

Victorian Election Scorecards – Responses

Ahead of the Victorian Election 2022, the Alliance for Animals contacted all major parties and registered independent candidates in selected 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: www.allianceforanimals.org.au/victorian-election-2022

Policy issues

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

1. Ban recreational duck shooting

Introduce legislation to ban recreational duck shooting.

2. Phase out battery cages

Introduce legislation to implement the phase out of conventional battery cages in the new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry with an end date of 2030.

3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority

Strengthen enforcement arrangements by recognising Animal Welfare Victoria as an independent statutory authority under the proposed Animal Welfare Act with responsibility for administering the Act and ensure appropriate budget allocation. (Note: this would not replace RSPCA inspectors – they would report to the Authority).

4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare

Elevate the importance of animal welfare within Government by recognising animal welfare within the title of a ministerial portfolio separate to the agriculture portfolio. (Note: partial tick available for including animal welfare in the title of a parliamentary secretary role).

5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act

Expediate the development of a new Animal Welfare Act including:

- recognition of animal sentience in the objects of the Act
- criteria for the development and adoption of codes and standards under the Act to ensure they are based on contemporary science, reflect community expectations, and do not prescribe practices that are inconsistent with the objects, principles and duties outlined in the Act.

6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries

Introduce legislation to mandate the use of CCTV monitoring in all slaughter facilities to enhance compliance monitoring by regulators.

POLITICAL PARTIES

NAME	RESPONSE Plain text = direct responses from parties. Italicised text = Alliance commentary.	POSITION
ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	1. Ban recreational duck shooting Yes. Banning recreational duck shooting is a priority for the Animal Justice Party. Whilst we have not yet achieved a ban, we have made significant strides, including convincing a large number of Government MPs to come out in opposition to duck shooting - against their own policy. When re-elected, it will be one of our first items on the agenda for MPs. Animal Justice Party MP Andy Meddick has also already introduced a bill to ban recreational duck shooting.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Yes. The Animal Justice Party welcomes the recently announced battery cage phase out, but notes it is too far away – and will push for it to be brought forward.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Yes. The Animal Justice Party has already called for this in the past.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Yes. The Animal Justice Party supports and has previously called for a Minister for Animal Protection separate to the Minister for Agriculture portfolio.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Yes. The Animal Justice Party has consulted regularly with the Victorian Government on this bill and pushed for a swift passage. We support the recognition of sentience having proper meaning in the legislation, not just window dressing. We will push to ensure the draft bill has no loopholes or exemptions, and introduce amendments to fix areas that need strengthening.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Yes. The Animal Justice Party has been campaigning for CCTV in abattoirs and slaughterhouses, and secured this recommendation in the Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Activism on Victorian Agriculture, which the government has accepted.	SUPPORTS
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY – VICTORIAN BRANCH	1. Ban recreational duck shooting I recognise that the community has a range of views on duck hunting in Victoria, and our position is that Victorians that do want to participate in duck hunting should do so in a safe, responsible, and sustainable way. Game hunting and wildlife management are important parts of life and expression of identity for many people, including Traditional Owners and regional Victorians.	OPPOSES*
	* The following Labor candidates have publicly expressed their <u>support</u> for a ban on recreations; this differs from their party's position: Lizzie Blandthorn, Chris Brayne, Josh Bull, In Cheeseman, Jordan Crugnale, Martin Foley, Will Fowles, Matt Fregon, Katie Hall, Dustin H. John Kennedy, Gary Maas, Steve McGhie, Robin Scott, Nick Staikos, Ingrid Stitt, Jackson T. Sonja Terpstra, Kat Theophanous, Richard Wynne	Darren alse, Jill Hennessy,

UNCLEAR

2. Phase out battery cages

This government has been an active participant in the development of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry. With strong opinions across the board in relation to the phase out of battery cages, we continue to advocate for a federally consistent approach. Harmonised standards across Australia will provide a basis for uniform and enforceable regulation of poultry welfare to avoid any competitive advantages to industry.

State and Territory Agriculture Ministers intend to meet in early 2023 to further consider the proposed Poultry Standards & Guidelines and how they may be implemented in each jurisdiction. Before any new regulations are adopted in Victoria, the Government will undertake significant stakeholder consultation, seek advice from the scientific community and consider the Decision Regulation Impact Statement to inform its final decision on Poultry Standards and Guidelines.

3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority

In a first for Victoria, we established Animal Welfare Victoria in 2018, bringing together all aspects of domestic animal and animal welfare research policy, education, and compliance into one dedicated agency, within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. In addition to animals, wildlife policy is integrated into the Department of Environment. As the Minister for Agriculture, I continue to work closely with the Minister for Environment and Climate Action to ensure government policy and processes are coordinated across the respective portfolios.

4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare

In a first for Victoria, we established Animal Welfare Victoria in 2018, bringing together all aspects of domestic animal and animal welfare research policy, education, and compliance into one dedicated agency, within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. In addition to animals, wildlife policy is integrated into the Department of Environment. As the Minister for Agriculture, I continue to work closely with the Minister for Environment and Climate Action to ensure government policy and processes are coordinated across the respective portfolios.

5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act

Earlier this year, the 2022-23 Victorian State Budget demonstrated the dedication of this Government to animal welfare with an \$18.6 million investment over the next 3 years. Part of this funding allocation is to modernise Victoria's animal welfare legislation to replace the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA). On Friday 2 September 2022, the Animal Care and Protection Plan was released for public consultation, seeking feedback from all Victorians and stakeholders to inform the Exposure Draft of legislation in 2023. Firstly, the Plan outlines how animal sentience would be recognised in Victorian law for the first time. Recognising that animals have the capacity to feel, observe their environment, and that they have positive and/or negative experiences like pleasure and pain.

Secondly, the Plan seeks to set out minimum care requirements in Victoria for the first time, enabling earlier intervention to prevent cruelty before it happens.

UNCLEAR

UNCLEAR

SUPPORTS

	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries	UNCLEAR
	In response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Impacts of Animal Activism on Victorian Agriculture, the Andrews Labor Government has supported the recommendation to consider the implementation of closed-circuit television cameras in Victorian abattoirs.	
	I support any voluntary measures by industry that improve and support the high standards of animal welfare.	
	The implementation of monitoring is being considered at a national level and Victoria is actively engaging in the review into the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for livestock at processing establishments. In addition, Agriculture Victoria will consider a case study of the approach taken in the United Kingdom along with alternative approaches for the appropriate monitoring within abattoirs.	
COMPANIONS AND PETS PARTY	No response received to request for policy issues.	UNCLEAR
DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY (DLP)	No response received to request for policy issues.	UNCLEAR
DERRYN HINCH'S JUSTICE PARTY	Ban recreational duck shooting Support.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Support.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Support.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Support.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Support.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Support.	SUPPORTS
FIONA PATTEN'S REASON PARTY	Ban recreational duck shooting Yes.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Yes.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Yes.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Yes.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Yes.	SUPPORTS

	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Yes.	SUPPORTS
HEALTH AUSTRALIA PARTY	Ban recreational duck shooting Support.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Support.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Support.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Support.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Support.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Support.	SUPPORTS
LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	Ban recreational duck shooting No response received to request for policy issues. However, the party has consistently campaigned in support of recreational duck shooting.	OPPOSES
	2. Phase out battery cages No response received.	UNCLEAR
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority No response received.	UNCLEAR
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare No response received.	UNCLEAR
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act No response received.	UNCLEAR
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries No response received.	UNCLEAR
LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – VICTORIAN DIVISION NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA - VICTORIA	1. Ban recreational duck shooting The Liberals and Nationals support Victorians who participate in legally permitted recreational activities in our state. Our decisions regarding recreational duck hunting and other activities will always rely on the best available science to ensure that it can continue sustainably. We support the yearly review of the annual season with advice from the Game Management Authority and others.	OPPOSES*
	* The following Liberal candidates have publicly expressed their <u>support</u> for a ban on recresshooting; this differs from their party's position: Bruce Atkinson, James Newbury	eational duck

The Liberals and Nationals will work with our counterparts in other states and at a federal to discuss options for harmonisation in 2023. We remain committed to achieving positive animal welfare outcomes and recognise that Victoria's primary producers also strive to employ the world's best practice within their businesses in matters relating to animal welfare, animal husbandry and biosecurity. 3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority The Liberals and Nationals will consider the future role of Animal Welfare Victoria through the ongoing review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Act 1986 for the development of new, more contemporary legislation. We are committed to employing the world's best practice in respect to animal welfare to achieve strong animal welfare outcomes for all native, domestic and productive animals. 4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare The Liberals and Nationals will consider portfolio recognition of animal welfare in government and through the ongoing review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA)Act 1986 for the	UNCLEAR
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development of new, more contemporary legislation.	
5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act	UNCLEAR
The Liberals and Nationals are committed to the ongoing review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Act 1986 and development of new, more contemporary legislation. We are committed to employing the world's best practice in respect to animal welfare to achieve strong animal welfare outcomes for all native, domestic and productive animals.	
6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries	UNCLEAR
The Liberals and Nationals will engage with the industry to explore mandatory video surveillance in abattoirs and knackeries while also noting that video surveillance has already been implemented by a number of commercial operations.	
No response received to request for policy issues.	UNCLEAR
1. Ban recreational duck shooting	OPPOSES
No response received to request for policy issues. However, the party has consistently campaigned in support of recreational duck shooting.	
2. Phase out battery cages No response received.	UNCLEAR
3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority No response received.	UNCLEAR
4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare No response received.	UNCLEAR
5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act No response received.	UNCLEAR
For a F	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA)Act 1986 for the development of new, more contemporary legislation. 5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act The Liberals and Nationals are committed to the ongoing review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Act 1986 and development of new, more contemporary legislation. We are committed to employing the world's best practice in respect to animal welfare to achieve strong animal welfare outcomes for all native, domestic and productive animals. 6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries The Liberals and Nationals will engage with the industry to explore mandatory video surveillance in abattoirs and knackeries while also noting that video surveillance has already been implemented by a number of commercial operations. No response received to request for policy issues. 1. Ban recreational duck shooting No response received to request for policy issues. However, the party has consistently campaigned in support of recreational duck shooting. 2. Phase out battery cages No response received. 3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority No response received. 4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare No response received. 5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act

	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries No response received.	UNCLEAR
SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA PARTY - STOP OVER- DEVELOPMENT/ CORRUPTION	1. Ban recreational duck shooting Sustainable Australia Party supports this policy. Our Victorian Upper House MP, Clifford Hayes, voted to ban recreational duck shooting in the 2018-2022 term of parliament.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages 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 battery cages is clearly best practice animal welfare management.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority 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." A state Animal Welfare Commission/Office is the ideal body to regulate this.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Sustainable Australia Party supports this policy. To demonstrate the importance of animal welfare, Sustainable Australia Party supports recognising animal welfare within the title of a ministerial portfolio.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act 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." A stronger Animal Welfare Act is therefore appropriate.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries 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." Using CCTV to monitor slaughter facilities is clearly best practice animal welfare management.	SUPPORTS
THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS - VICTORIA	1. Ban recreational duck shooting The Victorian Greens support a complete ban on recreational duck shooting in Victoria. We know that duck shooting is a cruel and barbaric practice that puts already shrinking waterbird populations at risk. We support introducing legislation to ban duck shooting in Victoria for good.	SUPPORTS

	2. Phase out battery cages	SUPPORTS
	The Victorian Greens support a complete ban on battery cages and have been calling for the sale of caged eggs and the use of battery cages to be phased out for many years. While we were pleased to see that the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry will require battery cages to be phased out by 2036, we believe that a 14 year phase-out period is far too long. We want to see a much faster phase-out period and support the phase out of battery cages by 2030.	
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority	SUPPORTS
	The Victorian Greens support the creation of a new Victorian Animal Welfare Authority, by recognising Animal Welfare Victoria as an independent statutory authority under the proposed Animal Welfare Act.	
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare	SUPPORTS
	The Victorian Greens support greater recognition of animal welfare within cabinet, including through the creation of a new ministerial portfolio for animal welfare separate to the agriculture portfolio.	
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act	SUPPORTS
	The Victorian Greens support the development of a new, stronger Animal Welfare Act. The current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1986) is now over 30 years old and no longer reflects scientific understanding of animals' emotional wellbeing or community expectations around their welfare. Expediting the development of the new Animal Welfare Act, including recognition of sentience and updated codes and standards, would significantly improve the welfare of animals in Victoria.	
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries The Victorian Greens support mandatory CCTV in abattoirs and knackeries. We know animal welfare is of particular concern in abattoirs and knackeries. We agree that installing video surveillance would improve the effectiveness of current animal welfare monitoring tools and support better compliance and animal welfare outcomes. It would also assist in alleviating the increase in community concerns about livestock welfare and improving attitudes towards the agriculture industry.	SUPPORTS
TRANSPORT MATTERS PARTY	No response received to request for policy issues.	UNCLEAR
VICTORIAN SOCIALISTS	No response received to request for policy issues.	UNCLEAR

NOTE

Parties contacted were those listed as registered on the Victorian Election Commission website on 29 September 2022. The following parties were not listed at that time:

- Family First Victoria
- Freedom Party of Victoria
- Legalise Cannabis Victoria
- New Democrats
- United Australia Party.

Authorised by the Australian Alliance for Animals, 2 Paddington Street, Paddington, NSW 2021.

For a full list of registered party names and abbreviations, see: https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/candidates-and-parties/registered-political-parties/currently-registered-parties

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

NAME	RESPONSE	POSITION
	Plain text = direct responses from parties.	
	Italicised text = Alliance commentary.	
ALBERT PARK Georgie Dragwidge	Ban recreational duck shooting Support.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Support. I have been a long-standing advocate for Open Range Eggs through my store 'Georgie's Harvest'. We go beyond the ACCC standard for free range eggs sourcing low stocking density eggs (30-200 hens per Hectare) from local Victoria producers.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Support.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Partially Support.	PARTIAL SUPPORT
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Support.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Support. Further, in consultation with butchers and beef farmers it seems that these are already present. The consensus seems that ante mortem carcass damage is the main issue of concern (specifically in pigs). CCTV should maybe not be where people automatically think and should probably focus more on animal handling areas. Of course, the management should be all over this.	SUPPORTS
ASHWOOD Michael Doyle	Ban recreational duck shooting Support.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Support.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Support.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Support.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Support.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Support.	SUPPORTS
BAYSWATER Chloe Mackallah	Ban recreational duck shooting Support.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Support.	SUPPORTS

	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Support.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Support.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Support.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Support.	SUPPORTS
BRIGHTON Felicity Frederico	Ban recreational duck shooting Yes.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Yes.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Yes.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Yes.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Yes.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Yes.	SUPPORTS
BRIGHTON Sally Gibson	Ban recreational duck shooting Support.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Support.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Support.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Support.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Support.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries Support.	SUPPORTS
HAWTHORN Melissa Lowe	Ban recreational duck shooting Support.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages Support.	SUPPORTS

	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority Support.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare Support.	SUPPORTS
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Support.	SUPPORTS
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries No support indicated.	UNCLEAR
MILDURA Ali Cupper	Ban recreational duck shooting Ali Cupper has publicly expressed her support for a ban on recreational duck shooting.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages No response received.	UNCLEAR
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority No response received.	UNCLEAR
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare No response received.	UNCLEAR
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act No response received	UNCLEAR
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries No response received	UNCLEAR
NEPEAN Charelle Ainslie	No response received to request for policy issues.	UNCLEAR
NEPEAN Elizabeth Woolcock	Ban recreational duck shooting I think duck shooting should be banned. It is archaic. Absolutely disgusted that this is still allowed.	SUPPORTS
	2. Phase out battery cages I think Battery cages should be phased out. Let the chickens run free. Once again archaic.	SUPPORTS
	3. Victorian Animal Welfare Authority If Animal Welfare Victoria become an independent identity with the authority to rid this world of animal cruelty, I stand with this decision.	SUPPORTS
	4. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare I support but I would need to look into this further.	PARTIAL SUPPORT
	5. Stronger Animal Welfare Act I support but I would need to look into this further.	PARTIAL SUPPORT
	6. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs/knackeries I Support.	SUPPORTS

NOTE

Independent candidates contacted were those listed as registered on the Victorian Election Commission website on 12 October 2022 from the following electorates: Albert Park; Ashwood; Bayswater; Bentleigh; Brighton; Glen Waverly; Hawthorn; Mildura; Nepean; Northcote; Richmond; South Barwon.