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**From:** Sch 1 1.14  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 June 2024 10:13 AM  
**To:** Burkevics, Bren; Sch 2.2(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii) ConservatorFloraFauna  
**Subject:** RE: Wombat review

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Thank you so much for your response and for your interest in talking to the external reviewer. I have passed on your email address, and [redacted] will be in contact presently. If you are able to facilitate a meeting with other farmers that would be greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, in person will be tricky as [redacted] is truly external and based in [redacted]

Regards

Sch 1 1.14

**Office of Nature Conservation**

Phone: Sch 1 1.14  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government  
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | [Office of Nature Conservation](#)

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**From:** Burkevics, Bren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2024 10:17 AM  
**To:** [redacted]; Sch 1 1.14  
**Cc:** [redacted]; ConservatorFloraFauna  
**Subject:** RE: Wombat review

Hi [redacted]

How are you?

Thanks for writing and expressing the challenges that you are experiencing with wombats.

This issue is firmly on my mind. I raised this matter with attendees at the RLA general meeting on Monday. It cleared resonated with lessees who I have never met before. They approached me saying that wombats are doing damage and interfering with their conservation efforts. One lessee said that one particularly determined wombat had dug up plantings along a riparian corridor.

What I want to avoid is rural lessees getting into trouble because they have taken matters into their own hands and have harmed a native protected animal. I am more that prepared to have a further discussion on this that encompasses all options. There is always a balanced approach, we just have to find it.

Please feel result assured that this has caught my eye as conservator.

Regards

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager  
Phone 02 6207 8628 | Mobile [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

**Executive Support:** Tegan Patience | Email [tegan.patience@act.gov.au](mailto:tegan.patience@act.gov.au) | Phone 02 6207 5216

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government  
Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601  
[Environment.act.gov.au](http://Environment.act.gov.au)

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**From:** [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) >

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2024 9:47 AM

**To:** [Sch 1 1.14](#)

**Cc:** [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#); [Burkevics, Bren](#) <[Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au](mailto:Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au)>; [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

**Subject:** RE: Wombat review

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Hi [Sch 1 1.14](#)

Thank you for following up on this escalating matter.

Please see attached photos/report

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

There should be accountability and repercussions to those within the community actively obstructing a meaningful, logical and rational wombat strategy. Landholders are being denied the ability to safeguard themselves, their workers, infrastructure, livestock, machinery, pets, family and friends. This process is a glacial pace. Wombats are an increasingly large issue for many landholders and it is perceived by the farming community that government is being bullied by the Wombat Lobby. This will eventually force some Landholders to work outside the law.

I welcome *"the person doing the external wombat review"* consulting with people directly impacted by wombat activity and not involve a cast of thousands and suggest the meeting be a physical meeting not zoom etc.

I have also discussed this issue with Bren Burkevics in relation to the bullying and intimidating tactics of the Wombat Lobby.

In response to your questions:

4. Waterpipes and telephone.
6. Sheep and Cattle, a carcass is found every 18-24 months app.
7. Yes, wombats dig holes and which are then used by sheep.

I apologise if my tone sounds terse however, this issue has been waiting action by government for over 10 years.

**Please pass on my contact details.**

Kind Regards

[Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

**From:** Sch 1 1.14  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 June 2024 4:23 PM  
**To:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Wombat review

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Thank you so much for this list of topics last year. I have passed it on to the person doing the external wombat review and they had a couple of points of clarification they would love some more detail on. I have provided the questions in blue following your points

4. Damage to infrastructure essentials services, stock watering points, buildings, power poles(Bush Fire), water pipes both stock and domestic . \_ [Could you provide more detail on the damage is to the pipes and the type of pipes that are sustaining damage?](#)
6. Animal welfare livestock becoming trapped in wombats holes leading to a slow inhumane death. This extends to family pets and the emotional and mental health related to grieving the loss. - [Could you provide more detail on what type of livestock and how frequently does this occur?](#)
7. Bio security hazard , land managers unable to fully contain stock on the farm. Lice, foot rot etc. - [Is this from wombats damaging fencing and preventing stock from being contained?](#)

If you would be happy to talk directly to the reviewer that would also be fantastic. I can pass on contact details.

Thanks very much

Steph

Sch 1 1.14

**Office of Nature Conservation**

**I Email:**

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government  
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | [Office of Nature Conservation](#)

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**From:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:31 PM  
**To:** Sch 1 1.14  
**Cc:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Wombat review

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Hi [Sch 1 1.14]

Relevant topics from many farmers:

- 1) Farm safety as regarding wombat holes either walking, riding a horse, side by side, motorcycle ,tractor, truck. [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]
- 2) Income loss due to injury.
- 3) Increased workers compensation cost after claim.
- 4) Damage to infostucture essentials services, stock watering points, buildings, power poles(Bush Fire), water pipes both stock and domestic .
- 5) Stock management stock accessing areas/paddocks through holes in or through wombat holes leading to additional economic loss.
- 6) Animal welfare livestock becoming trapped in wombats holes leading to a slow inhumane death. This extents to family pets and the emotional and mental heath related to grieving the loss.
- 7) Bio security hazard , land managers unable to fully contain stock on the farm. Lice, foot rot etc.
- 8) Public Safety along riparian zone.
- 9) Trespass by members of the public rescuing/treating mangey wombats.
- 10) Massive erosion events triggered by wombat burrowings.
- 11) A lack of co-operation, unwillingness and accountability to land holders with in ACT Govt. when land managers are repairing environmental destruction created by wombats.
- 12) Obstructive and burdensome legislation by government hampering correct , humane and environmentally sound outcomes to secure a correct outcome reflecting the community's expectations and standards.
- 13) If wombat numbers are allow to keep increasing at their current population growth rate, parts of ACT's rural lands will have marginal ability to be farmed, due to disruption of farming practices.

Thank you [Sch 1 1.14] for this opportunity.

Regards [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]

---

**From:** [Sch 1 1.14]

**Sent:** Friday, 24 November 2023 11:54 AM

**Subject:** Wombat review

Dear Wombat Stakeholder Working Group

I mentioned in the last wombat stakeholder working group meeting that we are planning to make a start on a Wombat Strategy for the ACT.

The first step of this process will be to undertake a review that brings in the relevant topics with regards to wombats in the ACT.

We would appreciate it if you could send in any particular topics you would like to be addressed in this review.

The review will be undertaken by an external party and will involve further consultation with you all.

Regards

Sch 1 1.14

Office of Nature Conservation

Phone: Sch 1 1.14

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government  
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | [Office of Nature Conservation](#)

*I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.*

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# Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

# Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

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**From:** Sch 1 1.14  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 July 2024 8:31 AM  
**To:** Yolandi Vermaak  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Wombat Review

Hi Yolandi (and [REDACTED])

Thanks for getting back to me. Great to hear you have already heard from [REDACTED]

I can see where you are coming from in terms of your reservations and I understand why the word 'management' makes you uneasy, as it can be used in different ways, including to refer to culling. In my email I am using it just to mean everything we do in relation to the species, including any and all conservation and disease treatment measures. We are not making any assumptions about what types of management recommendations will come out of this review.

Unfortunately, I can't make any blanket assurances that future management plans would not include culling. Our team is certainly not aware of any plans to introduce a wombat culling program, but ultimately those sorts of decisions are up to the Conservator, not us. I know this is not what you want to hear, but to get a definitive answer you would need to go through the Conservator's office. I'd be happy to forward anything on for you.

In terms of your data, I can assure you that it would not be used to inform culling. For example, the ACT Gov would not pick 'culling sites' based off wombat hotspots identified from your data. The data will simply be used to help [REDACTED] get a good understanding on how wombats are faring in the ACT, and provide recommendations based off the findings. So as not to muddy the waters, perhaps it's best you share the data with [REDACTED] directly rather than through me? That way you can rest easy knowing the ACT Gov doesn't have it and that the data won't be used for any purpose other than the review.

Unless you have any further questions, I'll leave it up to you to think about what you'd like to do. At the end of the day, it is your data and you have no obligation to share it. But if you think the data would be useful, please do consider sharing it directly with [REDACTED] so that [REDACTED] has everything to make the most informed decision. And you mentioned you are meeting with her soon, so you could always discuss further before you decide anything.

Thanks so much for your time, I really appreciate it. If you have any concerns please feel free to reach out.  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Yolandi Vermaak  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:02 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Wombat Review

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out to me. I have copied your email to here so that wombat related topics are in this inbox. It's nice to hear from you again!

I did receive an email from [redacted] requesting all my data and we will set up a chat sometime next week. [redacted] email did not provide much context but I assumed this is what it is about.

I do have some reservations and wanted to talk to someone about this before I can supply any additional data.

My reservation is regarding the use of the word management, as in Wombat Management in the ACT. As you know, regarding kangaroos, management means culling. I have previously expressed my concern in using the words wombat management and what it really means going forward. I would like to have some reassurance from EPSDD that wombat management will not ever boil down to a management plan that could include culling.

There is a sentiment in PCS from some staff that munge should not be treated and we are actively increasing wombat numbers by treating munge. In other words, this cohort views munge as a natural way to control numbers. This makes me very uneasy and I do not want to see us going down a path where wombat numbers are seen as "too many" and that that needs "management".

Do you have any thoughts on this or would you like to have a chat at some point perhaps? I have cc'd [redacted] in here as we will both be meeting with [redacted]

Kind regards

Yolandi Vermaak

Founder and President Wombat Support & Rescue NSW/ACT Inc. (~Wombat Rescue)

Our mission: *To protect, support and rescue wombats through education, advocacy and in-field services*

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

Mobile: [redacted]



Hi Yolandi

We met a couple of years ago. My name is [redacted] and I work on ONC's fauna team with [redacted]. I'm the one doing the koala project if that rings any bells. I hope you're well 😊

As you may already know, the ACT has recently engaged an external contractor to independently review bare-nosed wombat policy, legislation, status, processes for decision making, issues, and current activities and programs within the ACT. The intended outcome of the review is to provide a clear path forward in terms of wombat management in the ACT. The person conducting the review is [REDACTED] I imagine [REDACTED] will reach out to you at some point if [REDACTED] has not done so already, so please keep an eye out for any correspondence from [REDACTED]

The reason I am reaching out is I need to collate all of our raw data and hand it over to [REDACTED] to assess. By that I mean data on when/where wombats have been found, what condition they are in and whether they were found as part of a targeted survey or just by chance. Burrow data may also be helpful. Basically anything that will help [REDACTED] to get a good understanding on the status of wombats in the ACT. As you would know, I already have access to data collected by yourself and others through the wombat monitoring surveys app. I can also see all the data collected through the mange portal. And I'm trying track down roadkill data form another section. Outside of that, do you have any extra data that you would be willing to share to help inform [REDACTED] assessment? I'm not sure what your thoughts are on sharing data you have collected, but can appreciate if there are sensitivities you may be concerned about. I'd be more than happy to organise a teams meeting to have a chat before you make a decision if that makes you feel more comfortable. Also happy to answer any questions or concerns via email.

Please have a think about it and let me know if you have anything worth sharing, and what you'd like to do.

Thanks, have a great weekend!



Office of Nature Conservation

[REDACTED] [@act.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@act.gov.au)

[Conservation Research Website](#)

[EPSDD Environment Science Platform](#)



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**From:** Sch 1 1.14  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 July 2024 11:38 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Wombat Review

Hi [REDACTED]

Great! I hope the meeting goes well.

Correct – [REDACTED] is in our biodiversity and conservation policy team. Her email is [REDACTED]@act.gov.au

[REDACTED]@act.gov.au) is a senior conservation officer in the Conservator's office. [REDACTED] report to [REDACTED]@act.gov.au), the conservator liaison. They handle approval/development issues that need to be run by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

Hope that helps.

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sch 2.2(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2024 7:32 PM  
**To:** Sch 1 1.14  
**Subject:** Re: Wombat Review

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for sending those through.  
Looking at my notes, there were a few other people mentioned.  
[REDACTED] - policy & legislation  
[REDACTED] - approvals & development

I've received the data already in both excel and csv format.  
I have gotten a response from Yolandi and will set a meeting next week. We'll let you know how it goes.

cheers  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sch 1 1.14 [REDACTED]@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 July 2024 2:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Wombat Review

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hey [redacted]

Just wanted to touch base regarding data for the wombat review. Please see below a response I've received from Yolandi. I'll come back to her with some info and see if she willing to share her data. But if not, we will just have to go ahead without it and make a note of it. Regardless, I'll be able to collate everything we already have access to and send it through. Would you prefer a csv or shapefile?

Also here are the emails for [redacted] [@act.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@act.gov.au) (CEO or ACT NRM) and [redacted] [@act.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@act.gov.au) (Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator). I think they were all the contacts you were after? Please let me know if you are chasing anyone else.

I'll get that wombat data to you within the next day or so. If you need anything at all, just give me a shout!

Cheers

Sch 1 1.14

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**ACT**  
Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development



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---

**From:** Yolandi Vermaak [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:02 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] >  
**Subject:** Wombat Review

You don't often get email from [redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

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Good morning [redacted] Sch 1 1.14

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Do you have any thoughts on this or would you like to have a chat at some point perhaps? I have cc'd Sch 2.2(a)(ii) in here as we will both be meeting with Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Kind regards

Yolandi Vermaak

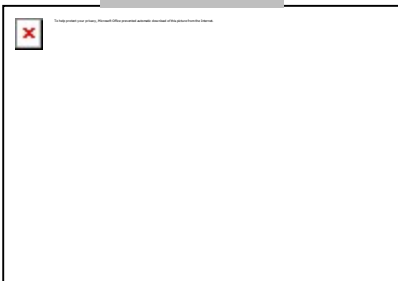
Founder and President Wombat Support & Rescue NSW/ACT Inc. (~Wombat Rescue)

Our mission: *To protect, support and rescue wombats through education, advocacy and in-field services*

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

Mobile:  



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The reason I am reaching out is I need to collate all of our raw data and hand it over to   to assess. By that I mean data on when/where wombats have been found, what condition they are in and whether they were found as part of a targeted survey or just by chance. Burrow data may also be helpful. Basically anything that will help   to get a good understanding on the status of wombats in the ACT. As you

would know, I already have access to data collected by yourself and others through the wombat monitoring surveys app. I can also see all the data collected through the mange portal. And I'm trying track down roadkill data form another section. Outside of that, do you have any extra data that you would be willing to share to help inform [redacted] assessment? I'm not sure what your thoughts are on sharing data you have collected, but can appreciate if there are sensitivities you may be concerned about. I'd be more than happy to organise a teams meeting to have a chat before you make a decision if that makes you feel more comfortable. Also happy to answer any questions or concerns via email.

Please have a think about it and let me know if you have anything worth sharing, and what you'd like to do.

Thanks, have a great weekend!

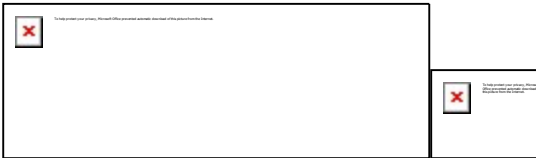


Office of Nature Conservation

[redacted] [@act.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@act.gov.au)

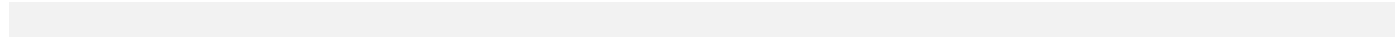
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**From:** Yolandi Vermaak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 August 2025 5:22 PM  
**To:** Burkevics, Bren; ConservatorFloraFauna; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Briefing Note: Wombat Policy in the ACT  
**Attachments:** Wombat Policy in the ACT\_ The Case for Co-existence.pdf

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi all,

I've had the chance to work with each of you over the past few years on different wombat-related matters, and I thought this might be useful to share.

I was recently invited to present at the AWRC, and from that presentation I've put together a short briefing note (attached). It pulls together recent research by Wombat Support & Rescue ACT/NSW and looks at how both science and perception influence policy—sometimes leading to responses that deal with symptoms rather than the underlying issues.

The note includes some practical recommendations for coexistence-focused approaches, such as cross-tenure monitoring, landholder support, coexistence infrastructure, and climate-resilient planning. It also outlines the risks that licensed culling would bring.

I'm sharing it in the hope it adds to the perspectives informing wombat policy in the ACT.

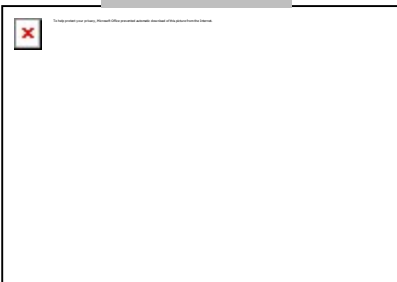
Kind regards

Yolandi Vermaak  
Founder and President Wombat Support & Rescue NSW/ACT Inc. (~Wombat Rescue)  
Our mission: *To protect, support and rescue wombats through education, advocacy and in-field services*

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

Mobile: [REDACTED]



# Wombat Policy in the ACT: The Case for Coexistence

## Executive Summary & Briefing Note

Based on a presentation delivered at the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference (AWRC) in Canberra, August 2025

By Yolandi Vermaak, Wombat Support & Rescue ACT/NSW

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## The Issues

Discussions about wombat management are often influenced by perception and anecdote as much as by scientific evidence. This risks policy responses targeting symptoms rather than addressing the root causes of human-wombat conflict.

Common claims of wombat “overabundance” have no ecological foundation. There is no agreed threshold for optimal wombat density, and even if one were set any baseline would need to account for extensive habitat loss and climate-driven range changes.

Yet these claims continue to influence public opinion and shape policy. Persistent myths such as wombats “breeding like rabbits” are incorrect. In reality, wombats have one joey at a time, only every two years.

Historically, such misconceptions have led to unmanaged culling and population collapse, as seen with the Northern Hairy-Nosed wombat, now critically endangered.

Recent research in ACT by Wombat Rescue shows that burrow counts may create a false impression of abundance. One wombat may use multiple burrows so high burrow numbers do not equate to a large population size. The real driver of human-wombat contact is habitat compression, not wombat numbers.

Habitat loss and fragmentation from development, together with climate change impacts such as drought, fire, flooding, and shifting vegetation, are compressing wombat habitat. This forces wombats into smaller, more visible spaces, increasing encounters with people and infrastructure. Displacement and wombat-wombat competition, particularly among younger males, drive higher animal stress and injury rates - symptoms of habitat pressure, not overpopulation.

While perceptions of overabundance exist, evidence from other jurisdictions increasingly shows that coexistence, not culling, addresses the real drivers of human-wildlife conflict and delivers lasting positive outcomes.

## Key Facts from ACT Case Studies

Research conducted by Wombat Rescue across three ACT landscape types reveal that **wombat burrow numbers do not equal wombat numbers**.

### Survey Methods:

- **Daytime burrow mapping** (on-ground) – confirmed active burrows only.
- **Night-time thermal imaging** (drone) – identified wombat presence and health status.

Case Study	Landscape Condition	Burrows	Wombats	Ratio	Observations
1	Undisturbed nature reserve	140	9	~15:1	Stable, natural spread
2	Semi-disturbed farmland	221	29	~8:1	Clustered near rivers, stable
3	Highly disturbed urban edge	78	15	~5:1	Displaced, more stress & injury

### Interpretation:

Lower burrow-to-wombat ratios are linked to **disturbance and habitat compression**, not breeding rates.

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## Key Findings

1. **Perception is not evidence:** Visibility and anecdote are unreliable indicators of overall numbers, distribution, or impact. High burrow counts or more sightings often reflect habitat compression, and do not indicate overabundance.
2. **Context outweighs count:** Environmental disturbance and declining habitat quality shape outcomes more than population numbers. Where land is fragmented, wombats are compressed into fewer safe areas, increasing wombat competition, stress, and human-wombat conflict. Myths about wombats distract from these systemic drivers.
3. **Climate change and land clearing intensify compression:** Drought, fire, flooding, and vegetation change are reducing viable habitat and forcing wombats into smaller, more visible spaces. This compression drives higher rates of human-wombat encounters, more wombat injuries, and escalating human-wombat conflict.

## Policy Implications

Human–wombat conflict is driven by systemic pressures: habitat loss, fragmentation, and climate-driven habitat compression. These forces push wombats into smaller, more visible spaces, increasing the likelihood of conflict.

Licensed shooting of local populations at select sites cannot resolve these underlying drivers. New wombats will quickly move into newly vacated territory. Lethal control without systemic change locks the ACT into an endless cycle of conflict, cost, and controversy.

A more effective policy approach is available. Coexistence offers a faster, cheaper, and politically safer path: targeted infrastructure, landholder support, formalised partnerships between landholders and wildlife groups, and science-based monitoring that prevent problems before they start.

### Why lethal control fails:

- **Addresses individuals, not causes:** Removing individual animals does not resolve habitat loss, habitat compression, or outdated community attitudes.
- **Creates only temporary fixes:** Newly vacated territory will quickly be filled by another wombat, keeping the cycle going.
- **Oversight risk:** Compliance and humane standards are difficult to monitor or enforce.
- **Regulation risk:** Culling is hard to control, with over 33,000 wombats shot by landholders across four states from 2017 to 2024.
- **Ecological risk:** Slow breeding of wombats means local populations can collapse.
- **Public image risk:** Lethal measures undermine the ACT's reputation for progressive, science-based policy.
- **Social licence risk:** After recognising animal sentience, the ACT Government is expected to keep policy decisions consistent with community values.
- **Policy accountability:** Any licensed culling will need verified evidence of the scale and nature of issues, timing and type of damage, and proof that non-lethal measures are insufficient.

Through a shift to a policy of coexistence, the ACT has the opportunity not only to address today's conflicts more effectively, but to also build a model of progressive wildlife management that enhances its reputation nationally.

This approach reduces costs, delivers more consistent outcomes, and aligns with community expectations.

## Recommendations

### Immediate actions

1. **Trial coexistence zones** in hotspots with wombat gates, wildlife-friendly fencing, and rapid-response landholder support. Low-cost pilots reduce risk and guide investment.
2. **Require verified evidence** before any licensed culling, including farms affected, scale of issues, timing, and proof non-lethal options have failed. This ensures action is fair, factual, and defensible.

### Short-term actions

3. **Install wombat gates** on boundary fences through demonstration projects that show savings and reduced conflict. Alternatives can be used where gates are less effective.
4. **Establish formalised partnerships** between landholders and wildlife groups for range treatment, conflict resolution, and planning.

### Medium-term action

5. **Run targeted education campaigns** to correct myths, highlight coexistence successes, and reinforce the ACT's reputation for progressive wildlife policy.

These measures target the real drivers of conflict, support landholders, and position the ACT as a leader in humane, evidence-based wildlife policy.

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## Core Takeaways

1. Lethal control without systemic change will only perpetuate human-wombat conflict. Newly vacated territory will quickly be filled by another wombat,
2. Coexistence provides a practical alternative: targeted infrastructure, landholder and wildlife group partnerships, and science-based monitoring can help prevent human-wildlife problems before they escalate.
3. Around the world, progressive jurisdictions such as Spain's wolf program and California's habitat laws are showing that prevention and collaboration deliver faster, cheaper, and more long-lasting results than culling.
4. A coexistence framework would align wildlife management with the ACT's climate resilience and biodiversity goals, and community expectations. It would also strengthen the Territory's reputation for humane and evidence-driven policy.
5. As the first Australian jurisdiction to recognise animal sentience, the ACT has the opportunity to further demonstrate leadership. Coexistence is the option that reflects ACT's progressive values, protects its reputation, and delivers lasting results.