Table 4.1 Type and detail of ecological input required in each stage of a road project. Project stages are explained further in Figure 4.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage in road project</th>
<th>Type and detail of ecological input required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic planning</td>
<td>Focus on options that avoid or improve ecological outcomes based on strategic environmental assessment. Examples of key questions include: Can the impact on important wildlife migration routes be avoided? Can the project enhance wildlife connectivity by restoring connections? Can areas without roads be avoided?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical planning</td>
<td>Focus on road designs that minimise, mitigate or offset impacts based on detailed ecological analysis. Examples of key questions include: Where should fauna crossings be located? Can the road design be modified to minimise impact on important habitat?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Ensure that ecologically sensitive designs are easily translated to construction. Examples of key questions include: Has the design of wildlife crossing structures met the required standards for the target species? Has the detailed drainage design considered the impact on adjacent important habitat?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation</td>
<td>Ongoing ecological management, maintenance of mitigation measures, review and adaptive management. Examples of key questions include: Is there a plan for monitoring and maintenance in place to ensure crossing structures remain effective over time? Are areas of important habitat adjacent to the road project being managed to ensure that they are not degraded by indirect impacts of the operation of the road?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>