

Submission Text: I am volunteer with Wildlife Rescue and Information Network (WRIN), a volunteer group located in Bendigo. I have been a member of this organisation for over 15years. My roles have included phone operator, rescuer, committee member and publicity officer.

Sadly wildlife killed by road strike 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 effected native animals and raise orphaned joey's 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 caused by land clearing and climate change.

As a result I feel that we have a duty of care to find ways to live in harmony with our local wildlife, share our spaces and coexist.

There are measures that can be put into place to reduce road strikes such as better signage, speed reduction, wildlife corridors and virtual fencing and other technologies.

I would love to see some of these strategies and solutions actively explored and implemented at road strike "hot spots" to help reduce this national tragedy and ask the State government to assist in funding, researching these and other possible solutions.

Our wildlife are precious and unique and iconic to Australia and are much loved by locals and visitors to our country. In order for our wildlife to continue to not only exist but thrive for future generations it is essential that their well being is actively considered during the early planning stages of all developments and that they are not just treated as an after thought.

I am hoping that this study will highlight this terrible crisis and the need to seek innovative solutions.

Thank you for conducting this inquiry and for seeking public input. I am happy to discuss this issue further with you if required?

Michelle Mead

