

Hazardous fencing for wildlife

There are several types of common fencing that can be particularly hazardous for wildlife:

Barbed wire fencing

The use of barbed wire fencing has led to significant injury and death of native wildlife across Australia including flying foxes, gliders, koalas and birds. Within Brisbane, barbed wire fencing is regulated; it is only permitted in industrial and rural areas and must comply with the requirements of Brisbane City Council's *Health, Safety and Amenity Local Law 2021*.

Property owners are encouraged to replace any existing barbed wire fences on their property with fauna-friendly alternatives, such as single smooth strand wire, or an alternative style of fence. Existing barbed wire fences can also be modified with protective covering on the top wire.

Where the use of barbed wire is unavoidable and complies with the *Health, Safety and Amenity Local Law 2021*, reflective material (such as metal tags, white electric fence tape that flickers in the breeze, poly-pipe or used CDs) should be installed at a minimum of 30 cm intervals along the top wire to improve visibility for wildlife and decrease the risk of entanglement.



Electric fencing

Electric barbed wire fencing is not recommended in any circumstance by Brisbane City Council. It is hazardous and dangerous to many types of wildlife, often resulting in entrapment, injury, and death.

Other types of electric fences may be installed in certain circumstances. However, they are not recommended on lot boundaries between privately owned properties, or in proximity to publicly accessible areas.

Netting or mesh fencing

Netting and mesh can sometimes be used to fence and protect vegetation and food crops, however if poorly designed or incorrectly installed, it can represent a significant threat to wildlife, often resulting in entanglement.

If using netting or mesh, ensure the mesh size is less than 5 mm. As a guide, you should not be able to poke your finger through it.

More information

For more information on electric fencing specifications, contact Council on **3403 8888** and/or refer to the *Health, Safety and Amenity Local Law 2021* for more information.