

ANIMALS NEED TIME

Animals can often be very unpredictable. Whenever possible brake gently and give them time to move off the road. When passing an animal always be aware that they may come back across the path of your vehicle and that there may be other animals in the same area.

In addition if you are travelling through wildlife prone areas it is recommended that you:

- Keep a basic kit for injured animals in your vehicle – a cardboard box, a towel or small blanket and pillow case is all you should need
- Check the pouches of dead animals as they may contain live joeys
- Remove dead animals from the road as they attract meat-eating animals which may then be hit by a vehicle
- Don't throw food from vehicles (not even an apple core) as this attracts animals onto the road or road edges.

So during the hours of darkness, DROP YOUR SPEED, SCAN THE ROAD VERGES and if you do notice animals slow down further. STAY ALERT and BE PREPARED so that if an animal does run out onto the road you are ready to take action to avoid a collision.

If you do run over a wombat set in action the native animal rescue response.

**FOR RESCUE INSTRUCTIONS REFER TO
WOMBAT RESCUE BROCHURE**



www.wombatprotection.org.au
Email info@wombatprotection.org.au
Mail PO Box 6045 Quaama NSW 2550
Phone 02 6493 8245
LOCAL CONTACT

Wombats

BIG BRAINS NO ROAD SENSE SO USE YOURS



Wombats have no road sense

The NRMA has reported that wombats were second only to kangaroos as the native animal most often involved in vehicle collisions in NSW.

Wombats get killed on roads because through lack of education people do not understand their behaviour and do not know about native animal rescue response. This brochure addresses these issues.

A myth exists which suggests it is better to run over an animal on the road rather than try and avoid it. A very large full grown wombat weighs around 40 kg. Intentionally running into 40 kg of anything on the road is perilous.

Wombats have very good camouflage and generally graze near road verges eating grass or drinking water. They are very hard to see especially during their preferred feeding hours of dusk to dawn.



Unlike animals like foxes their eyes don't reflect light well so it is generally when they bolt from the roadside that a driver gets to see them. They often bolt because they are dazed by the noise of the approaching vehicle. Although wombats have vision suitable for getting around in the dark their best senses are hearing and smell. This makes them very easily startled by an on-coming vehicle.

TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID A COLLISION WITH A WOMBAT

AVOID DAWN AND DUSK

Try to avoid driving at dawn to dusk where wombats live, especially for the first couple of hours after it gets dark as this is when wombats move around to feed.

BE ALERT!

Be alert in any areas that may have wildlife or have warning signs to be aware of animals, such as open country roads and national parks, particularly near the boundary between forest and grassland or near water.



SLOW DOWN

Driving slower in poor visibility conditions or where animals wander will give you a better chance of avoiding a collision.

USE HIGH BEAM LIGHTS

When driving at night and when it is safe to do so use your high beam lights so that you can see the sides of the road and further down the road. But be aware that animals can be dazzled by bright lights and may not move off the road. In this case, dip your headlights and sound your vehicle horn and they will move off the road.

YOUR OWN SAFETY

Your own safety should always come first. When you come across an animal in the path of your vehicle, your natural instinct may be to swerve to miss hitting it. But this can put you, any passengers and other motorists in danger. Always keep full control of your vehicle. Unfortunately, sometimes it might not be possible to miss an animal.

