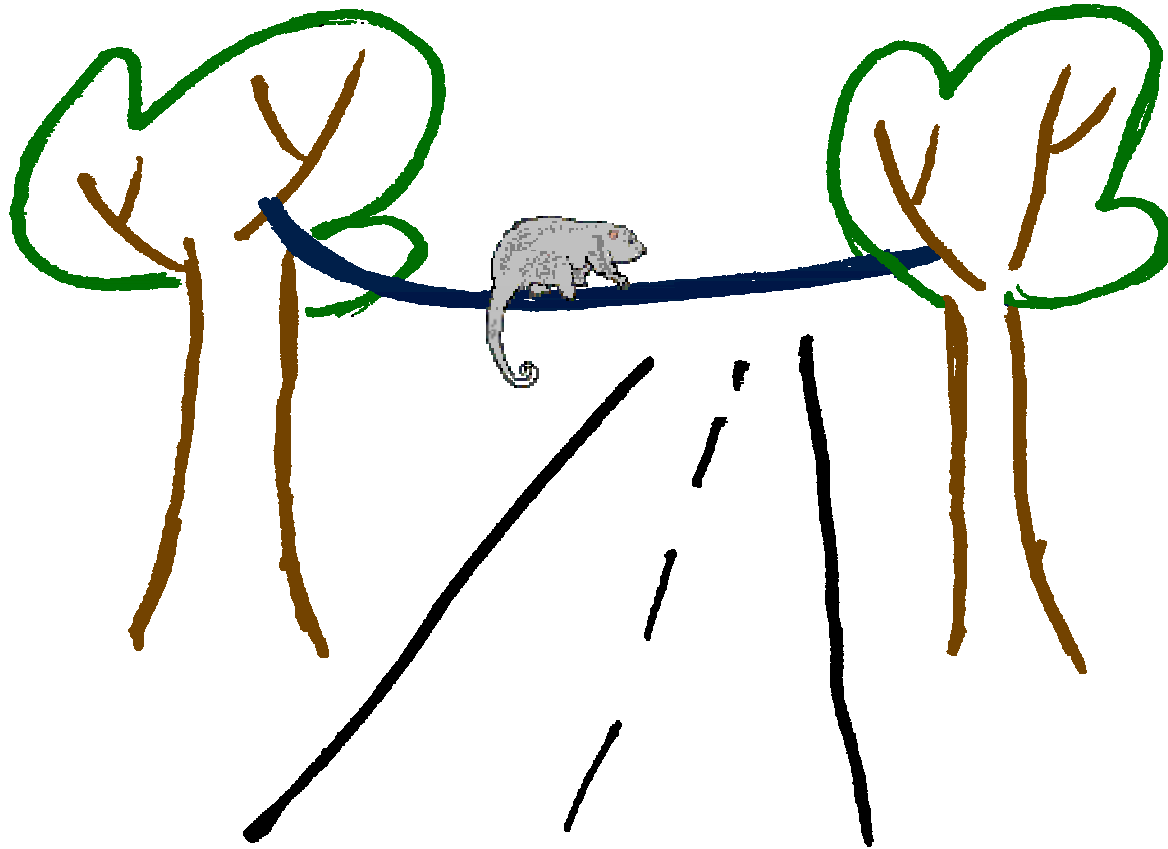


Mitigating Wildlife Roadkill



Zoë Tanner, Nick Mooney and Lorne K. Kriwoken

University of Tasmania

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment

Sponsored by CRC Sustainable Tourism

Summary

- Definitions
- Impacts on tourism
- Why does roadkill occur?
- How can we prevent it?

Definitions

1. Roadkill: the death of wildlife resulting from collision with a moving vehicle

2. Blackspot:

- Section of road where many individuals are killed OR
- Section of road where individuals of a species of special interest are killed

Impacts on Tourism

- Stressful driving experience
- Visual aspect
 - Wildlife conservation
 - Ethical considerations
 - Safety

Comments from tourists

- “The only Tasmanian devils we saw were roadkills”
- “Roadkills were the most discussed issue at youth hostels”
- “It is a sick and sad sight to have to endure”

Why is wildlife on our roads?

- Grass and water in ditches
 - Crops, pasture or water
 - Food thrown from vehicles
-
- Scavenging on carcasses
 - Gain access to territory
 - Avoiding culverts

Why do collisions occur?

- Low visibility: nocturnal & dark in colour
- Speed
- Wildlife trapped on road
- Unpredictable behaviour
- Driver attitude
- Inattentive driving

Mitigation measures

1. Change driver behaviour

- Increase public awareness
- Change night-time speed limit

Mitigation measures

2. Change wildlife behaviour

- Discouraging wildlife from loitering
- Preventing wildlife from crossing
- Providing safe crossings

Discouraging loitering

1. Ditch management

- reduce grass (and water?)

2. Road surfacing

- lighter road surfacing
- increase wildlife wariness
- increase visibility

Light-coloured road surfacing

Preventing crossings

1. Ultrasonic devices

- Warn animals of vehicles

2. Wildlife reflectors

- Create a “light” fence

Providing safe crossings

1. Overpasses

- Rope bridges for ringtail possums

Providing safe crossings

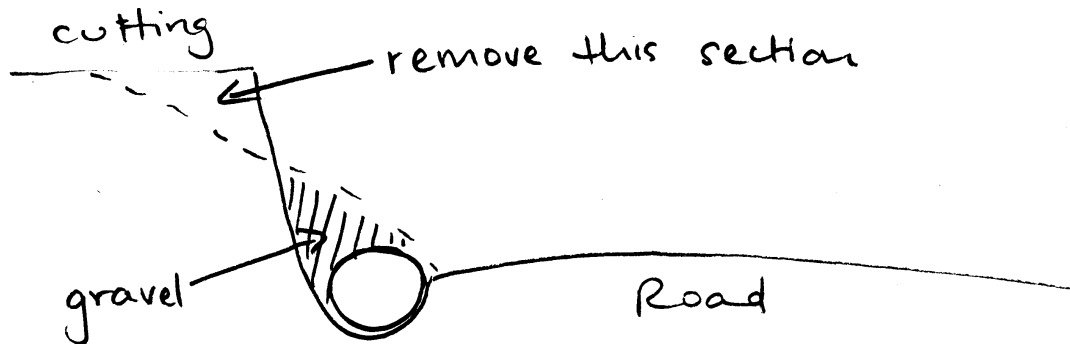
2. Underpasses

- Modified culverts for platypuses

Providing safe crossings

3. Escape routes

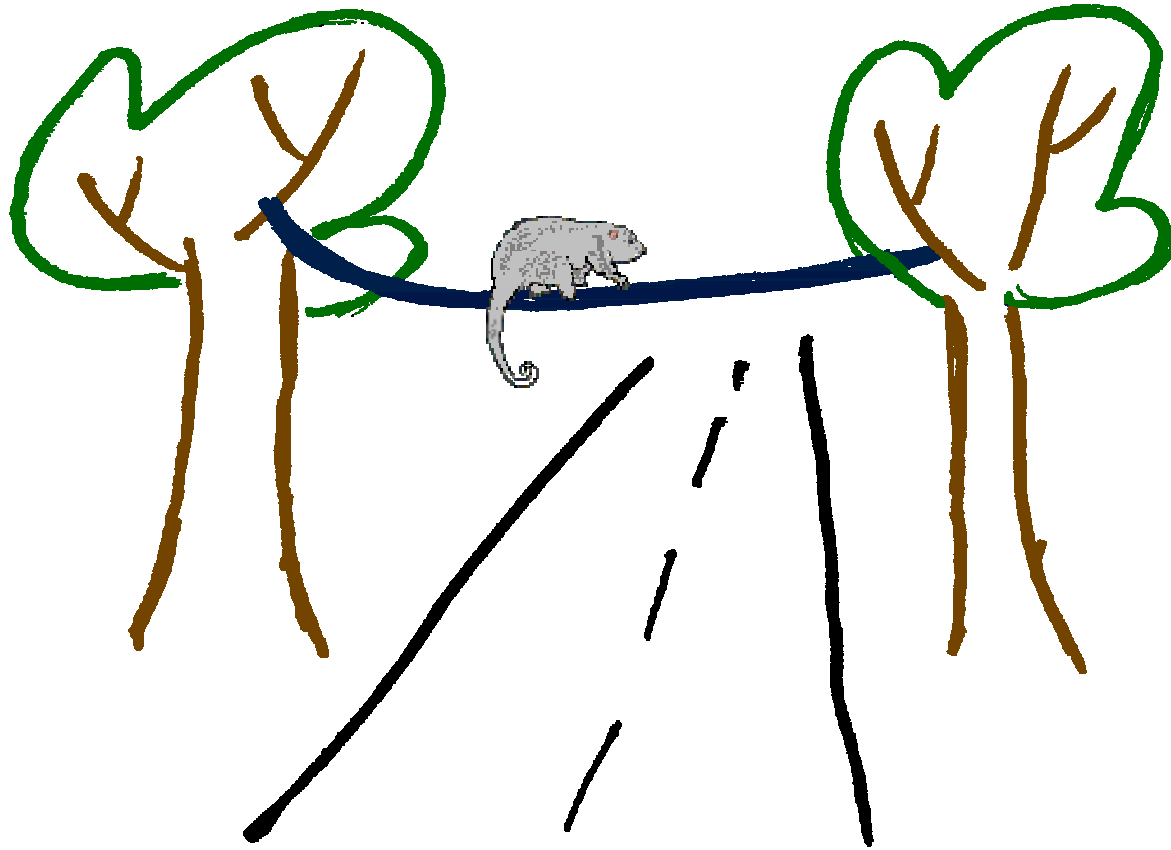
- Ramps



Summary

- Tourism: important reason to tackle wildlife roadkill problem in Tas
- Best solutions:
 - discourage animals from road
 - provide safe crossings

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