



## Trapping Possums

Did you know possums are protected by State laws?

- [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972](#), and
- [The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985](#).

### Permits

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Permits are necessary to capture, release or kill possums. Any conditions imposed on permits must be observed. Permits must be obtained before trapping possums. Permits are available from the Department for Environment and Heritage.

### Your Responsibility

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You have a legal responsibility to deal with a possum problem in a humane manner.

This information is aimed at assisting residents to manage the trapping of possums and minimise any distress caused to captured possums.

### Thing you need to know about trapping possums

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Capture is stressful to possums and has the potential to cause harm and distress to them if the trap is not managed correctly.

Consider how the trap will be managed by taking the following issues into account:

- The amount of time the possum will spend in the trap,
- Protection of the possum from predators,
- Protection from environmental effects such as dehydration.

Position the trap inside the roof space near the possum's access point. Ensure the trap is secure and stable to avoid potential injury to the possum. This needs to be done on the day you will possum proof your house, especially if the possum is still in your roof at the time of proofing.

Set the trap at dusk and check each morning. Close the trap each morning to make sure possums are not caught in the trap in the heat of the day. Reset the trap at dusk.

**NOTE: trapping and releasing possums without possum proofing your building will not solve the problem.**

### Releasing possums

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The possum must be released on the same property within 50 metres of the capture site within 24 hours.

The time of release must be consistent with the possum's usual time of movement (after dusk).

At the time of release all reasonable steps must be taken to protect possums from injury or predation by other animals.

The person managing the possum trap must comply with animal welfare standards outlined in the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985](#), the regulations subordinate to that Act and any other relevant Codes of Practice.