COST EFFECTIVE WILDLIFE ROADKILL MITIGATION

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Abstract
The effects of wildlife roadkill on native animal populations can be significant and the cost to people of wildlife collisions, through road crash injuries and vehicle damage, can also be significant.

An understanding of roadkill causes and patterns is necessary for successful management intervention. How animals perceive, use and cross roads can vary significantly from road to road and also between different sections of the same road. The identification of features associated with roadkill is an important step toward implementing mitigation strategies and lessening road mortalities.

This paper documents the adaptive model developed for mitigating roadkill on the Tarkine Forest Drive, in Tasmania’s northwest. The project involves the upgrade of 93 km of existing, predominantly gravel, roads to facilitate increased visitation to the iconic wilderness region, the Tarkine.

A program of baseline monitoring, analysis and trial sites informed the development of a risk based strategy for mitigating roadkill. The trial mitigation sites experienced a 50% reduction in roadkill compared with the baseline levels.

A number of simple, low maintenance and cost effective mitigation measures have been established for the Tarkine Forest Drive and offer road managers elsewhere additional options for reducing roadkill on their roads.

Key Words: Roadkill, Mitigation, Wildlife, Environmental Management, Roads, Adaptive Management