

# Collective action on shocking Tasmanian Devil road deaths

7th September 2022

## *Joint Media Release - Cradle Coast Authority and Circular Head Council*

There is significant community concern about the number of Tasmanian Devils and other vulnerable wildlife killed on Circular Head roads.

Residents and road users have been contributing roadkill records to a state-wide database, and shockingly, there have been 448 dead devils reported since 2004, just on Montagu Rd, West Montagu Rd and Woolnorth Rd. Of these, 211 were killed since January 2020.

To tackle this concerning issue, a committed group of stakeholders have come together to contribute collective action to reduce this threat to our devils.

The Woolnorth area of Circular Head supports one of the highest densities of Tasmanian Devils in the state according to monitoring by the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. This is attributed to the continued absence of the devastating Devil Facial Tumour Disease in the Woolnorth devil population.

The working group was initially facilitated by the Circular Head Council in 2021 to enable formal stakeholder engagement and identify an integrated solution to mitigate the Woolnorth Road roadkill issue. Since then there has been positive action from stakeholders, including Fonterra providing their drivers with a recommended reduction of speed to 80 km/h maximum, dusk to dawn in these areas.

There have been four signs recently installed along Woolnorth Rd alerting drivers to slow down for wildlife, and prior to that, Circular Head Council installed new beeper units (“virtual fencing”) designed to scare wildlife off the road.

Additional measures aimed at curbing roadkill will include the delivery of community education activities, more signage installed on the roads, looking at ways to reduce driving speeds, roadkill removal management, roadside slashing, virtual fencing extension and dedicated monitoring to see what is working.

To fund this important campaign, the Circular Head Devil Roadkill Mitigation Fund has been established to seek investment in roadkill mitigation activities, and to raise awareness about the importance of Tasmanian Devils in the Circular Head region.

The stakeholder working group is led by Cradle Coast Authority and includes office of the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Roger Jaensch as well as representatives from Circular Head Council, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Van Dairy, Forterra, TRT Pastoral, Tasmania Police, 40 South Dairies, Department of State Growth, Woolnorth Renewables, Kennaook / Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station, and West by North West Tourism.

The committed community volunteers and wildlife carers who have been at the front-line of seeing and counting the dead devils, and nursing injured animals back to health, are also represented on the working group.

Alice Carson, a wildlife carer from West Montagu, said “We have recorded more than 100 dead Tasmanian Devils in the last 18 months. It’s traumatic and more needs to be done to slow cars and trucks down on the road. We can’t lose another 100 devils this summer.”

Iona Flett, from Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management, explained that the working group had come together because of Alice and others alerting people to this terrible roadkill “hot-spot”.

“Lots of businesses and organisations have said that they want to help solve this problem and stop this nationally-listed threatened species being killed on the road. We have set up the Roadkill Mitigation Fund to seek contributions to a joint project with the aim of reducing this threat to the Woolnorth devils,” Iona said.

To find out more about the Circular Head Devil Roadkill Mitigation Fund, or to make contributions, please visit Cradle Coast NRM’s website, or contact Project Coordinator, Claire Jinnette, [cjinnette@cradlecoast.com](mailto:cjinnette@cradlecoast.com)