



**Hon Andrew McNamara MP**  
Member for Hervey Bay

12 JUN 2008



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Sustainability,  
Climate Change and Innovation**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 2008 concerning Petition Number 904-07 regarding protection of wildlife.

The EPA works closely with other State and local government agencies in an effort to reduce the instances of wildlife mortality associated with infrastructure development. Efforts are continually made to influence development to ensure that considerations are made by both the private and public sector, to incorporate passive or restrictive mechanisms that reduce the numbers of wildlife taken on roads. For example:

1. The Brisbane City Council invested considerable resources into an overhead concrete bridge on Compton Road, Karawatha to enable wildlife to move freely across this busy arterial road and has reduced the fatalities of wildlife since its completion.
2. Main Roads has incorporated a unique fencing design on the Gateway Arterial Road in Brisbane that does not allow koalas to climb and reach the roadway.
3. Speed reductions on roads have reduced the numbers of kangaroos hit on Wacol Station Road at Wacol.

The incorporation of fencing needs to be considered in the context of the wildlife that live in and range through those areas. Whilst fencing restricts and limits opportunities for wildlife to enter road reserves, it also limits biological diversity in that the wildlife is potentially isolated. In comparison to the level of wildlife that does enter or cross road reserves, the number actually taken is a very low percentage.

Wildlife also needs to be provided the opportunity to forage when areas become an unfavourable food resource, through over-grazing or drought. Fencing would limit this occurring and animals may starve because of their confinement. Hence, I consider road designs or road management practices which safely channel wildlife over or under roads or which are otherwise wildlife friendly (such as the examples listed above), is the best approach to take in respect to this matter.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew McNamara MP**  
**Minister for Sustainability,**  
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