

5 July 2021

Stay Alert - Straying Stock

With an increase in road incidents involving wandering livestock Council is urging road users and stock owners to stay alert.

“For the safety of everyone using roads, Council is warning all road users to stay vigilant and slow down if there is any stock on or near the road, while stock owners are encouraged to check and fix boundary fences,” said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan. “This comes after a significant increase in the number of incidents and near misses that have been caused from livestock wandering on the roads.”

“For stock owners, it is important to consider not only the value of the stock that may be destroyed due to a collision but also the impact on road users when stock are wandering outside their boundary fences,” said Cr Doolan.

Wandering stock is a major concern for road users, and the consequences for stock owners could be significant. Straying stock may result in fines, civil action and even criminal charges if owners are found to be negligent. Straying stock can also create a biosecurity risk and owners could be liable for any damage caused.

“To reduce the risk of stock straying from your property, Council is urging stock owners to ensure boundary fences are stock proof, fences are regularly maintained and checked and all boundary gates are locked. This will help ensure the safety of stock and road users,” Cr Doolan concluded.

If you see stock stray onto public land, report it to Council’s Compliance Officers immediately on (02) 6849 2000.

If you are able to identify the owner of the stock, make attempts to notify the owner so they may recover the straying stock.

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