

Roadkill Monitoring Report –
January to March 2016

Tarkine Drive Upgrade



April 2016

This report details the results of roadkill monitoring activities for the Tarkine Drive over the first three-month period of 2016, and is the tenth report in total. The Commonwealth Government approved the project to proceed in line with a number of environmental conditions approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Condition 11 of this approval requires that the Department of State Growth publish a roadkill monitoring report every three months, as part of the *Draft Roadkill Monitoring Adaptive Management Plan (RMAMP)*, which details the results of monitoring activities.

Tarkine Drive, a 92.7km road, is monitored weekly for signs of roadkill (see *Image 1* below). All road upgrade works were completed in December 2014, with the road officially reopened in June 2015.

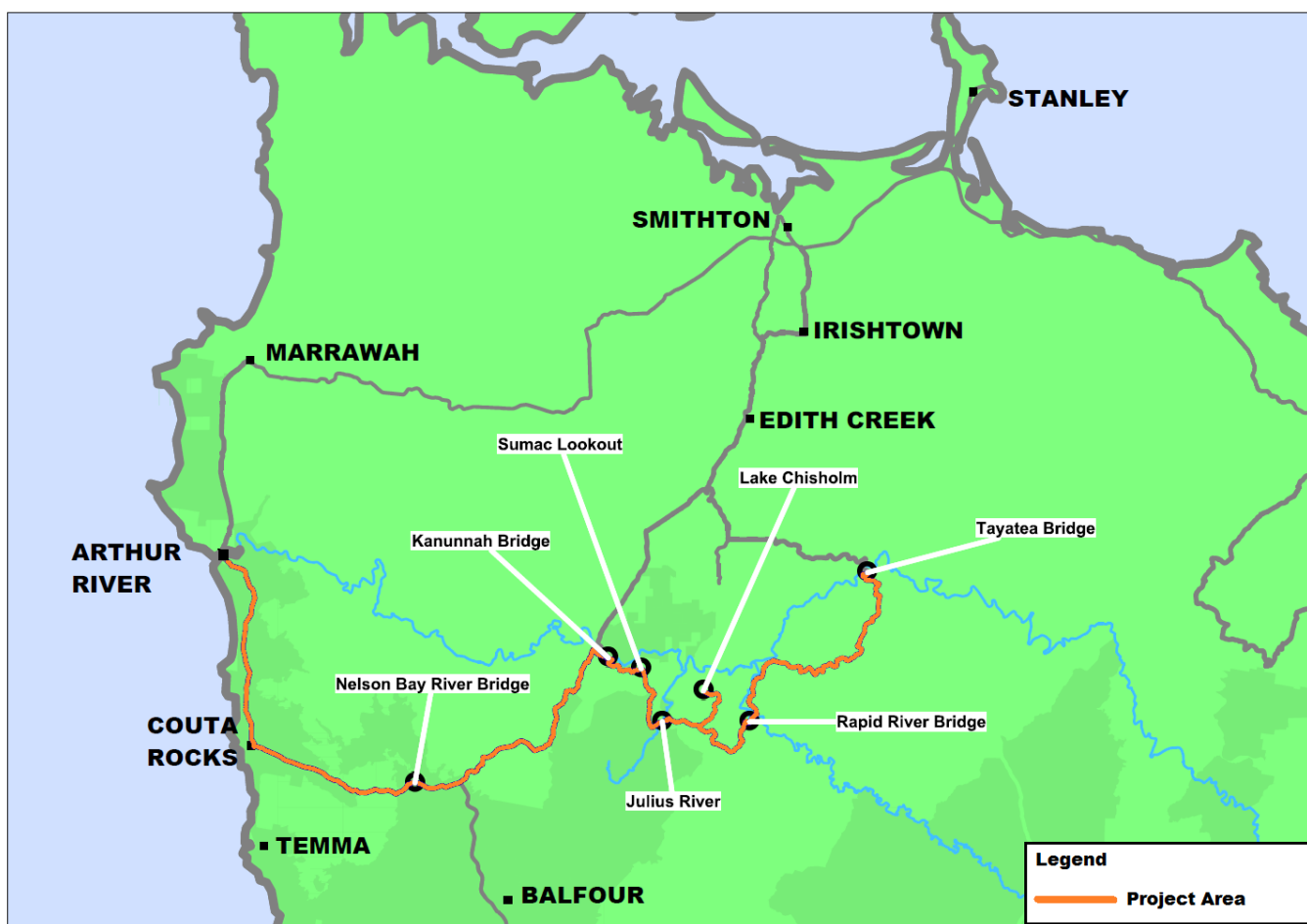


Image 1. Map of project area.

Data collected as part of these monitoring activities is based on pre-defined criteria outlined by the Approval. These criteria are:

- Date and time of identification;
- Location (GPS coordinates);
- Species identified (all species are to be recorded);

- Body condition; and
- Any other notable circumstances.

Monitoring results for this three-month period are detailed in appendices at the end of this report. 8 animals were recorded as roadkill during this period; no threatened species were recorded (see table in *Appendix A*). The locations of these species are displayed on the map in *Appendix B*. These results may be reflective of the normal seasonal variation of animal activity in this area, increased accessibility of the road due to the completion of road works or increased visitation to the area; nonetheless, these numbers are consistent with modelling developed prior to the upgrade and remain below the trigger thresholds outlined as part of the Approval.

All monitoring activities occur under a regular maintenance regime, specified in the RMAMP. During this period, north-west Tasmania – including areas subject to this approval – were subject to uncontrolled bushfires. This meant that much of the Tarkine Drive was closed and accessible only to emergency services. A limited number of surveys for roadkill surveillance were undertaken between weeks ending 24th January (week 4) to 20th March (week 12). Surveillance activities over this period were superseded by concerns for safety and unnecessary activity on the roads during an emergency.

While surveys were not conducted during the above-described period, nor was the road being utilised in a typical ‘operational’ capacity. Surveying resumed during temporary periods of road operation and commenced in-earnest during the week ending 27th March 2016. Monitoring for this quarter is therefore unlikely to reflect a true sample of roadkill-related activity.

Roadkill remains an issue of particular concern for the area, and as such, a number of measures have been implemented as part of the construction project to minimise total roadkill numbers. These measures include:

- Reduced speed limits;
- Installation of audible ‘rumble’ strips at 26 separate locations;
- Use of light-coloured pavement in the road surface to improve visibility;
- Removal of roadside vegetation to reduce proximity of habitat to road;
- Installation of new table drains to reduce ponding of water at the roadside;
- Improved sight distance;
- Wildlife warning signs; and
- Regular monitoring and removal of roadkill to prevent other scavenger animals being attracted to the road.

All of the above-listed measures have already been implemented and continue to be maintained. The recent fires had surprisingly little impact on these measures, with only three wildlife warning signs being damaged. These signs have already been replaced.

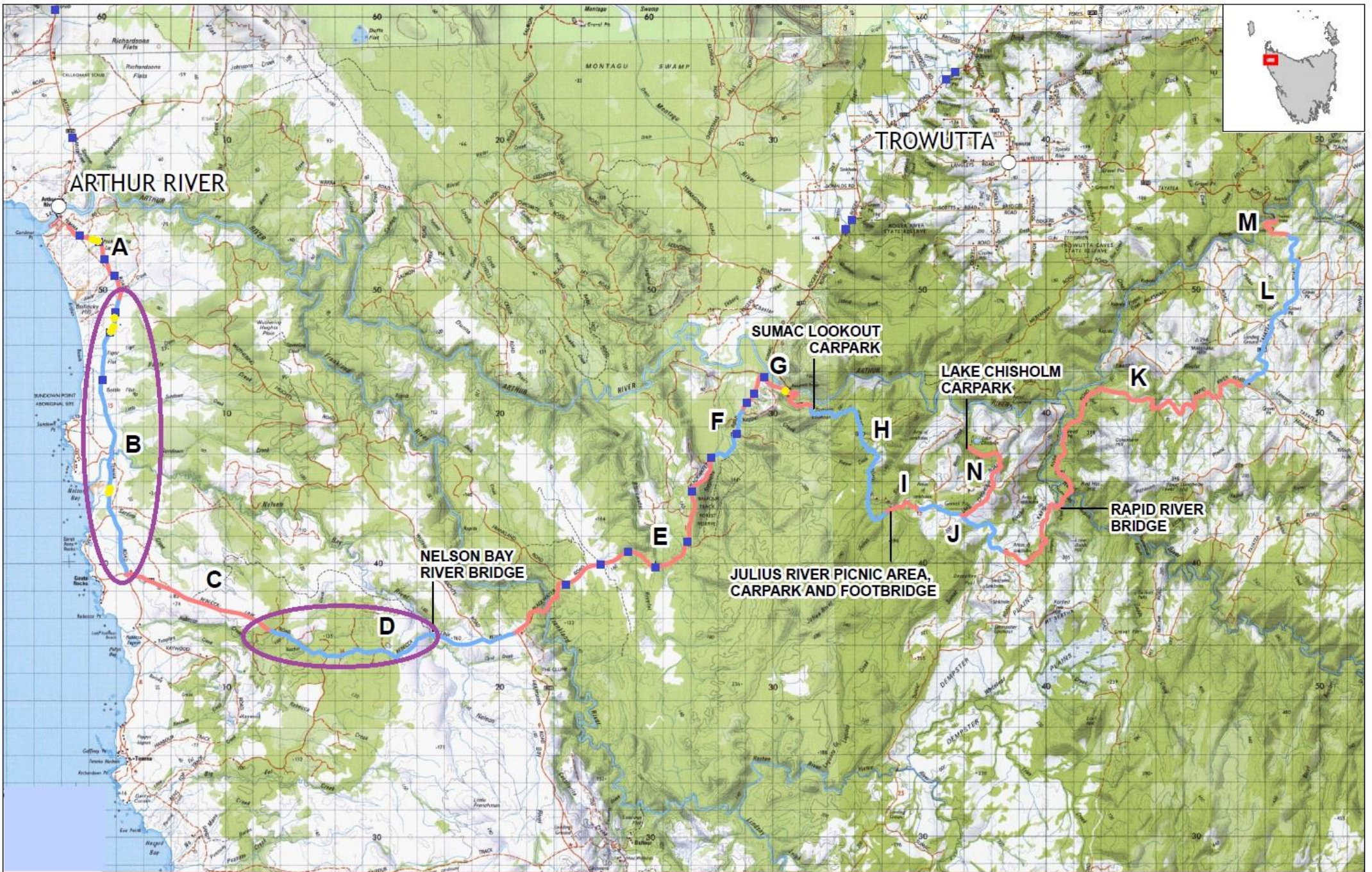
It is difficult to specifically appropriate reduced numbers of roadkill to a specific measure or circumstance. It is expected that the implementation of these roadkill mitigation measures has assisted in reducing the incidences of roadkill throughout known roadkill hotspots, however this is subject to significant variability in road use, road user behaviours and other chance factors.


Tarkine Drive – Roadkill Monitoring Report – January to March 2016

Following the approval of the RMAMP, should total numbers of roadkill be found to be increasing, additional mitigation measures will be implemented at pre-existing or newly identified roadkill hotspot locations.

Appendix A: Table of Results

Appendix B: Map of Roadkill Locations and Installed Mitigation Measures




 Data sources:
 Base image by TASMAP (C) State of Tasmania
 Base data from The LIST (C) State of Tasmania
 Heritage data from CHMAA
 Design data from pitt&sherry
 Map produced by pitt&sherry Date: 25/05/2012
 Map ref: H809080_H038_PRR_Plg_Projects_12P_RevA

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres
 Scale: 1:125,000 Map Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Roadkill
 ● - Threatened Species
 ● - Non-Threatened Species
Mitigation
 ■ - Rumble Strips
 ○ - Light-Coloured Pavement

DEPARTMENT OF STATE GROWTH
 Tarkine Drive - Progress Report - January to March 2016