



Frequently Asked Questions Roadkill Project

1. What is the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program Roadkill Project?

We launched the Roadkill Project in 2009 to help determine how significant the threat of roadkill is to Tasmanian devil populations, particularly those populations decimated by Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). The aims of the Roadkill Project 2010 are to continue to monitor the spread of DFTD and, ultimately, to reduce Tasmanian devil roadkill. Involving the public helps greatly to extend our limited resources.

2. Who can get involved?

Anyone who is using Tasmanian roads can help by reporting any Tasmanian devil roadkill that they see.

3. How can people help?

Keep a supply of reply paid report forms in your glove box and, when you see a roadkill devil, fill out a form and drop it in the nearest mail box. You can also fill out an online form at www.tassiedevil.com.au or call or sms a photo and location information to 0427 733 511.

4. What is the most important thing to remember?

Safety first! Never put yourself or others in danger when collecting roadkill information. Never touch roadkill.

5. When I report a roadkill devil will the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program collect the animal?

The Program will only collect animals that are 'of interest' – that is, they relate to a specific project we are running or they are in a geographically sensitive area.

6. What is considered a 'sensitive area'?

West of the Murchison Highway, the Freycinet area, and the Forestier Peninsula.

7. What should I do if I see a roadkill devil in a 'sensitive area'?

Call or sms **immediately** to 0427 733 511.

8. What time of the day does most roadkill happen?

Most native Tasmanian animals, including Tasmanian devils, are nocturnal, so they are most likely to be hit on the roads between **dusk and dawn**.

9. What time of the year does most roadkill happen?

November to January is the worst time of year for Tasmanian devils because this is the time when the inexperienced juveniles are dispersing – leaving home to find a den of their own. Unfortunately, more devils on the move means more devils on the roads.

Another time that is critical in the life cycle of the Tasmanian devil is from around **March to May** when females are either pregnant or carrying pouch young. If an individual female was killed on the road during this period it would potentially mean the loss of five individuals.

10. Why is roadkill such a problem for Tasmanian devils?

Firstly, because they eat carrion, so any dead animals on the roads attracts them onto the road. To them the road smells like a restaurant. Secondly, they are the most difficult animal to see on the road at night because of their dark colouring. A recent study suggested that to be able to see a devil and stop in time a driver should be doing no more than 40kmh. Most people travel about twice that speed on our country roads.

11. What is the most effective thing that I can do to prevent Tasmanian devil roadkill?

Slow down on the roads between dusk and dawn, particularly in areas that are known to be black spots for roadkill. You can visit **www.roadkilltas.com** to find the location of roadkill black spots.

12. Where can I find out more about the Save the Tasmanian Devil Roadkill Project?

Visit our website: **www.tassiedevil.com.au**