



# Media release

Office: 102 North Road, Yakamia  
Postal: PO Box 484, ALBANY WA 6331  
Phone: (08) 9841 9333  
Fax: (08) 9841 4099  
Record No: REL042/MR 1379585

---

**Date Issued: October 16 2013**

**Authorised by: DENNIS WELLINGTON, MAYOR**

---

## **Turtle alert – please drive slow and steady during nesting season**

Recent anecdotal reports suggest there may be more western long-necked turtles than usual on or near the roads surrounding Lake Seppings.

At this time of year turtles are a common sight crossing Golf Links Road next to Lake Seppings. Golf Links Road is a busy thoroughfare between Middleton Beach and Emu Point and speed limits range from 40kmh to 80kmh.

In the past week many turtles have been leaving their watery habitat and making the hazardous journey across the road to the Albany Golf Club to make nests and lay eggs.

City of Albany Reserves Manager Mark Ford said a high number of turtles had been spotted crossing the road already this month and it was important to drive slowly during the nesting season.

“Unfortunately the turtles can sometimes fall victim to unwitting motorists, so we want to urge all drivers to take care and be turtle-aware,” Mr Ford said.

Nesting season for the turtles is generally October to December.

END

### **Turtle facts:**

- 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.