

Wildlife Friendly Fencing

More information

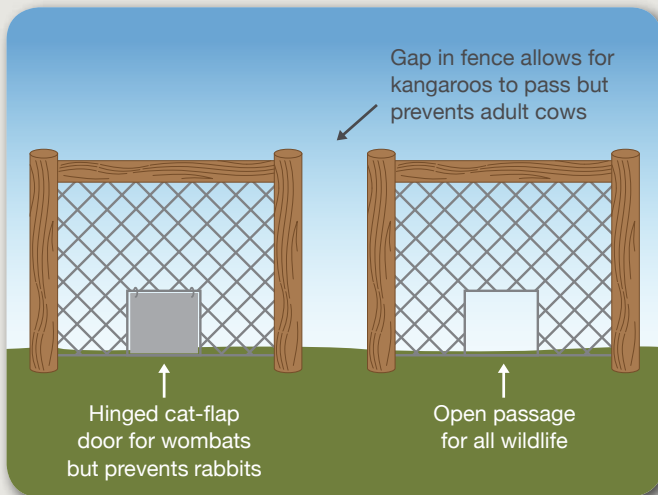
This brochure was designed in partnership with the Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network in response to growing concerns about fencing for wildlife in the Macedon Ranges.

Wildlife Victoria: **1300 094 535**

Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network: **mrwn.org.au**

Macedon Ranges Shire Council:

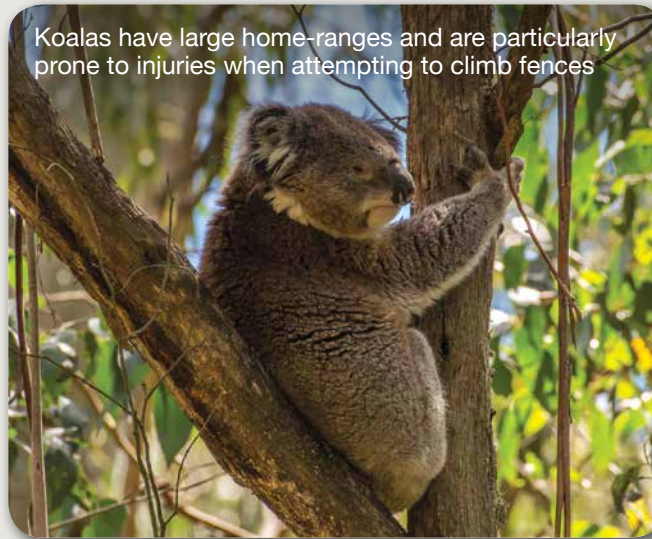
environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au



Retrofitting existing fencing with wildlife gates. Locate gates and openings where wildlife regularly pass through.



Koalas have large home-ranges and are particularly prone to injuries when attempting to climb fences



Check your fences regularly to ensure no wildlife has become entangled. If you find trapped animals, do not attempt to release them yourself.



Help protect our local species

The problem

Fences are an important part of managing a rural property. Fences ensure domestic stock are contained and identify the legal boundaries to a property.

Fences are also a major hazard for wildlife. Over 70 Australian animal species have been shown to be injured by fences. This includes birds, possums, gliders, bats, koalas, wombats and kangaroos. Reptiles are also at risk due to their backwards facing scales which can get caught on tight gaps in fencing.

Fencing can pose several risks to wildlife. Fencing can lead to animals becoming tangled and seriously injured. Fences can also limit natural dispersal and reduce habitat availability. This can reduce breeding opportunities and can lead to long-term issues such as genetic problems in small populations.

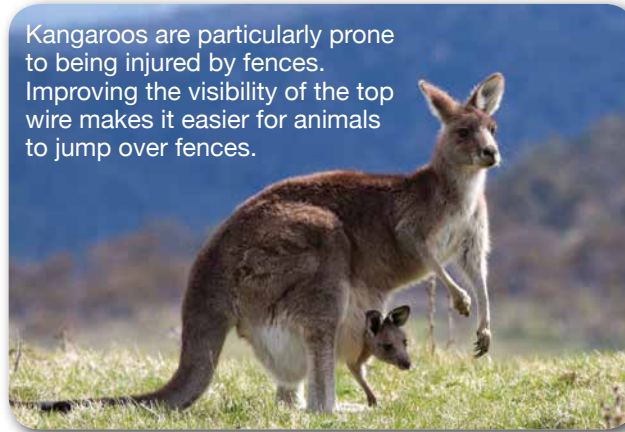
Improving fences for wildlife can have several benefits including reduced maintenance, lower costs of installation, be visually pleasing and provide local wildlife with freedom to move without the risk of injury.



Barbed wire

Barbed wire presents a serious risk to wildlife and should be avoided. In the Macedon Ranges, gliding possums such as the threatened Greater Glider and the locally common Sugar Glider have been found dead on barbed wire fences. Many animals may be injured by barbed wire fences, escape, but later die as a result of their injuries.

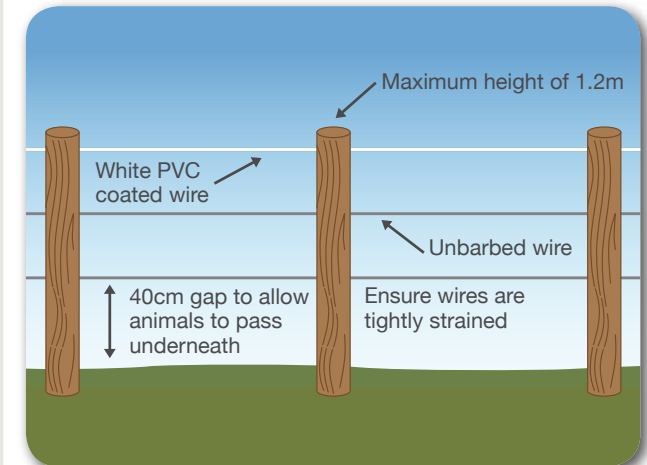
Kangaroos are particularly prone to being injured by fences. Improving the visibility of the top wire makes it easier for animals to jump over fences.



How can you help?

- Design a fence to **allow for animals to pass underneath**. Leave a minimum of 40cm between the ground and the bottom wire
- Choose a plain **high-tensile fencing wire**. If this is tensioned correctly, this fencing material can contain most stock
- If barbed wire has to be used, **avoid placing the wire on the top two or three strands** of the fence or on the bottom wire. This will reduce the risks but not eliminate them
- **Keep the fence low** with a maximum height of 1.2m. This will allow larger animals such as Kangaroos to easily pass over the top

- In high-risk areas such as high quality vegetation and near water, **use plain wire or place the barbed wire inside split pipe** to protect animals from the barbs
- Consider **retrofitting your existing fence with reflective materials** such as CDs and aluminium plant tags. Alternatively, add a white wire to the top. Place these items on the top wire to make it easier for wildlife to see
- **Consider if you really need a fence** or if you could define your property using vegetation. Internal fences could also potentially be removed to improve wildlife movement
- **Electric fencing can be used with caution**. Remember to keep the hot wire above 40cm to allow for small animals to pass under with ease
- **Avoid the use of ringlock** fencing as Kangaroos can get their legs caught.



Wildlife friendly fencing example

