



WILDLIFE SIGNS (ANIMAL CROSSING) FACT SHEET

What are they?

Warning signs tell you that there may be dangers ahead. Wildlife signs provide warning to road users that they are travelling through an area where they may encounter animals on the road. Wildlife signs are usually yellow with black pictograms and are mostly diamond shaped, and are sometimes provided on larger wildlife area signs where multiple animals may be encountered.

Why they are provided?

Signs indicating animals on roads have been installed to warn road users of a potential hazard to themselves, not necessarily for the protection of the animals. Wildlife warning and information signs are not specifically intended to perform an animal preservation role and their effectiveness for this purpose has not been demonstrated.

Wildlife warning signs should not be installed for small animals that are unlikely to cause any damage or personal injury during a collision or be provided for animals that inhabit a region on a seasonal or short-term nature. Signs indicating their presence are unlikely to alter driver behaviour.

Where we provide them

Wildlife signs are used on high-speed rural roads to warn motorists of hazards from animals that could cause damage or personal injury during a collision. High wildlife-vehicle collision rates that are experienced in some areas may be reduced by optimising the design of wildlife warning signs. In rural areas with significantly increased numbers of wildlife or designated conservation areas, Council may consider installing larger wildlife area signs at key entry points alerting road users that they are entering an area where multiple species of animals may be encountered.

When we won't provide them

It is considered to be inappropriate for environmental, amenity and financial reasons to install wildlife signs to warn motorists on lower speed and/or urban roads. Evidence of the effectiveness of currently used signs is rare and often indicates minimal change in driver behaviour.

Some important safety tips to follow when traveling on rural roads:

- Be aware – Animals are more active near water sources and are harder to see at sunrise and sunset
- Reduce your speed – Slow down when you see animal warning signs
- Stay alert – Animals are unpredictable so expect the unexpected
- Brake safely – If you see an animal on the road, only brake if it is safe to do so
- Never swerve – It may be safer to hit an animal than swerve and lose control of your vehicle.

For injured wildlife, road users are encouraged to call WIRES on 1300 094 737 and to report unaccompanied livestock to Council Rangers or NSW Police.

For more road safety advice, visit Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety