

## 5 facts about digging and the environment

Scientists and researchers have known for some time that the loss of digging mammals is having an impact on our environment.

Why exactly are digging animals so valuable? They provide five key functions that are critical to Australian ecosystems:

1. **SOIL TURNOVER** – altering chemical properties by bringing nutrients to soil surface
2. **CAPTURE ORGANIC MATTER** – incorporate debris into soil, improves soil health
3. **WATER INFILTRATION** – increased soil moisture and nutrients for plants
4. **FUNGAL DISPERSAL AND RECRUITMENT** – disbursement of certain fungi
5. **SEED DISPERSAL AND PLANT RECRUITMENT** – more plant seeds with improved seedling germination

All this means increased plant activity with improved plant resistance to disease and pests.



This little joey will grow to dig burrows through very hard soils... just check out those digging claws!

**Wombat Protection Society of Australia**

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