

Bandicoots use underpasses at a new highway in Perth

Ian M. Harris, Harriet R. Mills and **Roberta Bencini**

School of Animal Biology, M092, The University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia, 6009
email rbencini@animals.uwa.edu.au



Roe Highway Stage 7

History of bandicoot deaths on local roads
63 bandicoots relocated prior to construction
3 underpasses built

We wanted to test:

- How soon bandicoots would use the underpasses
- If multiple bandicoots used them



Sand pad monitoring for 1 year to establish use after construction

Underpass	Date constructed	First used	Days from construction	Bandicoot use started during construction	Underpass			
					Period	A	B	C
A	08.07.05	19.12.05	161	Underpass B was used the most	August/November	0	61	1
B	08.07.05	5.07.05	-3		December/March	15	42	5
C	08.08.05	17.11.05	102		April/May	13	40	4
					June/ August	19	55	23
					Total	47	198	33

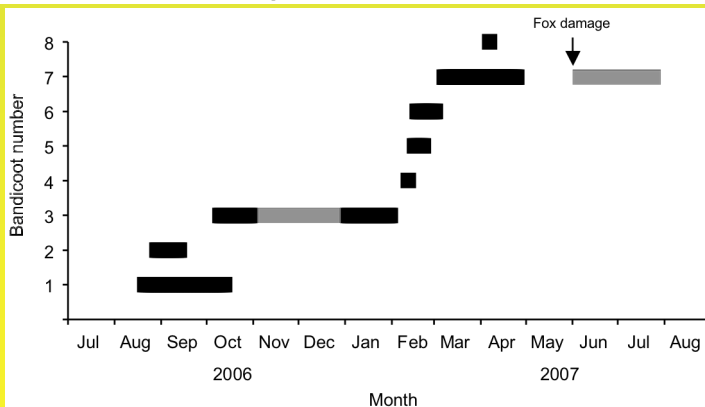
56 bandicoots implanted with microchips - decoder in the most-used underpass



- Trap bandicoots (universal bait)
- Passive Implant Transponders (PIT)
- Trovan 650 decoder and antenna



Multiple bandicoots used underpass B but foxes used it too



Use of underpass B by eight individual bandicoots (*Isodon obesulus fusciventer*) between July 2006 and August 2007. The clear area represents the time during which the equipment was not in use. No passages were recorded after the end of April 2007. Foxes started using the underpass in August 2006 and damaged our equipment in July 2007 as indicated by the arrow.



Multiple bandicoots use underpasses as soon as ready

Foxes also used underpasses possibly to prey on bandicoots

Control of introduced predators should be considered at underpass sites