



Media Release

Wednesday, 11 March 2020

Hobart Airport and Bonorong driving down roadkill on Tasmanian roads

In a bid to protect wildlife from the impacts of vehicles, Hobart Airport and Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary have launched a new windscreen sticker campaign encouraging travellers to watch out for our furry friends.

More than 5000 rental cars across Tasmania will display the windscreen stickers with a simple message – to slow down between dusk and dawn and call Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary if they encounter injured or orphaned wildlife.

Hobart Airport Environment Manager Kirsten Leggett said the collaborative project between Hobart Airport, Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary and car rental agencies operating at the airport couldn't come at a more important time.

"It is crucial that we do what we can to reduce the impacts on our iconic species following the devastation of the recent bushfires to wildlife populations around the country," Ms Leggett said.

"With more than 2.7 million passengers passing through our gates each year, we are in a unique position to educate visitors on arrival to the state and equip them with the wildlife safety message as they travel around Tasmania."

The partnership aims to drive mass awareness in order to prevent unnecessary animal deaths on our roads and eliminate potentially dangerous situations for motorists. This is something both organisations see as crucial for Tasmania moving forward.

"The car rental agencies operating at Hobart Airport are all supporting the campaign and will be rolling the stickers out across their fleets state-wide over the coming weeks," Ms Leggett said.

"We know collisions and even near misses can have a lasting impact on visitors and we see firsthand the damage this can cause to both rental vehicles and our wildlife populations."

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary Director Greg Irons said Tasmania has long been referred to as the roadkill capital of Australia with a majority of wildlife killed on our roads being hit at night.

"It's a simple message but all of us can make a difference by slowing down between dusk and dawn, this gives drivers more time to spot an animal and slow down to avoid hitting it, making the roads safer for both motorists and wildlife," Mr Irons said.

"Locals and visitors alike are faced with the stark reminder of the horrific injury and damage that can be caused by vehicles when travelling on our roads and we're dealing with the impacts at Bonorong on a daily basis.

"Having these stickers in front of people who might not otherwise be aware of our wildlife and how to help them is a game changer and we hope it will start a bigger conversation about the importance of taking action now to protect our iconic species."

If you do encounter injured or orphaned wildlife on Tasmanian roads, call Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary on 0447 264 625 any time of day or night for assistance.

ENDS