



WPSA

GREAT NEWS FOR WOMBATS

Wombat Protection Society now has a Biodiversity Conservation Licence (BCL) to treat wombats with mange in NSW

The Wombat Protection Society Australia (WPSA) has been granted a Biodiversity Conservation Licence (BCL) by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. This BCL is for “the in situ treatment of free-living mange affected wombats”. This is a big step forward in the fight against mange as the BCL will now enable WPSA to have direct involvement with wombat mange treatment in NSW.

Previously, WPSA was only able to provide information and advice about wombats with mange and had to refer wombat mange reports to licenced wildlife groups to treat, if the group had a mange program. Unfortunately, many groups do not have a mange program, making finding help for

wombats with mange a slow and difficult process. Sadly, this meant that many wombats went untreated due to the lack of resources in the wildlife sector to treat mange, and because WPSA was unable to deal directly with landholders or members of the community wanting help a wombat with mange.

While WPSA was established in 2006 primarily to educate, advocate and raise awareness of wombat conservation issues and, particularly, mange in wombats, this BCL now enables WPSA to be ‘operational’ and work directly with landholders, members of the public, community groups, environment, conservation and indigenous groups, who are not members of licenced wildlife groups in NSW.

WPSA has always provided mange training for members of wildlife groups but is now able to supervise mange treatment across NSW. Already a number of landholders and community groups have come on board, been trained and started treating mange under the WPSA BCL.

WPSA has reached out to licenced wildlife groups who do not have a wombat mange program or have limited capacity to meet the demands of treating wombats with mange in their area and offered assistance and support.

WPSA has applied for funding available through the Curb Wombat Mange grant program, being administered by the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife: <https://fnpw.org.au/grant/nsw-curb-wombat-mange-grant-program/>. If successful with this funding application, WPSA will be able to provide mange supplies to those registered and trained under the WPSA BCL.

WPSA worked with the Animal Justice Party to lobby the NSW Government to provide funding for mange treatment and research. It was through this advocacy that \$2.8m has been made available to licenced wildlife groups in NSW to help in the war against mange.

WPSA has appointed a Wombat Mange Program Coordinator for NSW. If you would like to get involved and want to treat wombats with mange in your area, or discuss the WPSA mange program, or get more information about mange, please contact WPSA at: mange@wombatprotection.org.au

WPSA looks forward to an increased role in the effort to help wombats with mange across NSW.

General mange questions and mange reports from Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia can still be reported in the usual way at mange@wombatprotection.org.au



Mange tip. It is always a good idea to leave some water out for wombats with mange. They are usually dehydrated and providing water will encourage them to come to location to drink, where you can see the wombat easily and treat it. Clever positioning will enable you to sneak up and treat the wombat directly with the pole and scoop method. Put some rocks or a stick in the water to prevent birds and lizards from drowning.