

Goanna found with arrow in body is third animal to be shot in a week

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/goanna-found-with-arrow-in-body-is-third-animal-to-be-shot-in-a-week-20160113-gm5est.html>

January 14, 2016 **Lucy Cormack**



Investigations suggest the goanna may have been carrying the arrow in its body for several days. Photo: Wyee Point Rural Fire Service

A goanna was found fighting for its life with an arrow through its body in Lake Macquarie on Wednesday afternoon, the third animal to fall victim to an attack in the area this week.

The injured animal was found on a fire trail off Larapinta Drive, Wyee Point, by a member of the public, on Wednesday.

Police and an RSPCA inspector located the goanna in a tree. They removed it with the help of the Wyee Point Rural Fire Service and took it to a specialised vet.

Initial investigations suggest it may have been carrying the arrow through its body for a number of days.

In a Facebook post, the Wyee Point Rural Fire Service spoke out against the "animal cruelty" and said it helped the RSPCA and NSW Police "with the recovery of an injured lace monitor [goanna] that had been shot with an arrow".

"After a [kangaroo] joey was shot with an arrow at the Wyee Point Park on Sunday and another adult kangaroo killed this morning [Wednesday], these killings have to stop," the post said.

"We ask local residents to be on the lookout and report any suspicious activity to police immediately.

"Should you have any information that may assist police in finding the individuals responsible for the cruel attack we urge you to please contact your local police station or Crime Stoppers."

Community members commenting on the Facebook post expressed shock at the animal cruelty.



The wound in a goanna, which was found with an arrow through his body. Photo: Wyee Point Rural Fire Service

"I really hope you find this inhumane individual quickly," Kim Evans Pracy said.

Another commenter, Mathew Hands, said, "My guess is some little darling received a compound bow and arrows for Christmas. With these pictures being shared I suspect the parents are aware of who is responsible but will do nothing about it."

RSPCA NSW Inspector Graeme Dymond agreed that someone may have received a bow and arrow for Christmas and are using it to target slow-moving animals.

"The pouch joey was found in the children's play area, dead, and the adult eastern kangaroo had to be euthanased," he said.

"The goanna had an arrow penetrating from its right leg, right through its chest cavity. After it was treated at the vet it is now back with wildlife carers."

Mr Dymond said the outlook for the goanna was positive, but expressed his shock at the recent spate of attacks.

"It's all happening in the bush. It's a large bush area that borders Lake Macquarie, so you couldn't put security or people doing surveillance," he said.

"I've spoken to local residents, it's all over Facebook. At this stage we're just waiting for someone to say they know something."



The injured goanna undergoing treatment at a specialist veterinary clinic. Photo: James Cooney/Facebook