

Kangaroos cause more road crashes in Australia than all other animals

Snapshot

Each year in Australia more than 7000 insurance claims are made after collisions with kangaroos.

According to Budget Direct collisions with animals account for 5% of all road accidents in Australia and 9 out of 10 of all animal collisions are with kangaroos.

Most animal collisions occur in country areas with droughts increasing risks for drivers as feed and water become scarcer.

Animal Welfare cost

There has been little research on just how many kangaroos die on Australian roads every year, but millions of Australia's native mammals are killed annually, not including reptiles, amphibians or livestock.

Considering that 9 out of 10 animal collisions involve kangaroos and we can assume that the numbers could be in the millions of kangaroos that die on our roads each year.

If safety permits:

- check for young joeys nearby or live joeys in the pouches of dead or injured female kangaroos
- if a kangaroo is very badly injured it should be humanely euthanized if possible.

Call Wires 1300 094 737 or other wildlife rescue centres.

Fact Sheet



The human cost

There has been limited research done into the number of Australians specifically killed or injured through collisions with kangaroos, but according to Australia's National Coronial Information System (NCIS) **18 Australians deaths were caused by kangaroos between 2000 and 2010**, mostly related to car accidents. However, this may not account for accidents where a driver may have swerved to avoid hitting a kangaroo and this would not have been recorded in the system.

In March 2019 two elderly ladies were killed while returning from a lawn bowls tournament in Mildura when the driver of the bus they were travelling in swerved to avoid a kangaroo. Half of the other 28 passengers were also injured and taken to hospital.

Even if not fatal, accidents involving kangaroos can cause severe distress, injury and disability. It would be interesting to see research done into the number of people injured and/or disabled through kangaroo collisions and what cost this has on healthcare systems as well as the impact on families and individuals.

Economic Impacts

Insurance claims

Kangaroo collisions are a significant cost to Australian insurance companies each year. According to a recent "Roo Report" produced by Huddle Insurance, kangaroo collisions cost Australia \$28 million in repair costs and more than \$6 million in excess payments per year.

Huddle Insurance Co. recently introduced a specific "Kanga Cover" to address this issue which removes the requirement to pay excess on kangaroo collision claims for comprehensive policy holders.

Bullbars/ "roo bars"

Most people in regional areas invest in bull bars for their vehicles, which cost approximately \$1,500 - \$2,500 each.

working together for healthy, sustainable landscapes and kangaroos



Figure 2: Red kangaroo in poor condition after two years of drought, looking for whatever green pick he can find.



Figure 3: Kangaroos grazing on road-side green pick amongst the carcasses of other dead kangaroos.



Figure 4: Kangaroo collisions on outback roads can be so common that sometimes drivers don't even stop to pull them all off the road.

More kangaroo collisions in NSW

NSW has the highest rate of kangaroo collisions with 45% of all kangaroo collisions occurring there.

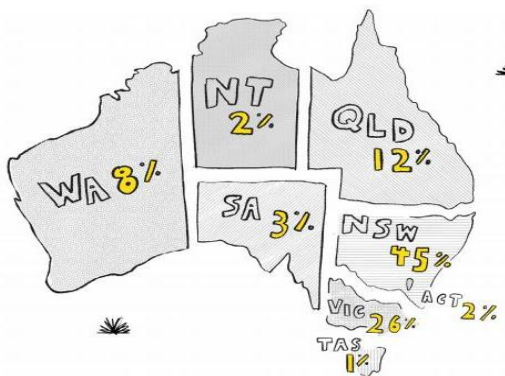


Figure 7: Sourced from Huddle Roo Report

What to do if you collide with an animal on the road?

- pull off road and turn on your hazard lights
- if the animal is dead, remove it from the road if it is safe to do so to prevent further collisions
- be careful as native animals can be dangerous when injured
- native animals, like kangaroos, may have babies in their pouches
- if a native animal is injured, or a baby is orphaned, contact the Wildlife and Information Rescue Service (WIRES) on 1300 094 737
- For the latest advice visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/animals

Other economic costs The “roo run”

In parts of western NSW, Roads and Maritime Services and outback shires fund specific road crews dedicated to cleaning up the “road kill” of hundreds of dead kangaroos and emus. In some seasons these crews operate every morning to remove kangaroo carcasses - at significant cost to local government and rate payers.

Airports and fencing

Some regional airports and sections of highways in peri-urban areas have invested heavily in exclusion fencing to limit collisions with kangaroos. Such fences cost a around \$8,000 per kilometre.

After an RFDS plane collided with a kangaroo in August 2017 as it tried to land at Bourke airport, workers are often sent on “roo runs” ahead of night landings at regional airports.

The Kangaroo Curfew

In many country regions, kangaroos cause an informal “curfew” at night. This “curfew” affects decisions about when and where people travel on country roads and also ultimately impacts on how isolated and remote farmers access important community events and opportunities to connect with others.



The Kangaroo Management Taskforce is funded by Local Land Services and works in partnership with all relevant agencies, stakeholders and industry.