

# Give Kangaroos a brake!

## Slow down and be aware of kangaroos on the roadside

Due to the drought, kangaroos are entering the suburbs in search of food and water.

Unfortunately this increases the risk of kangaroos being hit by vehicles. Last month our rangers collected 162 dead kangaroos from the roadside.

A collision between a vehicle and a kangaroo invariably results in a painful death for the animal, considerable damage to the vehicle, and risk of injury to the vehicle occupants.

Dusk and dawn are times of greatest risk. Research by Environment ACT has shown that kangaroos are also more active around times of the full moon.

### What can you do?

- Reduce your speed in known kangaroo *hot spots*;
- Slow down further if you see a kangaroo on or beside the road;
- Avoid 'tunnel vision' - be aware of what is on the road and roadside ahead; and
- If you have passengers in the car, appoint one as a kangaroo spotter.

Roadside reflectors or ultrasonic devices do not deter animals from roads.

If you see a dead animal be aware that this could indicate a kangaroo *hot spot*. Known hot spots are signposted and include the Monaro Highway, Mugga Lane, Caswell Drive, Belconnen Way, Tuggeranong Parkway, William Hovell Drive, Cotter Road, Hindmarsh Drive, Tharwa Drive, Fairbairn Avenue, Long Gully Road, Majura Road, and Horse Park Drive.

Sometimes a kangaroo is too badly injured to hop away from an accident. If you are unfortunate enough to injure a kangaroo, treat it with respect and care. Remember that kangaroos are large, powerful animals.

**Report all accidents involving kangaroos to Canberra Connect 13 22 81, or Environment ACT - business hours phone 6207 9777, after hours phone 6207 2127 (Southside), or 6207 1679 (Northside)**

Be sure to explain whether the animal is dead or alive and give its precise location. Remember that all road accidents should be reported to the police on 131 444.

