

SAFETY ALERT



TITLE: Driving and Wildlife/Livestock Interaction

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Background

An FPC contractor employee enroute to work swerved to miss a kangaroo, the vehicle has subsequently left the road and collided with two small trees. Fortunately, the employee was uninjured, but the vehicle was substantially damaged.

One in every 41 crashes on country roads involves a vehicle hitting an animal. According to a study at the University of Adelaide Centre for Automotive Safety Research, a 10 per cent reduction in speed led to a 20 per cent reduction in collisions. The reduction in speed gives you time to react, helps you to slow or potentially stop safely, as well as giving the animal time to react.

Control Measures

- **Be aware** – animals are more active near waterholes and creeks, and harder to see at sunrise and sunset.
- **Reduce your speed** – slow down when you see animal and/or warning signs.
- **Stay alert** – animals are unpredictable, so expect the unexpected.
- **Brake safely** – always apply your brakes in a controlled manner.
- **Never swerve** – it is safer to hit an animal than swerve and lose control of your vehicle.
- **Report injured wildlife** – call WIRES on 1300 094 737 or use the [IFAW Wildlife rescue app](#) to find a suitable wildlife rescue organisation for your location.
- Brush up on your driving skills and complete a defensive driving course.