

FACT SHEET: Snake Awareness

Be snake aware in warmer weather

Summer can be a great time to be outdoors. However, the warm weather can bring out snakes in search of food, water and warmth.

Snakes are a natural part of living in Australia and it's very important to be snake aware and take relevant precautions so that we can enjoy the outdoors safely. Common venomous snakes found in the Camden area, include the Red-bellied Black Snake and the Eastern Brown Snake. Sighting a snake can be an alarming experience, but there are steps you can take to stay safe.

If you see a snake:

- Remain calm;
- DO NOT approach the snake;
- Walk away slowly; and
- Keep a safe distance so the snake does not feel threatened.

All native snakes in NSW are protected under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and it is illegal to harm these animals. Never try to kill or capture a snake as most bites occur while attempting to do this.

If you are concerned about snakes on your property, remember that most snakes are likely to be passing through and will leave your property in time. Only licensed snake collectors can remove snakes from private properties.

To contact a licensed snake collector, call the National Parks and Wildlife Service office on 4632 4500.

To discourage snakes from straying onto your property:

- Keep your lawns mowed and gardens free of overgrowth;
- Keep your property free of rubbish and debris; and
- Control rats and mice on your property



Eastern Brown Snakes (*Pseudonaja textilis*) are recognisable by their brown colour but do vary in shade, particularly as babies when their heads are almost entirely black. Eastern Brown Snakes are very aggressive when they feel threatened and the babies are also extremely venomous.

The species is often found in dense bushland and on farmland and seeks hiding spots both natural and man-made areas, for example rocks, burrows, under rubbish piles and buildings. The animal's main food source are rodents (mice and rats), but it can also feed on other small mammals.



Red-bellied Black Snakes (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) are easy to identify by their shiny black backs and red belly scales. They prefer semi-aquatic habitats such as dams and rivers and have a diet of frogs, lizards, small mammals and birds.

This is not an aggressive species and generally retreats from encounters with people but can attack if provoked. It is crucial that you leave the animal alone and move away slowly if you do encounter one.

Snakes are very important to local food webs and assist in reducing mice and rat populations.

Remember that snakes are found naturally in various habitats in Australia and it is important that we understand their place in the ecosystem.

For more information, call Council on 4654 7777 or visit www.camden.nsw.gov.au

If you are bitten by any snake, apply first aid immediately and call 000 for ambulance assistance – DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CATCH THE SNAKE.



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4654 7777



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