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BREAKING THE BARRIERS

INNOVATING TO IMPROVE ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES
ON TRANSPORT AND OTHER LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE
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POSTER ABSTRACT

From Local Roads to Regional Impact: Scaling the Wildlife Victoria Wildlife Road toll Action Program (WRAP) for Ecological Outcomes

Wildlife-vehicle collisions are an escalating ecological challenge across Australia, driven by habitat fragmentation, climate change, and expanding urbanisation. Twenty years ago, wildlife-vehicle collisions were largely seen as an unfortunate but isolated issue. Today, it represents a significant threat, with impacts spanning urban fringes, regional highways, and critical wildlife habitats. Without coordinated intervention, projections suggest this toll will worsen dramatically over the next two decades with far-reaching consequences for Australia's communities and environmental sustainability. The Wildlife Victoria Wildlife Roadtoll Action Program (WRAP) offers a scalable, multi-level framework to address this issue. At the local level, WRAP empowers communities through citizen advocacy, citizen reporting, and public education and engagement. At the regional level, it leverages data mapping and council partnerships to identify hotspots and guide mitigation strategies. At the state and national level, WRAP engages in policy advocacy and cross-agency collaboration with the intent to integrate ecological safeguards into infrastructure development and mobility systems. This presentation explores how WRAP uses data to guide decision-making and prioritise ecological outcomes. It highlights the critical role of community engagement; showcasing case studies where grassroots efforts have played a key part in the program. We also examine the challenges WRAP faces, including funding constraints, data gaps, and inter-agency coordination. Finally, we explore opportunities for innovation, such as integrating AI, in-car wildlife detection systems, and citizen science apps to enhance monitoring and response. WRAP demonstrates that with the right tools, partnerships, and public engagement, we can shift from reactive measures to proactive planning for restoring safe passage for Australia's native wildlife.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Wildlife-vehicle collisions are a multi-faceted ecological issue
2. WRAP provides a scalable, data-informed framework for action
3. Community engagement is key

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Anna Tran With over 10 years of experience in environmental conservation and over 20 years in stakeholder engagement, communications, and project delivery, Anna Tran brings a unique interdisciplinary approach to tackling complex environmental and social challenges. Her academic foundation, a Master of Integrated Human Studies, underpins her systems-thinking perspective. Anna's passion for wildlife welfare is deeply personal and lifelong - from delivering EnviroArts, a Brisbane-based art exhibition supporting environmental causes in her early 20s, to hands-on wildlife care on her Gold Coast Hinterland property in her 30s. Now based in urban South Yarra in Melbourne, Anna continues to foster urban biodiversity through native gardening and nature-based parenting. Anna currently works with Wildlife Victoria, where she leads initiatives to minimise wildlife-vehicle collisions across the state. Her work focuses on building partnerships with local councils, community groups, and environmental stakeholders, and utilise available data to make informed decisions and advocate for wildlife.