

Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Infrastructure

Level 10, Executive Building, 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000
Public Buildings, 53 St John Street, Launceston
GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001
Phone: (03) 6165 7701 | Email: Michael.Ferguson@dpac.tas.gov.au



Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP
Leader of the Tasmanian Greens
Greens Member for Franklin

28 AUG 2024

Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Dr Woodruff

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 6 August 2024 in Parliament on behalf of a constituent to my colleague the Hon Eric Abetz MP, Minister for Transport, as follows:

Over recent months, we have had multiple reports to my office from constituents in the Huon Valley about the extremely distressing numbers of roadkill on state-managed roads, including eastern barred bandicoots, quolls and endangered Tasmanian devils. Dan, from Cygnet, notes the virtual fencing that the government talked about years ago has not proved to be an effective solution. He asks: What is the minister doing to mitigate the ever-increasing amount of roadkill on the Huon Highway?

The Tasmanian Government shares the community's concern about vehicle collisions with wildlife on Tasmania's roads. Tasmania's diverse landscapes and varying connections between different habitats presents many challenges in developing and implementing mitigation strategies and actions aimed at reducing collision incidents on state roads within Tasmania.

Appropriate mitigation measures are devised on a case-by-case basis and take into consideration location or species-specific issues.

A number of measures are aimed at reducing the number of vehicle collisions with native animals, including Tasmanian devils, on the State road network. These include:

- warning signs to help raise driver awareness;
- using rumble strips, also known as audible line marking, to scare away wildlife;
- lighter coloured sealing aggregate to make dark animals, such as Tasmanian devils, stand out more against at night;
- fencing with escape routes to prevent wildlife from being trapped on the road; and
- where appropriate, animal friendly road crossings including under-road animal passages.

Despite the measures being taken by Government, driver awareness and behaviour is the number one factor in reducing vehicle collisions with Tasmanian devils and other native animals on Tasmanian roads.

Drivers are encouraged to do their part to protect our wildlife by reducing their speed, particularly between dusk and dawn. The Government also promotes driver awareness for visitors to the State through signage at key airports and information communicated through rental car companies.

The Department of State Growth is currently reviewing the State Roads Roadkill Strategy in order to reduce the risk of vehicle collisions with native animals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Ferguson', is positioned above the printed name.

Michael Ferguson MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Infrastructure