Manual

Traffic and Road Use Management
Volume 3 – Signing and Pavement Marking

Part 8: Wildlife Signing Guidelines

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1 Purpose

This Part is intended to provide guidance on:

- the provision of wildlife warning signs
- the provision of wildlife information signs
- the evaluation process undertaken for approval to install such signs on state-controlled roads
- the aim of establishing a uniform statewide application of signage and pavement marking for wildlife treatments.

Wildlife warning and information signs include signs for animals such as kangaroos, camels, wild horses, deer, emus, cassowaries, wombats, koalas, tree kangaroos, ducks, possums, lizards, echidnas, birds, other small marsupials and reptiles.

Signage details for domestic stock on road, both of a temporary and permanent nature, is included in TC9463.

This Part also provides guidance for the specific use of:

- green retroreflective raised pavement markers (RRPMs) in conjunction with wildlife conservation area signs
- supplementary signs for the RSPCA’s injured animal phone number 1300ANIMAL
- fauna aerial bridge signs
- high-impact wildlife signs
- vehicle-activated flashing lights
- threshold pavement marking for wildlife conservation areas
- signs for significant wildlife conservation areas.

This Part defines the sign and pavement marking treatment options for wildlife that are approved for use within Queensland. All other sign and pavement marking treatment options for wildlife (not detailed in this Part, or in the Queensland Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) or approved under Section 20 of this Part) are not approved official traffic control devices for use within Queensland. All signs in this Part (refer to the sign library in Section 22) are approved for use on all roads within Queensland.

Through the use of this Part and the MUTCD, a consistent and standardised approach to the treatment of wildlife issues throughout Queensland should be achieved. A uniform approach to the treatment of wildlife issues is considered critical to enhancing the modification of driver behaviour and achieving the desired results for both road users and wildlife.
2 Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1300ANIMAL</td>
<td>RSPCA call centre phone number to report animal welfare emergencies, including assistance when encountering injured animals on the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotspot</td>
<td>A location where there is a known roadkill problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUTCD</td>
<td>Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QPWS</td>
<td>Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAMSAR</td>
<td>Is a short term for the ‘Convention on Wetlands of International Importance’, originally signed in 1971 in the town of Ramsar, Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCP</td>
<td>Road Corridor Permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRPM</td>
<td>Raised retroreflective pavement marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSPCA</td>
<td>The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Background

Wildlife signs covered under this Part are generally installed in advance of an area of a roadway where the likelihood of an encounter with wildlife is highly possible. An encounter on the roadway can create a dangerous situation for both, the road users and the animals, at times resulting in fatal injuries. The signs are used to alert road users to take caution while driving in these areas to prevent loss of control or serious injuries resulting from a collision.

Additional background information for wildlife signage (types and function) is provided in Appendix A and B.

4 Wildlife signage installation requirement assessment criteria

The requirement to install wildlife signage is to be determined using a number of criteria. The district or local government shall evaluate all requests received for the requirement for installation of wildlife warning or wildlife information signs. This assessment shall take into consideration, but is not limited to, the information in this Part and the following:

a) type of animal (species / native / endangered)

b) size of animal (warning or information sign)

c) number of animals in the area

d) habits of the particular animal (fast / slow / predictable)

e) nature of occupation of the area (seasonal / nocturnal)

f) frequency at which animals cross / are on the road

g) time of crossings (day or night, dusk or dawn)

h) visibility of the animal to the road user (animal size / street lighting)

i) do the animals cross the road at a small, localised area or over a long length of the road?

j) the habitat adjacent the road (roadside environment) and does this change over the length of area being assessed?
k) traffic volume (especially during times the animals are crossing or on the road)
l) number and severity of officially recorded animal-related crashes
m) information on animal mortality along the road section
n) whether drivers are unlikely to expect the animal to be crossing or be on the road at this location?
o) what other animal warning signs are in the area and have they been effective in reducing crashes involving animals or animal mortality rates?
p) are there any other animal road environment features installed or that could be installed / recommended (canopy bridges, underpasses, land bridges, wildlife fencing, and so on)?
q) whether the animal or colony of animals is endangered or considered environmentally significant to the area?
r) does the animal reside within an established wildlife conservation area?
s) is the location defined as a wildlife movement corridor?

Other factors to consider include:
- the placement of signs does not increase the hazard to either the wildlife, the environment or the road user
- the placement of signs would have a beneficial impact on the wildlife without a negative road safety effect.

The Transport and Main Roads District or local government may recommend the following actions based on the information currently provided and available:
- installation of a wildlife warning sign
- installation of a wildlife information sign, or
- signs are not warranted at this time.

If wildlife warning signs or wildlife information signs are warranted, they must be installed in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD.

5 Wildlife warning signs

Wildlife warning signs should be provided in areas where the presence of animals along the road path is well known or expected. Refer to Section 4 of this Part for advice on assessing the need of a wildlife warning sign on the roadway. If a wildlife warning sign is to be erected, it shall comply with the requirements in Section 5.1. Additional considerations should be given to aspects in Section 5.2.

Refer to Appendix B for information on the current wildlife warning signs developed to address the different types of wildlife and animals.

5.1 Requirements

Symbolic wildlife warning signs shall depict a single type of expected animal. If there are different types of animals encroaching on the roadside within a localised area and warning signs are required for two different animal types, two symbolic signs on the one post shall be installed, with the animal posing the greatest hazard to vehicles or occupants installed above the other wildlife warning sign. No
more than two wildlife warning signs should be installed on any one post. Wildlife warning signs may be duplicated where required.

If two or more wildlife warning signs are required at the one location, the following two options are available:

1. install one warning sign ‘WILDLIFE’ (W5-49-Q01) in lieu of symbolic warning signs, or
2. install two symbolic signs on the one post, indicating the two animals that pose the greatest hazard to vehicles or occupants.

Wildlife warning sign installation shall comply with this Part and the MUTCD. Typically, wildlife warning signs shall be black symbolic animals on a Class 400 yellow reflective background. The background colour for wildlife warning signs should be changed from the standard retroreflective yellow to retroreflective fluorescent yellow for animals that are typically active at dusk and dawn, due to the superior performance of fluorescent sheeting at these low-light times of the day.

The sizes of wildlife warning signs shall be:

- Size A: 600 x 600 mm for roads with 85th percentile speed less than 60 km/h
- Size B: 750 x 750 mm for roads with 85th percentile speed between 60 km/h and 90 km/h
- Size C: 900 x 900 mm for roads with 85th percentile speed of more than 90 km/h.

Wildlife warning signs shall not take precedence over, or be permitted to obscure or detract from, other traffic control devices.

5.2 Recommendation

Wildlife warning signs should not be provided for animals that inhabit a region on a seasonal or short-term nature. Wildlife must frequently encroach onto the roadside in localised areas during time periods where there is a significant traffic volume or where drivers are unlikely to expect them to warrant the installation of signs.

Wildlife warning signs should be continually assessed for their need and relevance. Signs that are no longer applicable should be removed.

The actual advance warning distance (or location) for wildlife warning signs cannot be determined accurately because of the random nature of animals along the road. The signs should be located prior to the area where the animals are likely to be encountered. If the presence of animals is expected over a distance exceeding 1 km, then the supplementary plate ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) should be used. If the animals are present over a long distance, the wildlife warning signs may be repeated (if warranted) at intervals of not less than 5 km. In addition, wildlife warning signs should be placed so that they do not compete with other roadside signs for the driver’s attention.

6 Stock crossing and stock warning signs

Refer to TC9463 for information on stock crossing and stock warning signs.

7 High-impact wildlife warning signs

High-impact wildlife warning signs (TC1621 and TC1622) consist of a white target board with a green border and incorporate an animal warning sign with various supplementary plates or a combination of plates. The white target board provides a good contrast to the green background effect of trees usually
found at locations where wildlife is present, improving sign conspicuity. Refer to the sign library (Section 22) for examples of high-impact wildlife warning signs.

High-impact wildlife warnings signs should be used selectively at locations with significant wildlife roadkill history and/or significant conservation value.

High-impact wildlife warning signs may be used in conjunction with significant wildlife conservation area signs to highlight roadkill hotspots within the conservation area.

Green RRPMs and/or threshold pavement marking may be used in conjunction with high-impact wildlife warning signs located within significant wildlife conservation areas to highlight areas of greater significance or where vehicle/animal collisions are significantly overrepresented. Refer to Section 17 for installation warrants for green RRPMs. Refer to Section 18 for installation details of significant wildlife conservation area threshold pavement marking.

8 Wildlife information signs

Wildlife warning signs should not be installed for small animals that are unlikely to cause any damage or personal injury during a collision. Signs indicating the presence of small animals, such as the tree kangaroo, ducks, possums, lizards, echidnas and small birds that are unlikely to cause damage or personal injury during a collision are considered unlikely to alter driver behaviour; however, if wildlife signs are warranted for smaller animals, wildlife information signs may be installed.

Wildlife information signs consist of a green legend on a white background (Class 400 material), are rectangular in shape and consist of a green legend of 'CARE FOR OUR WILDLIFE', with a green symbolic animal.

The distance supplementary plates ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) or ‘NEXT … m’ (W8-17-2) must not be used in conjunction with a wildlife information sign.

Refer to Section 4 of this Part for advice on assessing the need for a wildlife information sign on the roadway. If a wildlife information sign is to be erected, it shall comply with the requirements in Section 8.1. Additional considerations should be given to aspects in Section 8.2.

8.1 Requirement

Wildlife information signs shall indicate a single type of animal that should be expected. If there are different types of animals encroaching on the roadside within a localised area and wildlife information signs are required for two or more different animal types, the installation of one sign, indicating the animal most at risk from traffic strikes, on the one post shall be provided. No more than one wildlife information sign is to be installed at any one location. Wildlife information signs may be duplicated: installed on each side of the road on multi-lane divided roads.

Wildlife information signs shall not take precedence over, or be permitted to obscure or detract from, any other traffic control devices.

Wildlife information sign installation shall comply with this Part and the MUTCD. The sizes of wildlife information signs shall be:

- Size A: 750 x 600 mm for roads with 85th percentile speed less than 70 km/h.
- Size B: 900 x 720 mm for roads with 85th percentile speed above 70 km/h.
8.2 Recommendation

Wildlife information signs should not be provided where animals inhabit a region on a seasonal or short-term nature. To warrant installation of signs, wildlife must frequently encroach onto the roadside in areas and at times of significant traffic volume or where and when drivers are unlikely to expect wildlife presence.

Wildlife information signs should be provided where the presence of animals along the road is well-known or expected. Wildlife information signs should be continually assessed for their need and relevance. Signs that are no longer applicable should be removed.

Wildlife information signs may not be erected on the same post as wildlife warning signs. If wildlife information signs are justified in locations where wildlife warning signs exist (or are proposed), the effect of these additional signs on driver behaviour must be considered. Wildlife warning signs shall take precedence over wildlife information signs and wildlife information signs should be placed so that they do not compete with other roadside signs for the driver's attention. Because of the random nature of animal presence on roadways, signs should be located before where the animals are likely to be encountered.

9 Injured animal contact phone number signs (RSPCA's 1300ANIMAL number)

The RSPCA has developed, and is operating, a statewide 1300 number for animal welfare emergencies (1300ANIMAL) and aims to progress this as one national number for the reporting of wildlife emergencies.

Additional background information on the development and usage of the RSPCA's 1300ANIMAL number is provided in Appendix D.

Transport and Main Roads has developed a 1300ANIMAL (TC1547) supplementary plate to support this initiative. The RSPCA must support all installations of the 1300ANIMAL sign to ensure the RSPCA is aware of all locations where the signs are installed and sufficient approved carers in those locations to service the signed area. All sites requested for signing must have a documented history of injured animals.

The 1300ANIMAL (TC1547) supplementary plate may only be installed under a wildlife warning or wildlife information sign. The wildlife warning or wildlife information signs must be assessed and installed (if warranted) in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD. The 1300ANIMAL supplementary plate must not be used as a stand-alone sign.

Figure 9 – Examples of ‘1300ANIMAL’ supplementary plate applications
10 Supplementary plates for wildlife warning signs

Where the supplementary plate ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) is warranted for use with wildlife warning signs, it is installed directly under the wildlife warning sign. If the RSPCA’s 1300ANIMAL (TC1547) supplementary plate is also warranted at the same location, it should be installed beneath the ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate. If both plates are to be installed below the wildlife warning sign, choose the size of the ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) plate to match the width of the RSPCA’s 1300ANIMAL supplementary plate.

The background colour for the ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate is to match the background colour of the wildlife warning sign; for example, if fluorescent yellow is the background colour for the wildlife warning sign, the ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate must also have a background colour of fluorescent yellow.

When the ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate is used with a wildlife warning sign, it is important to estimate the distance of the threat of an animal vehicle collision as accurately as possible. As a driver behaviour change is the desired effect of the sign, drivers are more likely to alter behaviour for a 1–2 km (short) stretch of road rather than over a much longer length of road (say, 10–15 km). If the animals are present over a long distance, the wildlife warning signs may be repeated (if warranted) at intervals of not less than five kilometres. It may be more effective, in terms of modifying driver behaviour, to select specific locations and sign short, individual lengths of road where the risk of an animal / vehicle collision is greatest.

The ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate should be installed beneath the wildlife warning sign at most wildlife warning sign installations. Where the ‘NEXT…km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate is not warranted, the ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate (TC1608) may be installed. If the ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate is installed below a wildlife warning sign where the RSPCA’s 1300ANIMAL supplementary plate is also to be installed, the ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate is installed above the RSPCA’s 1300ANIMAL supplementary plate and the size of the ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate is to match the width of the RSPCA’s 1300ANIMAL supplementary plate.

The ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate is not to be used with wildlife information signs or with significant wildlife conservation area signs. For significant wildlife conservation area signs (refer Section 11), the distance of the conservation area along the road is indicated on the main sign.

Note: The ‘NEXT … m’ (W8-17-2) supplementary plate may be substituted in all cases for the ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate.

10.1 Advisory speed signs

Advisory speed signs (W8-2) are only to be installed for road geometric (horizontal and vertical) conditions and must not be installed under wildlife warning or wildlife information signs.

An exception to the above is the TC1196 advisory speed limit sign for cassowaries. The sign is to be used to regulate speed for areas where cassowaries are present, for advice on setting regulatory speed limits in these areas; refer to TC1196 and sign library (Section 22)
11 Significant wildlife conservation area signing

In defining areas suitable for significant wildlife conservation area signs and the higher-impact treatments available, the following criteria should be used. Above all, the likelihood of an animal / vehicle collision should be considered:

- An objective in the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* is the dedication and declaration of areas representative of the biological diversity, natural features and wilderness of the state as protected areas. The classes of protected areas to which this Act applies are:
  
  a) national parks (scientific)
  b) national parks
  c) national parks (Aboriginal land)
  d) national parks (Torres Strait Islander land)
  e) national parks (recovery)
  f) conservation parks
  g) resources reserves
  h) nature refuges
  i) coordinated conservation areas
  j) wilderness areas
  k) World Heritage management areas
  l) international agreement areas.

- Significant wildlife conservation area signs and other higher-impact treatments may also be considered where the following applies:
  
  a) the 'conservation' status must be related to wildlife and not to other issues, such as scenic value or flora, and
  b) the area is classed as a protected area (as defined previously) or by one of the following:
    
    i. land within state forests, timber reserves or dedicated as a reserve (or protected area) for environmental purposes under the *Land Act 1994*
    ii. a World Heritage Area under the World Heritage Convention
    iii. an area supporting a critically-endangered or endangered ecological community in the list established under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
    iv. a declared RAMSAR wetland under the EPBC Act
    v. an area of high nature conservation value under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*
    vi. an area, other than state-controlled land, identified in a local government's planning scheme as an area that has special environmental significance for native wildlife.

*Note:* All significant wildlife conservation areas do not automatically qualify for signs.
Significant wildlife conservation areas may warrant the installation of wildlife conservation area identification signs (TC1607), signed as a general area or with a specific animal that inhabits the conservation area depicted on the sign. To warrant the installation of significant wildlife conservation area signs, the wildlife present must first qualify for the installation of wildlife warning signs (see Section 5). If wildlife warning signs are not warranted, then significant wildlife conservation area signs must not be installed.

If a significant wildlife conservation area sign is warranted, then the generic ‘WILDLIFE’ warning sign (W5-49-Q01) may be used on the significant wildlife conservation area sign in lieu of a specific animal warning sign; however, it is considered best practice to install the symbolic animal warning sign of the specific or dominant animal in the area.

Significant wildlife conservation area signs should be erected as close as possible to the boundary of the conservation area but must be placed so that they do not compete with other traffic control devices or pose a safety hazard to road users.

Significant wildlife conservation area signs are made up of a green legend on a white background and incorporate an animal warning sign and the 1300ANIMAL supplementary plate. Refer to the sign library (Section 22) for examples of animal warning signs that may be used with the significant wildlife conservation area sign.

As the significant wildlife conservation area signs incorporate the 1300ANIMAL, the RSPCA must be contacted before the sign is erected to ensure they have sufficient approved carers in those locations to service the signed area (refer to Section 9).

Green RRPMs and/or threshold pavement marking may be used in conjunction with significant wildlife conservation area signs to highlight areas of greater significance or where vehicle/animal collisions are significantly overrepresented. Refer to Section 17 for installation warrants for green RRPMs. Refer to Section 18 for installation details of significant wildlife conservation area threshold pavement marking.

Significant wildlife conservation area signs and associated threshold pavement markings and RRPMs should only be installed at locations to highlight areas of greater wildlife significance or where vehicle/animal collisions are significantly overrepresented. The overuse of the higher-impact sign/line marking/RRPM wildlife treatments will lessen their effectiveness at other locations.

12 Significant wildlife conservation corridors signing

As part of the declaration of significant wildlife conservation areas, significant wildlife corridors may also be established or defined. Wildlife corridors do not warrant the installation of significant wildlife conservation area signs but may be signed by using wildlife warning or wildlife information signs.

13 Fauna aerial bridge (canopy bridge) signs

Fauna aerial bridges or canopy bridges are structures that are primarily used by tree-dwelling animals, such as possums, to travel between trees above the road surface, thereby avoiding the danger of being struck by vehicles. Areas that have been treated with fauna aerial bridges or canopy bridges may have area identification signs erected to advise the public of what the structures are.

In such instances, TC1576 signs should be erected in advance of the first aerial bridge, repeated as required at intervals of not less than five kilometres and duplicated where required on each side of multi-lane divided roads.
14 Vehicle-activated flashing lights

Vehicle-activated flashing lights (TC1921) must be installed with a radar device capable of detecting vehicle speeds that activate the flashing of the lights in a wig-wag arrangement. The devices are to be used with high-impact wildlife warning signs (Section 7) to enhance sign conspicuity. The flashing lights shall operate alternately when activated by an approaching vehicle which is exceeding a nominated speed within the nominated prescribed times of operation. The flashing lights will continue to flash until the vehicle speed reduces to below the trigger speed or the vehicle continues past the sign.

The flashing lights can also be configured to operate at set times when animals are likely to be encountered.

Refer to the sign library (Section 22) for examples of vehicle-activated signs.

Vehicle-activated flashing light signs should be used selectively at critical locations where high-impact wildlife warning signs need better attention to impact speeding driver behaviour.

15 Requests for wildlife warning and wildlife information signs

Requests for wildlife warning and wildlife information signs on state-controlled roads should be forwarded to the District Office for consideration. If the request relates to an animal for which a standard sign exists, the District shall determine whether such signs are necessary and, if so, install the signs in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD.

If the request relates to an animal not currently depicted by a standard sign, and the District has determined that the sign is required, a request should be made (refer Section 20) to the Traffic Engineering Practice Unit, Transport and Main Roads for an appropriate sign to be developed.

Requests for wildlife warning and wildlife information signs on non-state-controlled roads should be forwarded to the relevant local government authority. For consistency reasons, it is recommended that local governments also use this Part when assessing applications for wildlife signage. Wildlife signs are assessed and if required, they should be installed in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD. Local governments should refer to Section 20 for the procedure to follow when applying for new signs or treatments to be designed and approved for use.

A uniform approach to the treatment of wildlife issues is considered critical to modifying driver behaviour and achieving the desired results for both road users and wildlife. All signs in this Part (refer the sign library in Section 22) are approved for use on all roads within Queensland.

Wildlife signs that are not approved (under Section 20) or included in this Part or the MUTCD should not be installed. Any sign and pavement marking treatment options for wildlife not detailed in this Part or in the MUTCD are not approved official traffic control devices for use within Queensland.

16 Temporary wildlife warning signs

Temporary wildlife warning signs (TC2021 series) may be used in accordance with the notes on the TC designs. They may be used where there have been recent sightings of wildlife, especially koalas and cassowaries, in a localised area as a temporary short-term wildlife warning sign.

These signs may be installed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services officers or other agencies in accordance with the requirements of a relevant road corridor permit (RCP). Refer to the sign library (Section 22) for examples of temporary wildlife warning signs.
17 Retroreflective raised pavement markers

RRPMs, when installed, must be installed in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD. Green RRPMs may be used in conjunction with significant wildlife conservation area signs and are intended to be a high-impact-type measure and should only be used in areas of higher importance. Green RRPMs must not be used in conjunction with wildlife information signs.

Green RRPMs placed to identify significant wildlife conservation areas must meet the following requirements:

a) must only be installed where significant wildlife conservation area signs are warranted and installed, and the area is a significant wildlife conservation area of higher importance
b) must not be installed on roads that do not have edge line and separation line pavement marking
c) must not be installed on freeways or motorways (green RRPMs on these road types are used to indicate off-ramps)
d) must be bi-directional and installed adjacent to the road edge line on both sides of the road
e) must be installed with bi-directional white RRPMs installed on the centre line at the locations and spacing as specified in the MUTCD
f) must only be installed over the length of road defined by significant wildlife conservation area signs
g) must not be installed on roads or in locations where they may pose a hazard to other road users, such as cyclists
h) must be placed 25–50 mm clear of painted lines and located on the traffic side of the line for lane widths of 3.5 m and above, and be placed outside the painted line for lane widths less than 3.5 m
i) green RRPMs must have a minimum spacing of 48 m and not exceed a spacing of 96 m; spacing (m) should be a multiple of 12 and must also be uniform over the length of the area defined by the significant wildlife conservation area
j) if existing RRPMs (red or white) are installed, and green RRPMs are also to be installed, the existing RRPMs (red or white) are to be retained and must be installed at the locations and spacing specified by the MUTCD – this may require reinstatement or replacement of existing RRPMs (red or white) so green RRPMs may then be installed on the edge lines at spacings as specified previously
k) if red RRPMs are to be installed on the edge line with green RRPMs, the locations and spacing for the red RRPMs must be as specified in the MUTCD
l) once the RRPMs are installed, the road is to be inspected (at regular intervals) and maintenance of the RRPMs conducted as required
m) green RRPMs no longer warranted must be removed.

18 Wildlife threshold pavement marking

Wildlife threshold pavement marking may be used to identify the start and finish of signed significant wildlife conservation areas. The purpose of threshold treatments is to complement the entry signs into a significant wildlife conservation area and advise drivers that they should modify their driving behaviour and reduce their speed where required.

Wildlife threshold pavement marking consists of the words ‘WILD’ and ‘LIFE’ in white lettering (retroreflective paint and glass beads) on the traffic lane into the area. A green background
with a yellow border complements the lettering. Green and yellow coloured threshold treatment pavement marking must be constructed with skid resistant materials and may also be retroreflective if required.

The use of green as a background colour for the ‘WILD LIFE’ threshold treatment, while the same colour as used for bike lane threshold treatments, should not cause any confusion as the ‘WILD LIFE’ threshold treatment when used includes the words ‘WILD’, ‘LIFE’ and must be installed in conjunction with significant wildlife conservation area signs.

The wildlife threshold treatment, when installed, must be located adjacent to the significant wildlife conservation area sign. Wildlife threshold pavement marking must only be used in conjunction with significant wildlife conservation area signs to highlight areas of greater significance.

Green RRPMs should be used in conjunction with all threshold treatments. Refer Section 17 for installation warrants and details for green RRPMs.

The wildlife threshold treatment may be installed on both high-speed (speed limit greater than or equal to 80 km/h) and low-speed (speed limit less than 80 km/h) roads. The design of the threshold treatment is different for high- and low-speed roads.

Wildlife threshold pavement marking may also be used in conjunction with high-impact wildlife warning signs (Section 7) located within significant wildlife conservation areas to highlight areas of greater significance or where vehicle / animal collisions are significantly overrepresented.

Threshold treatments should not be used on multi-lane arterial roads. Overuse of the threshold treatment should be discouraged.

Example wildlife threshold pavement marking layouts (for a two-lane, two-way road) are provided on the following pages.
Figure 18(A) – Threshold treatment for wildlife conservation areas in low speed zones (≤ 80 km/h)
Figure 18(B) – Threshold treatment for wildlife conservation areas in high speed zones (≥ 80 km/h)
19 Motorist behaviour

The installation of wildlife warning signs, wildlife information signs and other treatment options included in this Part are intended to modify driver behaviour in areas where wildlife may be encountered. It is crucial to understand the effects of the signs and treatment items on drivers and allow road authorities to provide consistent information on the role drivers may play in reducing animal mortality on the road. Additional details on background and information on expected effects of signs to motorists are present in Appendix C.

20 Treatments (signs or pavement marking) not included in this Part

If a treatment is proposed for use and is not included in this Part or the MUTCD, an application must be made before the new wildlife treatment may be installed. The following procedure applies:

1. a statement giving the detailed nature of the problem
2. a detailed description of the proposed wildlife sign or pavement marking treatment, including illustrations as required
3. an outline of the reasons the proposed sign or pavement marking treatment is required, including the expected benefits
4. details of what was trialled, and the assessment conducted, if other approved wildlife sign or pavement marking treatments have already been trialled and found ineffective
5. information outlined at steps 1–4 forwarded to Transport and Main Roads and marked for the attention of the Principal Engineer (Traffic Engineering), Traffic Engineering Practice Unit, Engineering and Technology Branch via email trafficengineering.support@tmr.qld.gov.au
6. Transport and Main Roads will assess the application including consultation with other traffic authorities or environmentalists as required.

This Part outlines the requirements for the uniform treatment of wildlife issues throughout Queensland. The use of this Part, the MUTCD and the application process detailed previously should achieve a consistent and standardised approach to the treatment of wildlife issues – critical to modifying driver behaviour to protect both road users and wildlife.

21 Information on other engineering treatments for wildlife

Transport and Main Roads is also committed to investigating new ways of effectively reducing the impact of roads on native fauna while maintaining road safety for all road users.

Transport and Main Roads has developed a Fauna Sensitive Road Design series. This series currently includes Volume 1 and Volume 2. Volume 1 discusses the effectiveness of engineering structures and management practices that are presently adopted for road projects to reduce animal mortalities and help facilitate fauna movement. Volume 2 documents findings from field research (from Australia and overseas) into vehicle / wildlife treatments.
Some of the engineering treatments for wildlife (other than signs and pavement marking) include:

- wildlife fencing
- dual purpose culverts (lower section for water with a raised dry section for fauna)
- purpose built culverts (for wildlife only – for example, cassowaries)
- canopy rope bridges (for possums)
- glider poles (for gliders)
- land bridges (for land-based animals, such as koalas, wallabies, etc.).

22 Wildlife sign library

The wildlife sign library provides an overview of the wildlife signs available and approved for installation on Queensland roads. For installation warrants and recommendations, please refer to the previous sections of this Part and any notes on the sign design drawings.

Table 22 – Wildlife sign library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sign No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="kangaroo.png" alt="Kangaroo/Wallaby" /></td>
<td>Kangaroo/Wallaby</td>
<td>W5-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="camel.png" alt="Camel" /></td>
<td>Camel</td>
<td>W5-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="wild_horse.png" alt="Wild Horse" /></td>
<td>Wild Horse</td>
<td>W5-46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="deer.png" alt="Deer" /></td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>TC1454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="emu.png" alt="Emu" /></td>
<td>Emu</td>
<td>W4-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Sign No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Cassowary" /></td>
<td>Cassowary</td>
<td>TC9866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Wombat" /></td>
<td>Wombat</td>
<td>W5-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Koala" /></td>
<td>Koala</td>
<td>W5-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Wildlife" /></td>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>W5-49-Q01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Koala" /></td>
<td>Koala <strong>Do not use</strong> (superseded by W5-47)</td>
<td>Do not use (superseded by W5-47)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wildlife information signs**

<p>| <img src="image6.png" alt="Tree kangaroo" /> | Tree kangaroo | TC2296_10 |
| <img src="image7.png" alt="Ducks" /> | Ducks | TC2296_2 |
| <img src="image8.png" alt="Possum" /> | Possum | TC2296_3 |
| <img src="image9.png" alt="Lizard" /> | Lizard | TC2296_4 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sign No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Echidna</td>
<td>TC2296_5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small bird</td>
<td>TC2296_6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtle</td>
<td>TC2296_7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake</td>
<td>TC2296_8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koalas</td>
<td>TC2296_1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyrebirds</td>
<td>TC2296_9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroos</td>
<td>TC2296_11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Sign No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Injured animal contact phone number sign</strong></td>
<td>1300ANIMALY Supplementary plate only (Not to be installed separately)</td>
<td>TC1547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care for our Island's wildlife</td>
<td></td>
<td>TC2095</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supplementary signs**

| NEXT … km | km | W8-17-1 |
| NEXT … m | m | W8-17-2 |
| SLOW DOWN | Supplementary plate (must only be installed under Wildlife Warning signs where W8-17 is not required) | TC1608 |

**Fauna aerial bridge sign**

| Fauna Aerial Bridge (Possum Canopy Bridge) | | TC1576 |

**Wildlife conservation area signs**

| Wildlife Conservation Area (Koala) | | TC1607 |

Note: The diamond wildlife warning sign may be substituted for any animal-specific wildlife warning sign or the generic 'WILDLIFE' sign, W5-49-Q01.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sign No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Impact wildlife warning signs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | Wildlife Warning Sign with Target Board (Koala)  
Note: The diamond wildlife warning sign may be substituted for any animal-specific wildlife warning sign.  
The ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate may be substituted for either distance supplementary plate (W8-17). | TC1621 |
| | Wildlife Warning Sign with Target Board and 1300ANIMAL (Koala)  
Note: The diamond wildlife warning sign may be substituted for any animal-specific wildlife warning sign.  
The ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate may be substituted for either distance supplementary plate (W8-17). | TC1622_1 (‘B’ and ‘C’ size) preferred sizes  
(A’ size should only be used when space is limited) |
| | Wildlife Warning Sign with Target Board and 1300ANIMAL (Koala)  
Note: The diamond wildlife warning sign may be substituted for any animal-specific wildlife warning sign.  
The ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate may be substituted for either distance supplementary plate (W8-17) | TC1622_1 (‘A’ size only)  
non-preferred size  
Should only be used where space is limited |
| | Wildlife Warning Sign with Target Board, 1300ANIMAL (Koala) and Direction arrow for T-intersections  
Note: The diamond wildlife warning sign may be substituted for any animal-specific wildlife warning sign.  
The ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate may be substituted for either distance supplementary plate (W8-17) | TC1622_3 (‘A’ size only)  
non-preferred size  
Should only be used where space is limited |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sign No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![](image1) | Wildlife Warning Sign with Target Board  
  Note: The diamond wildlife warning sign may be substituted for any animal-specific wildlife warning sign. The ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate may be substituted for either distance supplementary plate (W8-17). | TC1918_1 |
| ![](image2) | Wildlife Warning Sign with Target Board  
  Note: The diamond wildlife warning sign may be substituted for any animal-specific wildlife warning sign. The ‘SLOW DOWN’ supplementary plate may be substituted for either distance supplementary plate (W8-17). | TC1918_2 |
| ![](image3) | Vehicle Activated flashing lights with High impact wildlife warning sign  
  Note: The diamond wildlife warning sign may be substituted for any animal-specific wildlife warning sign | TC1921 |
| ![](image4) | Temporary wildlife signs  
  Wildlife protection Trial Project | TC1678 |
<p>| <img src="image5" alt="" /> | Recent Crossings (Cassowary) | TC2021_1 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sign No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="" /></td>
<td>Recent Crossings (Koala)</td>
<td>TC2021_2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="" /></td>
<td>Take Care multi-message sign</td>
<td>TC2021_3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="" /></td>
<td>Recent Crossing multi-message sign</td>
<td>TC2021_4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4" alt="" /></td>
<td>Cassowary multi-message sign</td>
<td>TC2021_5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5" alt="" /></td>
<td>Koala multi-message sign</td>
<td>TC2021_6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Special conditional wildlife signs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sign No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image6" alt="" /></td>
<td>Cassowary – 50 km/h</td>
<td>TC1196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A: Additional wildlife signage information

Background Information

Traditionally, signs indicating animals on roads have been installed to warn road users of a potential hazard to themselves, not for the protection of the animals. This is in accordance with well-accepted practices. More recently, warning signs are being installed in response to concerns about the safety of wildlife. The community may naturally be concerned about the safety of animals, in particular, smaller species, when they see them on the road. As a result, members of the public are approaching Transport and Main Roads or local governments asking for signs to be installed in the belief that these warning signs will alter driver behaviour by indicating the presence of animals on the road and, thereby, reducing the animal fatality rate.

Wildlife warning and information signs are not specifically intended to perform an animal preservation role and research to date indicates that they are not particularly effective for this purpose. If the preservation of animals is considered to be critical for the survival of the local animal population, other traffic management and animal management treatments will be required (signs alone are not adequate).

Warning signs

Warning signs alert road users in advance of a dangerous situation (that may or may not be expected or visible), so that road users may use caution, reduce speed or make a manoeuvre in the interest of their safety, the safety of passengers and/or the safety of other road users.

Warning signs indicate the geometric conditions of the road or hazard ahead, such as the changes in alignment or on the approach to an intersection, however they lose their effectiveness if overused. Their use should be restricted to the minimum required for the safety of all road users.

- A road user may see a particular warning sign but decide that the hazard is insignificant and there is no need to slow down or alter driving behaviour. In this situation, there is a possibility that the warning sign’s credibility is reduced and future responses to this sign will be similar or diminish further over time.
- If the warning sign indicates a situation that does not currently exist, the road user may ignore this warning sign in the future, not only at this location, but also at other installations of this sign.

Misuse of warning signs may affect driver behaviour in acknowledging and responding to the warning message as necessary. Every individual situation should be assessed to determine the need for a warning sign which should only be installed where there is a valid reason.
Appendix B: Types of current wildlife and animals requiring wildlife warning signs

Traditionally, Transport and Main Roads has only installed wildlife warning signs to warn of animals that can cause significant damage or loss of control to passenger vehicles or personal injury to vehicle occupants resulting from a collision.

When a vehicle comes into contact with large animals, such as camels, kangaroos, wild horses, deer, emus, cassowaries and wombats, there is a high likelihood of both injury to the animal and damage to the vehicle. In trying to avoid these animals, motorists may run off the road and/or collide with other vehicle(s) or roadside objects, causing injury to occupants and damage to vehicles. These risks may warrant the installation of wildlife warning signs for large animals.

As wildlife warning signs have been found to be ineffective in changing driver behaviour to protect small animals, Transport and Main Roads has developed wildlife information signs to address community concern for animals such as tree kangaroos, ducks, possums, lizards, echidnas and small birds (refer to Section 8).

As an endeared national symbol of Australia and very vulnerable to traffic, koalas are considered a special case, and, when signs are warranted, wildlife warning signs are appropriate for koalas.

Large birds (including emus and cassowaries)

Wildlife warning signs shall only be provided for birds that cannot fly (emus and cassowaries) or birds which are large enough (such as wedge-tailed eagles) to cause significant damage to vehicles or personal injury to occupants if involved in a vehicle collision.

In some circumstances, such as the presence of ducks in an area, there may be a strong community perception that wildlife warning signs are needed. Such use is discouraged as these signs have not been proven to be effective in altering driver behaviour or compliance or in reducing the number of bird fatalities. Wildlife information signs may be considered for ducks if they meet the criteria outlined in this Part.

Kangaroos

Wildlife warning signs indicating the presence of kangaroos (W5-29) shall be assessed and installed if warranted in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD. Wildlife warning signs indicating the presence of kangaroos should not be installed in extensive or remote areas kangaroos inhabit regularly or where the presence of kangaroos should be expected. The ‘KANGAROO’ (W5-29) warning sign should be used to warn drivers of sections of road on which kangaroos are likely to be a hazard. The sign should be used in conjunction with a ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate.

Repeater signs along the road should only be required if the roadside environment has changed.

Wildlife warning signs for kangaroos should have a fluorescent yellow background colour due to their increased activity at dawn and dusk.

Wallabies

Wildlife warning signs indicating the presence of wallabies shall be assessed and installed if warranted in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD. There is no specific warning sign for wallabies – where wildlife warning signs are warranted for wallabies, the ‘KANGAROO’ (W5-29) warning sign shall be used.
Wombats

Wildlife warning signs indicating the presence of wombats (W5-48) shall be assessed and installed if warranted in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD.

Koalas

Wildlife warning signs indicating the presence of koalas shall be assessed and installed if warranted in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD. Where the requirements are met, the ‘KOALA’ (W5-47) warning sign should be used to warn drivers of sections of road on which koalas are likely to be a hazard. The sign should be used in conjunction with a ‘NEXT … km’ (W8-17-1) supplementary plate. Repeater signs along the route should only be required if the roadside environment has changed. Wildlife warning signs for koalas should have a fluorescent yellow background colour due to their increased activity at dawn and dusk.

The ‘KOALA’ (W5-Q08) warning sign has been superseded by a new design (W5-47) showing a ‘walking’ rather than an ‘at rest’ symbol. There is no need for a wholesale replacement of the superseded sign. The superseded sign should be replaced with the new sign as dictated by maintenance needs.

Other wildlife

In areas where there are wild horses, camels, deer or other large animals, the relative wildlife warning signs shall be assessed and installed if warranted in accordance with this Part and the MUTCD.
Appendix C: Motorist behaviour and action

Wildlife warning and wildlife information signs installed along the road are intended to warn motorists that animals may be on, or crossing, the road at any time at this location. There are steps that a motorist can take to reduce the number and severity of crashes involving animals on the road, reducing the cost of vehicle repairs, possible personal injury and saving wildlife.

A motorist can reduce the risk to themselves, and to wildlife, by:

- slowing down and being able to stop or give way when animals are on the road or roadside – animals are not 'road smart' and may cross without warning.
- watching out for animal warning signs and other animal advisory signs and reacting accordingly by slowing down and being prepared to stop if required
- being aware of following traffic if required to brake heavily for animals
- always keeping control of the vehicle and trying not to swerve wildly – swerving to miss an animal on the road may cause a crash
- trying to pass (if possible) behind an animal that is on or crossing the road
- scanning the roadside ahead for animals, especially at dawn and dusk when animals are more active.

Some other points a motorist should be aware of include:

- Some animals may respond to the sound of a vehicle's horn. If animals are on the road ahead or moving towards the road, slow down and sound the horn. Care must be taken when using the horn as animals on the side of the road may be startled by the noise and respond erratically by suddenly crossing the road in front of vehicles.
- High beam may temporarily dazzle (freeze) wildlife as nocturnal creatures have very sensitive vision. If animals are on the road ahead, the temporary dimming of the vehicle's headlights may allow the animal time to recover and move off the road.
- The key points to remember when an animal is on, or approaching, the road is to slow down, briefly dim headlights and sound the horn.

What to do if a vehicle hits an animal:

- Stop (only if safe to do so) and check the animal's condition. This may be done from a distance, especially if the motorist is unsure of an injured animal's potential reactions.
- Report an injured animal to the RSPCA animal welfare emergency phone service by phoning 1300ANIMAL (1300 264625).
- A dead or injured animal may be carrying a baby in its pouch. It is not recommended that motorists check an animal's pouch for a baby that has survived. This is best done by wildlife experts.
- All animal / vehicle collisions should be reported to 1300ANIMAL. A dead animal will need to be removed from the roadside as other animals may be attracted to it. The reporting of all incidents also allows a record to be kept of when and where animals are being hit and which species is involved.
Appendix D: Background information on the injured animal contact phone number signs (RSPCA's 1300ANIMAL number)

Transport and Main Roads has been reluctant in the past to erect signs displaying contact numbers for groups that care for injured wildlife. This has mainly been due to the high number of different contact details and potential changes of details on such signs.

The RSPCA has developed and is operating a statewide easily-remembered 1300-number for animal welfare emergencies and is supported by Transport and Main Roads.

The 1300ANIMAL number is both an initiative of and operated by the RSPCA.

The 'ANIMAL' corresponds with alphanumeric numbers on a phone keypad (264625) making it very easy to remember. All calls to 1300ANIMAL are directed to the RSPCA call centre, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to coordinate assistance / rescue based on the RSPCA’s wildlife carer database.

The RSPCA database will enable the call centre operator to match the animal type with a suitable and approved carer in a nearby location to the caller. This system will not only assist with the delivery of care to injured animals but will also provide a high-profile service for those who find injured animals and are unsure of what action to take.