

Tara Cheyne MLA

Manager of Government Business Attorney-General Minister for Human Rights Minister for City and Government Services Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE Questions on Notice Paper No 1 6 December 2024 Question No. 43

MS CLAY MLA - To ask the Minister for City and Government Services:

- (1) How many vehicle-wildlife collisions have been reported on ACT roads, each year from 2015-2024.
- (2) What are the top 10 locations for vehicle-wildlife collisions in the ACT.
- (3) How many incidents does the Parks and Conservation Service respond to, per year, that require the euthanising of an animal.
- (4) How many calls about vehicle wildlife collisions do (a) Access Canberra and (b) ACT Wildlife take annually.
- (5) What trials have been undertaken for (a) technologies, (b) signage or (c) other solutions, for reducing the number of vehicle-wildlife collisions, and what has been the outcome of these trials.

MINISTER CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) The data collected by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) relates to calls received by PCS Urban Wildlife staff relating to injured or deceased macropods which are mostly attributable to vehicle collisions. The following table summarises the number of macropod incidents and whether they were deceased or injured/sick; data is not available before 2016.

Year	Deceased	Injured	Total	
2016	1419	1420	2839	
2017	1302	1294	2596	
2018	1933	2194	4127	
2019	1661	1838	3499	
2020	713	1055	1768	
2021	492	757	1249	
2022	841	898	1739	

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Year	Deceased	Injured	Total	
2023	2050	1401	3451	
2024	1882	1545	3427	
Total	12293	12402	24695	

- (2) Identified 'hot spots' for kangaroo-wildlife collisions are available on the Directorate's website <u>Living</u> with kangaroos ACT Government
- (3) The following table provides a breakdown of all wildlife that required euthanasia by PCS staff over the 2016-2024 period, noting data is not available before 2016:

Years	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Euthanised	1046	968	1541	1240	735	546	617	899	917

(4)

- (a). The Access Canberra Contact Centre does not have a specific call log topic for vehicle wildlife collisions.
- (b). ACT Wildlife holds this information, not the ACT Government. It is publicly available.
- (5) The proximity to the bush and wildlife to our urban areas is a factor that makes Canberra an attractive and liveable city but also brings wildlife into conflict with motorists. However, typically collisions with animals do not result in fatalities or serious injury to people; collisions which result in fatalities or serious injury are the focus of road safety efforts.
 - (a). No trials of technologies to address crashes involving animals have been undertaken in the ACT due to the priority focus being on measures which reduce fatalities or serious injury.
 - (b). Signage is limited. National and international research suggests that there is little evidence that signage and other smart technology solutions are effective at reducing collisions with animals. This is because animals cross roads unpredictably and motorists are focused on more immediate and common driving risks.
 - (c). Roads ACT trialled animal fencing on Tuggeranong Parkway from 2016. An evaluation of the effect of this fencing on crashes found that:
 - i. Tuggeranong Parkway between Cotter Road and Hindmarsh Drive the number of reported crashes with animals increased by 25% after the treatment was installed.
 - ii. Tuggeranong Parkway between Hindmarsh Drive and Sulwood Drive the number of reported crashes with animals decreased by 53% after the treatment was installed.
 - iii. While the animal fence has reduced reported crashes with animals on the treated length of Tuggeranong Parkway, the benefit-cost ratio is low and does not rank well when compared to other road safety measures.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Tara Chevne MLA

Minister for City and Government Services

This response required 11hrs 16mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$922.00.