

Injured animal protocol

If an injured animal is found within the Dam Works Practices area, then a Wildlife Specialist will immediately take this animal to a nearby veterinarian for assessment.

For animals whose injuries can be repaired with a good chance of a successful return to the wild (as determined by the veterinarian), they will be placed into the care of a local and 'accredited party' if they are experienced in the care of that particular animal species (the range of appropriate animals for care by local wildlife shelters will be determined prior to the commencement of construction, in consultation with DPIPWE); The 'accredited party' only includes person(s) authorised as a wildlife shelter operator or authorised officer under the NCA 2002.

For threatened fauna species, the veterinarian will be a person or organisation specifically trained and experienced with this species. Details of these person(s) and organisation(s) to be used can be provided by DPIPWE.

If injured animals are found which were not anticipated prior to construction, advice from DPIPWE will be sought on an appropriate solution. When injured animals have recovered sufficiently, they will be released safely near the point of capture by the Wildlife Specialist in suitable habitat

Animals whose injuries have a poor chance of repair or for which a successful return to the wild is considered unlikely (as determined by the veterinarian - and as specified in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1968) will be euthanised humanely by the veterinarian.

If any threatened species is captured and released, then the Wildlife Specialists will inform DPIPWE to make them aware of the actions undertaken. The technique and timeframe for notifying DPIPWE will be agreed with DPIPWE.

Records of all animals that are handled, or otherwise managed, within the DWP area will be maintained on a Project register or database (including both dead and alive individuals). Data to be recorded includes the animal species and number, location, date and collector. Along with an interim report, these data will be supplied to DPIPWE.

Methods of euthanasia will be those recommended by the DPIPWE's Animal Ethics Committee.