



Media release

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Heroes in a half shell to make perilous annual journey

- Western long-necked turtle nesting season coming up (October – December)
- Turtles will be crossing Golf Links Road and nearby roads
- Don't hurtle, watch for turtles: slow and steady wins the race

Turtle power will soon be in effect around Lake Seppings as Albany's heroes in a half-shell make their hazardous yearly expedition across Golf Links Road.

Each year, generally between October and December, scores of western long-necked turtles leave the comfort of Lake Seppings to bravely cross Golf Links Road (and other nearby roads) to build nests and lay eggs, before making the journey back to the water.

The City of Albany will be installing temporary speed reduction signs along Golf Links Rd to warn motorists to be on the lookout for turtles when driving.

Turtles can fall victim to unwitting motorists, so please take care and be turtle-aware.

Turtle info

(That's a fact, Jack)

- Western long-necked turtle nesting season is generally October-December and is initially triggered by a specific weather pattern: rain bearing low pressure front (barometer falling below 1015hPa).
- Turtles dig a nest chamber in the ground and lay between 4-16 eggs, then return to their aquatic habitat (20mins to two hours to complete nesting).
- Females never return to the nest but may return to the same area in the same season to lay more eggs, or in the following seasons.
- Females can put egg development 'on hold' like kangaroos do if conditions are not right.
- The eggs take at least seven months to hatch.
- Many nests do not survive due to predation, poor nest location and egg infertility.
- Hatchlings are smaller than a 50 cent piece when they emerge from the nest.

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