Take care and be aware of straying livestock

LIVESTOCK CAN POSE A SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD TO ROAD USERS

Straying livestock in the State’s road reserves pose a serious safety hazard to road users, even with drivers who may be familiar with an area and already aware of the possibility of encountering livestock on the road. Also, kangaroos, emus and other wild animals can be found on many roads throughout the State and pose similar safety risks.

In the north of Western Australia, straying cattle is an issue and drivers need to be aware and take care.

The primary responsibility for the consequences of serious collisions involving stray livestock lies with the relevant livestock owner. Apart from the potential civil liability, it is an offence under the Road Traffic Code to allow stock to stray onto a public road.

Despite this, Main Roads WA acknowledges that this is a shared responsibility and is working with the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, the Office of Road Safety and the WA Local Government Association in an effort to reduce the risks associated with stray cattle.

These agencies have formed the WA Straying Livestock Advisory Group which has developed a number of strategies to improve driver safety and awareness, including:

- Targeted driver awareness campaigns
- Improved roadside warning signage
- Development of a joint funding arrangement to provide new fencing
- Provision of supplementary funds to address known ‘hot spots’ where cattle stray
- Ongoing investigations into innovations such as fluorescent cattle ear tags

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