

# Turtle Information Guide for Events

## A guide to helping our local turtles thrive



City of  
**Cockburn**

wetlands to waves

Image courtesy of Mike Gowerby

### Introduction

The Southwestern snake-necked turtle (*Chelodina colliei*) lives in natural and urban waterbodies within the City. They play a vital role within ecosystems including controlling insect populations. To conserve this species, it is critical that they are protected.

From September-November, Turtles leave the water to nest – travelling up to 1km. Hatchlings emerge between June-August. During these times both are vulnerable to predation, vehicle strike and human impacts. Nesting can occur in lawn, mulched or sandy areas, garden beds and bushland.

### Purpose

The purpose of this Guide is to educate event organisers about turtles, the potential impacts on turtles and how to help protect them during an event.

This guide applies to events hosted at parks and reserves with waterbodies from 1 September to 30 November (i.e. Bibra Lake and Manning Park)

The following event aspects could impact turtles:

- Increased pedestrian foot traffic and accompanying pets (off lead dogs)
- Vehicles including cars, food trucks, trailers, bikes etc
- Marquee, toilets and other event infrastructure.

### Interesting facts



Image courtesy of Dan Millea

40-year lifespan

Can grow up to  
50cm long

Hatchlings are the  
size of 20c coin.

### Important contacts

**Turtle Tracker  
Coordinator**  
0409 113 027

**WA Wildlife**  
9417 7105

## Stallholder Actions

As part of event approval, event coordinators and vendors need to action the following to support local turtle populations:



### Pre-Event

- ☐ 1. Event coordinator and Cockburn Turtle Tracker Coordinator to conduct onsite meeting.
- ☐ 2. Event coordinators, event staff and all vendors to read public awareness campaign flyer "What should I do if I see a turtle?"
- ☐ 3. Event vendors to display public awareness campaign flyer "What should I do if I see a turtle?"
- ☐ 4. Display 'This is a Turtle Friendly Event' signage' during set-up, event and pack down. To be collected from City of Cockburn Operations Centre, 52 Wellard Street, Bibra Lake.
- ☐ 3. Help to protect existing nests.
  - Nests are likely to be within your event area. These have 3 wooden stakes with yellow caps, signage and protection mesh and pegs
  - Ensure these nests are protected and not interfered with during set-up, event duration and pack down.

### During Event

- ☐ 1. What to do if you see a turtle at your event?
  - Notify Cockburn Turtle Tracker Coordinator
  - Ensure turtle is kept safe from:
    - ✓ Vehicles
    - ✓ People – keep back at least 10m
    - ✓ Off-lead dogs
    - ✓ Ravens – wave them off from attacking
    - ✓ If turtle is injured, take directly to WA Wildlife, 172 Hope Road, Bibra Lake.
- ☐ Extra actions public are advised:
  - They are not lost, assist them in the direction they are heading
  - Log sighting on TurtleSAT  
<https://turtlesat.org.au/turtlesat>
- ☐ 2. Support Turtle Trackers at your event.
  - Turtle tracker volunteers in high visibility vests, carrying turtle nest protection equipment will be present at your event. Allow volunteers to conduct their duties.



☐ *Scan me*  
Record your  
turtle and nest  
sightings

### Post Event

- ☐ 1. Return 'This is a Turtle Friendly Event' signage to City's Operations Centre.
- ☐ 2. Report any incidences to Cockburn Turtle Tracker Coordinator via email  
[environmentaleducation@cockburn.wa.gov.au](mailto:environmentaleducation@cockburn.wa.gov.au)