

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 618
Petition Sponsored by: Georgie Purcell
Directed to: Hon Melissa Horne MP
Tabled on: 12 August 2025
Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the need for a road levy charge for registered vehicles to help fund emergency wildlife care.

Australia has one of the highest mammal extinction rates in the world, greatly affecting our native wildlife. One of the biggest contributing factors is road trauma from car and truck accidents. Last year there were thousands of reported cases of wildlife killed or maimed on our roads in Victoria.

Wildlife care is primarily managed by volunteers who give their own time and money to rescue, rehabilitate and respond to emergencies, including road strikes. The Government currently issues sporadic funding through grant programs with different sets of limitations for shelter operators and rescuers. These are often capped at \$3,000, which is barely enough to pay for food and medicine to care for injured and orphaned animals. Additional funding could be obtained by adding a \$2 levy to each Victorian vehicle registration which can then be utilised to provide a more consistent and secure grant program, giving back to the people on the ground.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to implement a road levy charge for registered vehicles to help fund emergency wildlife care.

Reply:

I am very grateful for the efforts of the community in caring for our native wildlife. The work of volunteers is invaluable for wildlife welfare, and Wildlife Victoria reports approximately 1,300 trained rescue and transport volunteers, rehabilitators, in-field veterinarians and veterinary nurses provide critical service for wildlife across our State.

I also note the petitioner's request for a levy on each Victorian vehicle registration to help fund further wildlife care efforts, and its similarity to the fourth recommendation of the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee's Inquiry into Wildlife Roadstrike in Victoria. As you would be aware, the Committee tabled its final report on 18 November 2025. The Government is currently considering this recommendation, along with others made by the Committee, and will respond in due course in the usual way.

I would like to thank the Member for her advocacy on this issue.



Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Health Infrastructure
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Roads and Road Safety