengthening Victoria's animal welfare governance through an independent, well-resourced statutory authority with clear responsibility for administering and enforcing animal welfare legislation. Community expectations are clear: Australians overwhelmingly want an independent body overseeing animal welfare policy, enforcement, and standards. MP Georgie Purcell has raised in Parliament how fragmented Victoria's animal welfare enforcement is, with no clarity as to who is responsible for a given cruelty complaint, and the glaring conflict within departments that protect and promote animal industries also being responsible for investigations into cruelty. An independent Authority would fix this. Victoria already has the foundations for such a model through Animal Welfare Victoria. Recognising it as an independent statutory authority under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 – or its modern replacement under the proposed Animal Care and Protection Bill – would provide the structural independence, transparency and accountability needed to deliver contemporary animal welfare oversight. The Animal Justice Party has also costed this policy and will release it ahead of the election.	**SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support Animal Justice Party MP Georgie Purcell works closely with the wildlife rescue community, regularly visiting shelters and carers across the state and bringing their experiences directly into Parliament. She has also secured funding for wildlife rescuers and carers in every state budget throughout the last parliamentary term. After the 2026 bushfires, Georgie spoke up when qualified rescuers were blocked from firegrounds and through her parliamentary and departmental contacts, secured them access to undertake their critical work. She also called for the kangaroo harvest and ATCW killing to be suspended until proper population assessments were done. She has pushed for mandatory shooting exclusion zones around registered wildlife shelters, including at the Minister's wildlife welfare roundtables, and has called on the Government to fund wildlife rescue as an essential emergency service rather than leaving it to volunteers and community donations.	**SUPPORT**

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	Georgie also passed a motion in the parliament calling for reforms to the ATCW system, including undertaking mandatory training on non-lethal options and for wombats to be immediately removed from the kill list, with an individual population count to be undertaken. She also recently questioned the Minister for Environment in question time about native birds remaining on the species list as bird flu cases in Victoria continue to grow. The Animal Justice Party supports comprehensive reform of the Wildlife Act 1975 to ensure Victoria's wildlife laws reflect contemporary science, community expectations and modern principles of wildlife protection. The current Act does not adequately recognise the sentience of native animals, their ecological roles, or the importance of coexistence and First Nations stewardship. Reform is essential to deliver a transparent, accountable and evidence-based wildlife management system.	
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Support The AJP has already delivered on this issue. Mandatory pain relief for mulesing young lambs became law in Victoria in 2020 thanks to the work of the Animal Justice Party in Parliament. MP Georgie Purcell has since called for mulesing to be prohibited altogether under the new animal care and protection laws. In 2024, she also asked the Agriculture Minister to meet with FOUR PAWS, Humane Society International and the Australian Alliance for Animals about The Broken Promise report. In 2026, she held a press conference to deliver half a million signatures from around the world calling for immediate action. We commit to pushing for legislation to phase out mulesing within the next parliamentary term, whilst requiring multi-modal pain relief while the practices continues, and promote the breeding of fly-strike resistant sheep whilst mulesing practices continue. We commit to pushing for legislation within the next parliamentary term to phase out mulesing and, while the practice continues, to require multimodal pain relief and promote the breeding of flystrike resistant sheep.	**SUPPORT**
Greens	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support We support urgent passage of the Animal Care and Protection Bill and have spoken on this in Parliament this year, and called on the Premier to introduce the Bill to Parliament. As background, the Greens have called for 20 years to replace the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 with modern legislation recognising animal sentience and stronger preventative protections since the first Greens MPs were first elected in Victoria 20 years ago	**SUPPORT**

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	2. End recreational duck shooting Support The Greens support banning recreational duck and quail shooting, consistent with the parliamentary inquiry recommendation.	**SUPPORT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support The Victorian Greens support ending public subsidies to the racing industry, including greyhound racing. Our 2026 platform explicitly commits to stopping online gambling tax revenue from flowing to racing. We have also committed to cancelling Victorian Racing Industry Fund payments, including Point of Consumption Tax distributions, Victorian Racing Industry Fund grants and other payments, with concurrent animal welfare and workforce transition arrangements. As well, our Animals Policy calls for an end to greyhound racing entirely, as well as commercial horse racing.	**SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support The Greens support an adequately resourced independent regulator with prosecutorial powers. The statutory structure and RSPCA inspector arrangements require consideration.	**SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support The Victorian Greens support comprehensive reform of the *Wildlife Act 1975* and stronger protections for native wildlife. Our policies and election commitments include: • **Overhauling Victoria's outdated wildlife laws**, including reforming the Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) permit system that currently allows large numbers of native animals to be killed. • **Protecting native wildlife and their habitats**, recognising their intrinsic worth and right to live and move freely in their natural environments. • **Ending unsustainable commercial killing of kangaroos and other native wildlife**, and reviewing wildlife shooting permits. • **Strengthening animal welfare laws**, including recognising animal sentience, ending inhumane methods of animal control and increasing penalties for animal cruelty.	**SUPPORT**

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	• **Prioritising humane and non-lethal alternatives**, with significantly increased funding for research and implementation of non-lethal wildlife and introduced-species management methods. • **Establishing an independent animal welfare authority** with monitoring, compliance and prosecutorial powers. • **Strengthening biodiversity protections**, including properly funded recovery plans for threatened species, habitat restoration and better monitoring of wildlife populations. • **Improving wildlife emergency responses**, including increased resources for wildlife rescue, survival and rehabilitation, and allowing trained wildlife volunteers to access fire-affected areas immediately after a fire to rescue, feed or humanely euthanise suffering animals. • **Supporting wildlife carers and environmental community organisations**, recognising their important contribution to wildlife protection and conservation.	
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Support The Australian Greens support phasing out mulesing, humane flystrike prevention and breeding flystrike-resistant sheep.	**SUPPORT**
Victorian Socialists	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support “Animals communicate, form relationships and experience pain and distress" *Quotes taken from Victorian Socialists ‘Protecting Animals From Cruelty And Exploitation’ Policy. Affirmed as correct by Victorian Socialists.*	**SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Partial support “Introduce stricter regulation of recreational hunting and fishing to protect endangered species and ensure that permit holders are adequately trained to minimise harm” "Methods of hunting or capture that are unsustainable, cruel, or that inflict undue pain on animals should be banned outright” *Quotes taken from Victorian Socialists ‘Protecting Animals From Cruelty And Exploitation’ Policy. Affirmed as correct by Victorian Socialists.*	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**

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	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Partial support "Introduce strict and comprehensive regulation of the horse racing and greyhound industries to ensure they are cruelty-free, with harsh penalties, including fines, bans and imprisonment, for trainers and owners of racing animals found guilty of cruelty" *Quotes taken from Victorian Socialists 'Protecting Animals From Cruelty And Exploitation' Policy. Affirmed as correct by Victorian Socialists.*	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support "Establish an animal welfare regulatory and enforcement body with offices and staff across the state, including prosecutors, rangers, veterinarians and educators" *Quotes taken from Victorian Socialists 'Protecting Animals From Cruelty And Exploitation' Policy. Affirmed as correct by Victorian Socialists.*	**SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support "Safeguard, preserve and rehabilitate the natural environment and native animal habitats to the greatest extent" *Quotes taken from Victorian Socialists 'Protecting Animals From Cruelty And Exploitation' Policy. Affirmed as correct by Victorian Socialists.*	**SUPPORT**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Support	**SUPPORT**
Legalise Cannabis Victoria	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support Legalise Cannabis Victoria does not have a specific policy on this legislation. However, guided by our Party Values of compassion, human rights and personal freedoms, we support approaches that promote the humane treatment of animals and recognise the importance of compassion in law and policy.	**SUPPORT**

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	2. End recreational duck shooting Support Legalise Cannabis Victoria does not have a specific policy on recreational duck and quail shooting. However, guided by our Party Values of compassion and tolerance, we recognise the importance of animal welfare. Rachel Payne and David Ettershank supported Georgie Purcell's bill to end recreational duck shooting, reflecting our commitment to compassion and humane treatment of animals. https://rachelpayne.com.au/outdoor-recreation-victoria-bill-2026/	**SUPPORT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support Rachel Payne has supported stronger oversight of greyhound racing, including Georgie Purcell's successful motion for greater reporting and accountability in the industry. We would approach public funding of greyhound racing in line with our Party Values, including compassion and responsible use of public funds. https://rachelpayne.com.au/greyhound-racing/ https://rachelpayne.com.au/greater-accountability-for-greyhound-lives/	**SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support Legalise Cannabis Victoria does not have a specific policy on establishing an independent Animal Welfare Authority. However, guided by our Party Values of compassion, accountability and responsible governance, we support effective animal welfare protections and appropriate resourcing to ensure animal cruelty can be investigated and addressed. https://rachelpayne.com.au/domestic-animals-amendment-bill-2025/	**SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support Legalise Cannabis Victoria does not have specific policies on these proposed wildlife reforms. However, guided by our Party Values of compassion, accountability and personal freedoms, we support approaches that promote humane wildlife management, transparency in decision-making and compassionate responses to wildlife affected by emergencies.	**SUPPORT**

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	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Support Legalise Cannabis Victoria does not have a specific policy on mulesing. However, guided by our Party Values of compassion and humane treatment, we support approaches that reduce animal suffering and encourage the development of more humane and sustainable farming practices.	**SUPPORT**
Liberal/National Party Coalition	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** *Support for the principle of reform but not the ACP Bill in its current form. This was confirmed by members of the Coalition who utilised the below examples in Hansard to demonstrate support for 'animal welfare, tough penalties for cruelty, and practical reform informed by science, veterinary expertise and farming experience'* *During the debate in the Legislative Council over the Animal Care and Protection Bill Petition, Melina Bath (NAT) states:* *"Whilst I note this petition and will speak to it, it is not the Liberals' or Nationals' position that we endorse the contents of it* *…* *We will always support sensible measures that improve animal welfare. But this is a draft bill, and in my view we need to get it right. There needs to be more consultation. Rushing it through and calling it protection is a fallacy, and therefore whilst we appreciate the democracy within the petition, we do not appreciate a rushed draft bill" (Melina Bath, Hansard: 18:08 onwards, 12/8/2026)* *Comments from Emma Kealy in 2024:* *"Labor must listen to our farmers and make critical changes to the Animal Care and Protection Bill before its tabled in Parliament, no matter whether Cabinet have already approved the draft bill or not" (Emma Kealy, Media Release, 27/3/2024)*	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting *Whilst no official policy stances have been released concerning duck and quail shooting specifically, there are a broad variety of sources that clearly demonstrate opposition to this reform. However, some members of the Coalition have demonstrated support for reform: this will be reflected in electorate specific scorecards.* *"The Liberals and Nationals today strongly back the future of duck hunting in Victoria, after a biased and stacked Inquiry recommended the end of the practice" (Liberal Victoria, Web Page, 31/8/2023)*	**REJECT**

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	"The Nationals MP and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Public Land Use Melina Bath said there is no logical reason to ban duck hunting in Victoria given the overwhelming evidence that habitat is the key to duck populations, not hunting" (Melina Bath, Media Release, 2023) *When asked if she would ban duck shooting, Jess Wilson responded "No, no plans to ban duck hunting … it's a long held position of the Coalition to support duck hunting" (Jess Wilson, 3AW, 27/5/26)*	
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing *There are few clear statements regarding support for the public funding of greyhound racing with most debate focusing upon the issue of greyhound racing itself. However, the Coalition has routinely demonstrated that they support the longevity of all three codes with a recent policy announcement committing $72 million in public funding to all codes, including greyhounds.* *"The Liberals and Nationals will commit $72 million to continue the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF), providing certainty for racing clubs, participants and communities across Victoria.* *…* *An elected Liberals and Nationals Government will stand firmly behind Victorian racing, backing local clubs, protecting regional jobs and supporting an industry that delivers so much for our state.* *…* *From track upgrades and jockey facilities to improvements at regional racing venues, this commitment will help all three codes, thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing remain safe, competitive and sustainable" (The Nationals, Liberals and Nationals will commit $72 million to secure Victoria's racing future, 28/10/26)* *"A future Liberal and Nationals Government will work alongside the thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing codes to ensure Victoria remains the home of Australia's premier racing events for the next decade and beyond" (Liberal Victoria, News, 23/7/2026)*	**REJECT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority *No clear formal positions on this issue.*	**UNCLEAR**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform *No clear formal positions on this issue. However, some members of the Coalition have demonstrated support for reform: this will be reflected in electorate specific scorecards.*	**UNCLEAR**

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	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) *No clear formal positions on this issue.*	**UNCLEAR**
One Nation Victoria	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** *No clear formal positions on this issue.*	**UNCLEAR**
	2. End recreational duck shooting *One Nation's policy booklet directly states that One Nation Victoria will 'protect duck hunting with current bag limits (One Nation Victoria, The Real Deal, 2026, p 46)*	**REJECT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing *No clear formal positions on this issue.*	**UNCLEAR**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority *No clear formal positions on this issue.*	**UNCLEAR**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform *No clear formal positions on this issue.*	**UNCLEAR**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) *No clear formal positions on this issue.*	**UNCLEAR**
Sustainable Australia Party	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support Sustainable Australia Party supports this policy. As outlined in our Animals & Biodiversity policy, Sustainable Australia Party calls for "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, research, sporting and	**SUPPORT**

	domestic environments." The passage of the Animal Care and Protection Bill is therefore appropriate.	
	2. End recreational duck shooting Support. Sustainable Australia Party supports this policy. As outlined in our Animals & Biodiversity policy, Sustainable Australia Party will "Ban recreational duck hunting across Australia." Native waterbirds are in long-term decline due to habitat loss, climate change and environmental stress. Allowing recreational shooting only adds unnecessary suffering and further pressure to vulnerable species.	**SUPPORT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support in principle – potentially with more flexibility on the timeframe. Biodiversity policy, Sustainable Australia Party calls for "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, conservation, research, sporting, breeding and domestic environments." Support in principle with more consultation required regarding the timeframe potentially allowing for further consultation and transition for all impacted communities and stakeholders.	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support Sustainable Australia Party supports this policy. As outlined in our Animals & Biodiversity policy, Sustainable Australia Party calls for "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, conservation, research, sporting, breeding and domestic environments." A state Animal Welfare Authority is the ideal body to regulate this.	**SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support. Sustainable Australia Party supports this policy. As outlined in our Animals & Biodiversity policy, Sustainable Australia Party calls for "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, research, sporting and domestic environments." The improvements to the *Wildlife Act 1975* are therefore appropriate.	**SUPPORT**

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	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Support Sustainable Australia Party supports this policy. As outlined in our Animals & Biodiversity policy, Sustainable Australia Party calls for "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, research, sporting and domestic environments." Phasing out mulesing is therefore appropriate, along with the implementation of improved practices and technologies.	**SUPPORT**
Australian Labor Party - Victoria	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** *The below is the official response from the ALP regarding the Alliance's six policy priorities. The response speaks in favour of the Animal Care and Protection Bill but fails to provide a timeframe or again assure that there will be a recognition of sentience.* **Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Michaela Settle** "The Carroll Labor Government is proud of the significant improvements that have been made to animal welfare, and we are getting on with the job of further reform." "Victoria's animal welfare reforms have cracked down on puppy farms, strengthened pet sale rules, removed greyhound muzzling requirements, expanded renters' rights and introduced targeted cat desexing. The latest $1.61 million Animal Welfare Fund round supports 36 organisations, bringing grants to more than $16 million over the past decade." "As part of the 2026-27 State Budget, we committed $16.9 million to deliver important animal care and protection initiatives for Victoria and biosecurity measures." "The Government has been working with industry and the community to foster the caring and respectful treatment of animals." "A draft Animal Care and Protection Bill has been developed to replace the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA Act)." "Animal welfare reform is too important to rush through the Parliament." "We recognise the importance of striking the right balance - protecting animals from cruelty while ensuring our animal industries can continue to operate responsibly and productively. These laws affect animals, farmers, pet owners, enforcement agencies, councils, shelters, vets and the broader community." "There is no place for animal cruelty and anyone who breaks the law will be investigated and dealt with."	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**

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	2. End recreational duck shooting *In Budget Estimates for the 2026-27 budget, a member asked the Minister for Outdoor Recreation directly whether there were any plans to ban duck shooting to which the Minister responded:* *"No. No plans – new minister but the same policy" (Minister for Outdoor Recreation, Budget Estimates: Minister for Outdoor Recreation, 19/5/26, p 4).* *Further, the current ALP government rejected the recommendation of a ban from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria's recreational native bird hunting arrangements: (Victorian Parliament, Victorian Government response to the Legislative Council Select Committee Inquiry into Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements Report Recommendations, 20/2/2024)* *"The Victorian Government is committed to safe, sustainable and responsible hunting. Recreational duck and quail hunting will continue in Victoria, but with the following changes to take effect from 2025:* *(a) Use of the science-based Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) to guide annual game duck seasons.* *(b) Improved animal welfare outcomes through implementing the Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan.* *(c) Banning the use of lead shot in quail hunting"* *However, some members of Labor have demonstrated support for a ban: this will be reflected in electorate specific scorecards.*	**REJECT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing *Statements made from Minister Carbines are strong in their support of the racing industry as a whole:* *"The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the long-term sustainability for the Victorian Racing Industry" (Minister Carbines, Hansard, 3/6/2026, p 1957)* *Further, election commitments from the ALP secure additional funding across all three codes:* *"The racing industry contributes $5.5 billion to Victoria's economy and supports more than 33,000 jobs across the state – including thousands in regional Victoria.* *That's why a re-elected Carroll Labor Government will renew and increase the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF).*	**REJECT**

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	An $80 million investment will help grow the sport and support grassroots racing across Victoria. *This is an increase on the previous $72 million commitment for the VRIF.* *The VRIF provides funding to support thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing" (Victorian Labor, Only Labor Will Protect Racing Jobs, 1/10/2026)*	
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority *Given the similarities between the proposed State Animal Welfare Authority and an independent office of animal protection, the broad rejection of a recommendation for the latter in response to the Parliamentary Response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into pig, given no update in policy since, means this is most likely opposed (Parliament of Victoria, Government Response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into pig welfare in Victoria, 20/12/2024)*	**REJECT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform *Despite some actions that may indicate support for wildlife reform, the ALP response and actions have failed to demonstrate a clear position on this policy ask.*	**UNCLEAR**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) *Despite some actions that may indicate support for this reform, such as the previous move to mandate post-cut pain relief, the ALP response and actions have failed to demonstrate a clear position on this policy ask.*	**UNCLEAR**
Socialist Alliance	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** *The Socialist Alliance's response quoted aspects of their policy but concluded by stating that "we are in full support of all policy issues mentioned in the [request]".*	**SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Abolish the cruel and inhumane use of animals for sport, recreation or entertainment *The Socialist Alliance's response quoted aspects of their policy but concluded by stating that "we are in full support of all policy issues mentioned in the [request]".*	**SUPPORT**

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	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Abolish the cruel and inhumane use of animals for sport, recreation or entertainment *The Socialist Alliance's response quoted aspects of their policy but concluded by stating that "we are in full support of all policy issues mentioned in the [request]"*.	**SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Establish a national framework for the protection of animal welfare to monitor and enforce existing laws that criminalise cruelty against all animals and regulate conditions for the captivity, transport and slaughter of animals *The Socialist Alliance's response quoted aspects of their policy but concluded by stating that "we are in full support of all policy issues mentioned in the [request]"*.	**SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform *The Socialist Alliance's response quoted aspects of their policy but concluded by stating that "we are in full support of all policy issues mentioned in the [request]"*.	**SUPPORT**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) *The Socialist Alliance's response quoted aspects of their policy but concluded by stating that "we are in full support of all policy issues mentioned in the [request]"*.	**SUPPORT**

NOTE

Parties contacted were those listed as registered on the Victorian Electoral Commission website on 5 October 2026. However, further attempts were made with a deadline of 16 November 2026.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

NAME	RESPONSE Plain text = direct responses from candidates. *Italicised text* = Alliance commentary.	POSITION

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KEW **Sophie Torney**	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support	**SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Support	**SUPPORT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support	**SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support	**SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support in principle	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Support	**SUPPORT**
MACEDON **Michael Seton**	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** I would have to read the Bill to fully understand its content	**UNCLEAR**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Support in principle I would have to read the Bill (when it is introduced) to fully understand its content	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**

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	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support in principle If legislation is required, I would have to read the Bill (when it is introduced) to fully understand its content	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority I do not know anything about Animal Welfare Victoria and whether or not they are the right body for this role. They may be, but I'd want to know the full story as to why this was required, what's wrong with the status quo, and are there other ways to fix the status quo.	**UNCLEAR**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support in principle It appears that changes to legislation would be required, so I would have to read the Bill (when it is introduced) to fully understand its content	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Support in principle It appears that changes to legislation would be required, so I would have to read the Bill (when it is introduced) to fully understand its content	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
PAKENHAM **Stephanie Davies**	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** SUPPORT I support modernising Victoria's animal welfare legislation, including the explicit recognition of animal sentience. If elected, I would welcome further information on the proposed legislation and its implementation, including consultation with relevant stakeholders, to ensure the reforms deliver meaningful improvements in animal welfare.	**SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting SUPPORT I support the proposed reform and recognise the animal welfare concerns associated with recreational native bird hunting.	**SUPPORT**

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	If elected, I would seek further information about the legislative framework, scientific evidence and implementation arrangements, including consultation with affected communities.	
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing SUPPORT I support the proposed phase-out of public funding for greyhound racing and believe government expenditure should be transparent, accountable and directed towards demonstrable public benefit. If elected, I would seek further information regarding existing funding agreements, financial implications and appropriate transition arrangements, including the welfare of greyhounds affected by industry changes.	**SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority SUPPORT I support strengthening the independence, transparency and effectiveness of animal welfare enforcement in Victoria. If elected, I would welcome further information about the proposed statutory authority, including its governance, responsibilities, resourcing and relationship with existing enforcement organisations such as RSPCA Victoria. My focus would be ensuring the reforms deliver meaningful improvements in enforcement and accountability.	**SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform SUPPORT I support strengthening transparency and accountability in wildlife management, including appropriate evidence requirements for wildlife control authorisations, consideration of non-lethal alternatives and improved reporting. I also support better integration of qualified wildlife rescue organisations into emergency response arrangements.	**SUPPORT**

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	If elected, I would seek further information about the proposed legislative changes, their implementation and the arrangements necessary to ensure wildlife welfare, public safety and effective emergency management.	
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) SUPPORT I support the proposed phase-out of mulesing, improved pain management and the development of effective alternatives that reduce animal suffering. If elected, I would welcome further engagement with animal welfare organisations, veterinarians and agricultural producers to understand the proposed transition arrangements and ensure that reforms improve overall animal welfare, including protection against flystrike.	**SUPPORT**
FOOTSCRAY **Catherine Cumming**	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support	**SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Support in principle	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support	**SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support	**SUPPORT**

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	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support	**SUPPORT**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Support	**SUPPORT**
PRAHRAN **George Leeton Watts**	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support in principle I don't know enough about the issue to speak on it but I generally support animal rights	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Support in principle I think that any hunting of native animals, except for population control should be banned, however I do think that non-native species should be allowed to be hunted. That being said, I don't know how easy it would be to tell a native from non-native species in the field at range when hunting.	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support That we have public funding of greyhound racing in the first place is absolutely appalling, this must stop immediately.	**SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support in principle I don't know enough about the issue. If the RSPCA is inadequate then sure, but if they are doing a fine job then why fix something that isn't broken.	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Support in principle I don’t know enough about the issue	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**

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	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Reject Unrelated to this issue I have had conversations with farmers about this very thing because it is something they worry about. Mulesing is a practise that whilst painful is ultimately preventing the sheep from further, greater pain, and no feasible alternative exists yet, so I do not support the banning of the practise. Beyond this, I worry that such a law would infringe on the cultural practices of muslims.	**REJECT**
PAKENHAM **Lucas Ogden**	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Support I support the legal recognition of animal sentience and the Animal Care and Protection Bill. The bill is a large piece of legislation (replacing legislation which has been in place for 40 years), so we need to take the time to get it right and ensure it is actually addressing the issues with the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The end of 2027 is the right target, but I'd rather take the time needed to do it properly then expedite an incomplete bill.	**SUPPORT**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Support Our native bird species are already under serious pressure from habitat loss and climate impacts - recreational shooting adds avoidable harm to already stressed native bird populations.	**SUPPORT**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Support I strongly support moving greyhound racing off public money - including ending capital grants and tying remaining funding to much tougher welfare conditions.	**SUPPORT**
	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Support in principle I strongly believe an animal welfare authority which is independent of Agriculture Victoria is the right model - rather than splitting enforcement and reporting between multiple agencies. I believe to do this properly means modernising the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act first, so the body enforces modern law.	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**

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	5. Wildlife protection & reform 5a. Support 5b. Support in Principle 5.a Publishing permit decisions, reasons and kill numbers in line with robust competency standards gives the community confidence that the system actually works. We need to couple this with mechanisms to ensure permits are processed quickly, so that cases with genuine cause are not unduly affected. 5b. I strongly support tighter integration between wildlife disaster response teams and incident management teams, so accredited responders can provide relief as soon as it is safe to do so. However, as an emergency services volunteer, I've seen first-hand the load that incident management teams carry, and the realities of working in firegrounds and disaster areas. Responder safety during these operations is paramount, and I think this proposal as written is not the most practicable embodiment	**PARTIAL SUPPORT**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) I support phasing out the practice of mulesing, with strict requirements for pain relief whilst the practice is continuing - in conjunction with a clear pathway to flystrike resistant sheep as the practical long term solution.	**SUPPORT**
NORTHCOTE **Ian Hillman**	**1. Legislate the Animal Care and Protection Bill** Northcote decides: will vote as local residents direct	**UNCLEAR**
	2. End recreational duck shooting Northcote decides: will vote as local residents direct	**UNCLEAR**
	3. End the public funding of greyhound racing Northcote decides: will vote as local residents direct	**UNCLEAR**

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	4. State Animal Welfare Authority Northcote decides: will vote as local residents direct	**UNCLEAR**
	5. Wildlife protection & reform Northcote decides: will vote as local residents direct	**UNCLEAR**
	6. Phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) Northcote decides: will vote as local residents direct	**UNCLEAR**

NOTE

Independent candidates contacted were those listed as registered as of 12 October 2026. Additional attempts to contact candidates were made with a deadline of 16 November 2026. Independent candidates contacted were from the following electorates: Brighton, Footscray, Frankston, Kew, Mill Park, Mornington, Northcote, Pakenham, Pascoe Vale, Prahran, Preston, Ringwood and Macedon.

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