

## **Submission Text: Wildlife Roadstrike Inquiry Submission**

I have been a volunteer with local Bendigo wildlife group WRIN(Wildlife Rescue and Information Network) for over 15 years. My role with the organisation has included phone operator, rescuer, transporter, committee member and publicity officer.

Sadly wildlife killed by roadstrike in our region is a common occurrence and is a tragedy. Not only is it distressing for wildlife carers and rescuers, who often have to euthanise affected native animals and raise orphaned joeys but it also impacts people due to trauma and vehicle damage.

We are fortunate to share our city with a diverse range of wildlife. Many have taken up residence in our streets and parks as they have nowhere else to go due to habitat destruction for developments and climate change largely due to human impact.

We have a duty of care to find ways to live in harmony with our local wildlife, share our spaces and coexist. Our Australian wildlife are iconic to our country and much loved by locals and visitors alike. It is important to explore options for protecting our wildlife and ensuring their survival well into the future.

There are measures that can be put into place to reduce roadstrikes, better signage, speed reduction, wildlife corridors and virtual fencing and other technologies. Seeking these solutions needs to be a priority for the Victorian Government and investing money into implementing them and investigating and monitoring their efficiency.

With an ever expanding population it is time to stop thinking of our wildlife as an inconvenience but instead make sure they are actively considered and included in the very early planning stages of any new developments whether it be new housing estates, roads or improvement of public spaces.

I am hopeful that this inquiry will highlight the current crisis facing our wildlife and the urgent need to investigate and find ways for us to co-exist with them in harmony. I am happy to discuss this issue further if required.

Thanks for your consideration,

Michelle Mead

