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Roos on the road spark winter warning

RACQ has urged drivers to be vigilant when they travelled throughout Queensland this winter, as new data revealed the number of crashes which involved wildlife spiked in the cooler months.

Club spokesperson Renee Smith said the insurer received more than 11,000 claims in the past three years due to vehicle collisions with animals.

“Not surprisingly, the largest number of claims were for crashes near regional towns including Roma, St George and Chinchilla,” Ms Smith said.

“In July and August we see an increase in claims because low rainfall and drier conditions force wildlife, like kangaroos, to forage on available grass on the roadside.

“Dusk and dawn are peak times for wildlife activity, so avoid being behind the wheel during those periods and you’ll reduce your risk of an animal strike.”

Ms Smith said if motorists saw an animal on the road, they should slow down – but warned time was not always on the driver’s side.

“Animals are unpredictable and we encourage drivers to show caution and take note of any wildlife signage if they have to be on the road when risks are increased,” she said.

“If you do have to make a split-second decision, remember to brake carefully. Be mindful of your surrounds and aware of both traffic coming towards you or travelling behind.”

Top five regions for claims from animal strikes in the past three years:

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| 1. Maranoa | 2,404 |
| 2. Fitzroy | 1,477 |
| 3. Wide Bay | 1,422 |
| 4. Mackay | 911 |
| 5. Ipswich | 811. |

Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Renee Smith 0409 573 193; Media Advisor Andrew van der Beek 0429 207 014.

RACQ is Queensland’s largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State’s first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.