



Wednesday 19 January 2022

## Vandals Endanger Tasmanian Devil Population

The Woolnorth Road Virtual Fence Project, designed to mitigate road-kill of a healthy Tasmanian devil population in the north west corner of Tasmania, has hit a major hurdle overnight.

A number of newly installed guide-posts were destroyed in an act of senseless vandalism by an unknown person or persons.

Circular Head Council staff began installing guide-posts along Woolnorth Road last week, with plans to attach virtual fencing sensors this week.

Virtual fencing is an animal-friendly fencing system without the need for an actual fence. The sensors are designed to detect oncoming traffic and then send out signals to alert animals that something is approaching and warn them away from the road. The system has proved successful in reducing road-kill of Tasmanian devils.

Mayor Daryl Quilliam said “We are furious about what happened last night. Tasmanian devils have been in grave danger from the devil facial tumour disease for a long time now and their numbers are down throughout the State because of this. This is one of the last remaining strongholds of healthy devils in Tasmania but they are suffering in this area through road-kill and we are trying to protect them.

This vandalism has increased costs but most importantly it leaves our Tasmanian devils in continued danger from traffic while repairs are completed. Whoever did this must be stopped and Police are investigating,” said Mayor Quilliam.

If anyone has any information about this incident, please contact Tasmania Police on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

*Photo Caption 1: Tasmanian Devil*

*Photo Caption 2: Trevor Enniss and Robert Davison*

*Photo Caption 3: Damaged guide post*

*Photo Caption 4: Virtual fencing sensor in place*

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**Authorised for general media distribution by Daryl Quilliam, Mayor, Circular Head Council**

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