

Department of Planning and Environment

Wombat Care Assessment Tool

Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector
An application check against the Code of
Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned
Wombats



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Cover photo: Bare-nosed wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*). Rebecca Cowan/Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue

Acknowledgements: This tool has been prepared for DPE by Danielle Dendrinis in consultation with the NSW wildlife rehabilitation sector.

Published by:

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ISBN 978-1-922840-05-9
EHG 2022/0233
June 2022

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Purpose

This Wombat Care Assessment Tool (the tool) has been designed for wildlife rehabilitation groups to monitor their level of compliance with the *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Wombats* (the code). Its primary purpose is to proactively help inform and guide improvements to their standards of wombat care and optimise post-rehabilitation outcomes.

The tool is for use by species coordinators and experienced wombat rehabilitators such as mentors and/or buddies. It aims to provide an objective snapshot of a group members application of all, or specific parts of the code. When applied across multiple members, the tool can also strategically inform future training and guide grant applications for replacement enclosures or other assets which are not code compliant.

Everyone authorised to interact with wombats is required to act in accordance with the code. It has been developed to protect the welfare of rescued wombats and support the conservation of wild wombat populations. Compliance with the code is a condition of a Biodiversity Conservation Licence to conduct wildlife rehabilitation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The person applying the tool must be familiar with the content and application of the code.

Wildlife rehabilitation groups are encouraged to maintain a register of volunteers who have been assessed under this tool and to compare against previous inspections.

How to use this assessment tool

The tool is divided into 4 sections:

1. training
2. records management
3. facility inspection
4. field observation of animal rescue and transport.

An inspection may target one or more sections of the tool. Each section aligns with specific standards in the code. It is preferable to complete Sections 1, 2 and 3 together or Sections 1 and 4.

Content of each section

- A place to enter the assessor and group members names, signatures and date of inspection.
- Code standards to be assessed.
- An overall assessment question and prompts to help guide the assessment.
- Targeted questions which align with specific standards in the code.
- This section provides places to select a response, score and tally the results of the assessment.
- Notes about any observations you make during the inspection and to make specific recommendations.

What to take to the assessment?

It is important to do some planning before you go on-site.

Things to think about

- Contact the group member and arrange a mutually convenient time.
- Consider if an observer should also attend with the assessor.
- Explain the purpose of the assessment to the person before coming and at the premises.
- Ask if there are wombats on-site and at what stage of rehabilitation.
- Identify which standards you intend to assess.
- Pack a copy of the wombat code of practice.
- Be familiar with the data report template.
- Bring a mobile phone and ask if you can take photos.
- Take a tape measure.
- Bring a pencil, pen and clipboard or laptop.

Scoring each section and collating the results

Each targeted question requires the assessor to circle the appropriate answer in the adjacent column. Only one answer can be selected. The answers can be then be collated, scored and converted to a percentage.

This worked example has 5 target questions

Code of Practice standards:
3 Rescue; 4 Transport

Assessment Question: Was the rescue of the wombat undertaken in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Observe the method and conduct of the wombat's actual rescue.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

Did the rescuer use the correct rescue equipment?	Yes	No	N/A
Did the rescuer limit the exposure to additional stressors such as onlookers, loud noises and other animals?	Yes	No	N/A
Did the rescuer use the correct method to capture the wombat?	Yes	No	N/A
Did the rescuer check a deceased female wombat for pouch young and remove it using the correct method?	Yes	No	N/A
Did the rescuer conduct any surrounding searches for orphaned young?	Yes	No	N/A

How to calculate an assessment score

Step 1: Tally the selected responses for each column, e.g. 2 Yes; 2 No and 1 N/A

2/5

2/5

1/5

Step 2: Subtract the number of Not Applicable (N/A) answers from the total number of target questions. In this example $5 - 1 = 4$

2/4

2/4

Display the score for each column as a fraction

Step 3: Convert the above fraction to a percentage (%)

50%

50%

In this example, the five target questions were scored as 'Yes' for two, 'No' for two and N/A for one. The question about a deceased female wombat did not apply in this example because there wasn't one on-site. So only four target questions apply to this assessment. The total assessment score is therefore 2/4 (50% Yes and 50% No).

Insert the score or percentage for 'Yes' in the Assessment Summary.

Section 1: Training

The purpose of this section is to assess the currency of training. This should be done before other sections of the assessment and verified with the group member.

Member Name:	Signature:	Date:
Assessor Name:	Signature	Date:

Code of Practice standard: 11 Training

Assessment Question: Is the member trained to rescue and/or rehabilitate wombats?

Prompts: Check the member's details and group training register before the inspection. Confirm what tasks the member does with wombats and what training they require.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. Is the member authorised to work with wombats?	Yes	No
2. Has the member completed the required training for the tasks they perform?	Yes	No
3. Is the member's training current?	Yes	No

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Section 2: Records management

The purpose of this section is to assess the group member’s wombat records, including decisions made about the fate of animals in care. It may help to review the previous year’s records before commencing the assessment.

Member Name:	Signature:	Date:
Assessor Name:	Signature	Date:

**Code of Practice standards:
12 Record keeping; 10.1 Release timing; 10.2 Release site selection; 10.3 Release techniques and 5.1, 5.2 Euthanasia**

Assessment Question 1: Is the member’s record sheet current, accurate and compliant with the standard?
Prompts: Request to see the current record sheet. The fields in the register should be equivalent to the standard i.e. the data template.

Target questions	Select one response for each question			
1. How many wombats currently in care are listed in the record sheet?	All	Some	None	N/A
2. How many wombats have their rescue date, location and encounter data entered in the record sheet?	All	Some	None	N/A
3. How many wombats have their sex and weight entered in the record sheet?	All	Some	None	N/A
4. How many dead or released wombats have had their fates entered?	All	Some	None	N/A
5. How many wombats transferred to or from another facility have a dated identification record and location of transfer?	All	Some	None	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction
 (remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Records Management (continued)

Assessment Question 2: Were decisions made about the release of wombats in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Check the fate and release location details section in the record sheet. Be familiar with the 'Release site selection' standards in the code.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. Of those rehabilitated wombats where the exact location of their rescue was known, how many were released in a suitable environment back at the place of rescue?	All	Some	None	N/A
2. Of those rehabilitated wombats where the exact location of their rescue was known but was deemed an unsuitable site for release . How many were released in a suitable environment within 50km from their place of rescue?*	All	Some	None	N/A
3. Of the sexually immature wombats rehabilitated, how many were released before sexual maturity?	All	Some	None	N/A
4. Of the wombats soft released, how many were fed for two weeks from the release site prior to the release?	All	Some	None	N/A
5. Of the wombats released, how many had the release site monitored for 2 weeks after release?	All	Some	None	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

*Exclude those animals that received approval from National Parks and Wildlife Service to be placed elsewhere.

Records Management (continued)

Assessment Question 3: Were decisions made about the euthanasia and permanent care of wombats in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Check the fate details section in the record sheet. Be familiar with the 'When to Euthanase' standards in the code.

Target questions

Select one response

1. How many wombats were euthanased in accordance with criteria in the code (list reasons in notes)?	All	Some	None	N/A
2. How many of the wombats held in permanent care have written approval from National Parks and Wildlife Service?	All	Some	None	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Section 3: Facility inspection

The purpose of this section is to assess the group members rehabilitation facility, including its housing, husbandry and care procedures. If the facility does not participate in the intensive care, intermediate care or pre-release of wombats, then move to another section and place **N/A** in notes.

Member Name:	Signature:	Date:
Assessor Name:	Signature	Date:

Section 3a: Housing and Husbandry – Intensive care

Code of Practice standards:

7 Husbandry; 8 Housing (8.1 General requirements and 8.2 Intensive care housing)

Assessment Question 1: Are intensive care housing enclosures (ICEs) constructed, positioned and maintained in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Ask to see the intensive care wombat enclosures. Only answer if wombats are present, otherwise enter N/A in notes.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. How many wombats under 3kg are contained in a small secure pouch with no bindings?	All	None	>Half	<Half
2. How many intensive care enclosures (ICEs) for wombats between 600–1000g have dimensions at least 60cm long and 90cm wide?	All	None	>Half	<Half
3. How many ICEs for wombats between 1–3kg have dimensions at least 1.2m long and 1.8m wide?	All	None	>Half	<Half
4. How many ICEs for wombats between 3–5kg have dimensions at least 2.4m long by 1.2m wide by 1.2m high?	All	None	>Half	<Half
5. How many ICEs are positioned to protect each wombat from wild animals and pests?	All	None	>Half	<Half
6. How many ICEs are escape proof and have no hazards that might harm the wombat?	All	None	>Half	<Half
7. How many ICEs are designed or positioned to reduce visual (e.g. dim lights) and auditory stimuli?	All	None	>Half	<Half
8. How many ICEs use heat sources that are regulated by a thermostat?	All	None	>Half	<Half

Section 3a: Housing and Husbandry – Intensive care

9. How many ICEs are supplied with clean and sterilised teats, bottles and syringes?	All	None	>Half	<Half
10. How many enclosures are clean and well maintained?	All	None	>Half	<Half
11. How many ICEs have fresh drinking water available?	All	None	>Half	<Half
12. How many ICEs for a wombat larger than 1.5kg have fresh native grass, roots and soil?	All	None	>Half	<Half
13. How many ICEs have a water container appropriate for the wombat size, age and mobility?	All	None	>Half	<Half

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes: Enter N/A here if the person does not participate in intensive care or has no wombats.

Recommendations:

Section 3b: Housing and Husbandry – Intermediate care

Code of Practice standards:

7 Husbandry; 8 Housing (8.1 General requirements and 8.3 Intermediate care housing)

Assessment Question 1: Are intermediate care housing (ITEs) enclosures constructed, positioned and maintained in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Ask to see the intermediate care enclosures for wombats. Only answer if wombats are present, otherwise enter N/A in notes.

Target questions	Select one response for each question			
How many intermediate care enclosures (ITEs) for wombats that are 5–10kg have floor dimensions at least 3.6m long by 3.6m wide by 1.2m high?	All	None	>Half	<Half
How many ITEs are escape proof and have no hazards that might harm the wombat?	All	None	>Half	<Half
How many ITEs are positioned to protect each wombat from domestic animals, pests, excessive noise and vibrations?	All	None	>Half	<Half
How many ITEs contain bark, branches rocks, stumps and dirt?	All	None	>Half	<Half
How many ITEs provide access to a secure outdoor grazing area for wombats 5–10kgs?	All	None	>Half	<Half
How many ITEs are clean and well maintained?	All	None	>Half	<Half
How many ITEs have fresh drinking water available?	All	None	>Half	<Half
How many ITEs have fresh native grass, roots and soil for the wombat?	All	None	>Half	<Half
How many ITEs have a water container appropriate for the wombat size, age and mobility?	All	None	>Half	<Half

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes: Enter N/A if the person does not participate in intermediate care or has no wombats.

Recommendations:

Section 3c: Housing and Husbandry – Pre-release housing

Code of Practice standards:

7 Husbandry; 8 Housing (8.1 General requirements and 8.4 Pre-release housing)

Assessment Question 1: Are pre-release care facilities (PREs) constructed, positioned and maintained in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Ask to see the pre-release enclosures for wombats. Only answer if wombats are present otherwise enter N/A in notes.

Target questions	Select one response for each question			
1. How many pre-release enclosures (PREs) for wombats over 10kg have floor dimensions at least 7m x 5m x 1.5m?	All	None	>Half	<Half
2. How many PREs contain habitat elements (e.g. bark, stumps) that enable the wombat to perform natural behaviours (enclosures with concrete flooring require 1.5m of soil for digging)?	All	None	>Half	<Half
3. How many PREs contain a secure outdoor area for grazing for wombats over 10kg?	All	None	>Half	<Half
4. How many PREs contain a burrowing area?	All	None	>Half	<Half
5. How many PREs are escape proof (e.g. 1m wire skirt on the base or fences dug 900mm into the ground, solid perimeter fencing) and have no hazards that might harm the wombat?	All	None	>Half	<Half
6. How many PREs are positioned to protect each wombat from domestic animals, pests, excessive noise and vibrations?	All	None	>Half	<Half
7. How many PREs provide areas where the wombat can shelter and gain exposure to outside weather?	All	None	>Half	<Half
8. How many PREs are clean and well maintained?	All	None	>Half	<Half
9. How many PREs have fresh drinking water available?	All	None	>Half	<Half
10. How many PREs have fresh native grass, roots and soil for the wombat?	All	None	>Half	<Half
11. How many PREs have a water container appropriate for the wombat size, age and mobility?	All	None	>Half	<Half
Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction				
Convert to a percentage (%)				

Section 3c: Housing and Husbandry – Pre-release housing

Notes: Enter N/A if the person does not have pre-release housing or has no wombats.

Recommendations:

Section 3d: Housing and Husbandry – General care

Code of Practice standards:

6 Care procedures; 6.2 Controlling disease transmission; 7.1 Husbandry; 7.3 General Care; 9 Suitability for release?

Assessment Question: Are the wombats in the facility managed according to the standard?

Prompts: Observe the wombats in care and ask to view the husbandry plan if there is one. Ask the following questions and circle the appropriate response. If a wombat is not present enter N/A.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

Target questions	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
1. How many wombats have undergone a veterinary assessment or assessment by an experienced wombat rehabilitator?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
2. How many wombats suspected of an infectious disease are in isolation?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
3. How many wombats with mange have been treated in consultation with a wildlife rehabilitator experienced in mange and a veterinarian?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
4. How many dependent pouch young wombats have been weighed the number of times specified based on the age/weight of the animal (view record sheet and Code)?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
5. How many sub-adult wombats between 10–15kg have been weighed twice per month (view record sheet)?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
6. How many wombats are monitored and have their body condition, hydration levels, scat quantity and behaviour recorded?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
7. How many dependent wombats have been fed the required number of times per day (view record sheet and Std 7.1.15 in the Code)?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A

Section 3d: Housing and Husbandry – General care

8. How many wombats in care have been buddied based on their weight and stage of development?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
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Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

For wombats about to be released

N/A

If no wombats are ready for release, circle N/A.

1. Has the release suitability of the wombat been confirmed by a veterinarian or experienced wombat rehabilitator?	Yes	No	Some
2. Has the member correctly described why the animal is physically ready for release?	Yes	No	Some
3. Has the member correctly described why the animal is behaviourally ready for release?	Yes	No	Some

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Section 4: Field observation

This section is a practical assessment of the application of the rescue, transport and release standards in the code. It is best conducted in the field through observation, although parts such as personal protective equipment (PPE), rescue equipment and release considerations maybe completed as part of the facility inspection and record management sections.

Member Name:	Signature:	Date:
Assessor Name:	Signature	Date:

Section 4a: Rescue and Transport

Code of Practice standards: 3 Rescue; 4 Transport

Assessment Question 1: Did the member prepare for the rescue in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Observe how the member prepares for a rescue.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. Did the rescuer assess the wombat to determine if rescue is required?	Yes	No	Some	N/A
2. Did the rescuer consider all the risks from environmental hazards to themselves, surrounding observers and the wombat?	Yes	No	Some	N/A
3. Did the rescuer possess the appropriate PPE?	Yes	No	Some	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Section 4a: Rescue and Transport

Assessment Question 2: Was the rescue of the wombat undertaken in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Observe the method and conduct of the wombat’s physical rescue.

Target questions	Select one response for each question		
1. Did the rescuer use the correct rescue equipment?	Yes	No	N/A
2. Did the rescuer limit the exposure to additional stressors such as onlookers, loud noises and other animals?	Yes	No	N/A
3. Did the rescuer use the correct method to capture the wombat?	Yes	No	N/A
4. Did the rescuer check a deceased female wombat for pouch young and remove it using the correct method?	Yes	No	N/A
5. If the wombat was a deceased female, did the rescuer conduct any surrounding searches for orphaned young?	Yes	No	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Assessment Question 3: Was the wombat transported in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Observe the method and conduct of the wombat’s physical transport.

Target questions	Select one response for each question		
1. Was the transport container escape proof?	Yes	No	N/A
2. Was the wombat positioned so its breathing is not restricted?	Yes	No	N/A
3. Was the transport container suitable for the wombat species, size, condition, strength and temperament?	Yes	No	N/A

Section 4a: Rescue and Transport

4. Was the transport container kept at a temperature that is appropriate for the stage of development of the wombat?	Yes	No	N/A
5. Was the transport container placed in the correct position in the vehicle?	Yes	No	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Assessment summary

There is no pass or fail associated with this assessment. Its purpose is to identify those standards in the code that can be improved upon. Specific recommendations for improvement can be provided below. A timeframe should be discussed and agreed with the group member to implement any recommendations.

Summarise the outcome of the assessment in the table below:

- circle Yes for each section assessed
- enter the total score as a fraction (i.e. X/Y) for answers with a Yes or All
- enter the percentage score (%) for answers with a Yes or All.

Assessed	Section	Grade score Yes/All	Grade score (%) Yes/All
Yes	Training		
Yes	Record Keeping (Assessment Q1)		
Yes	Record Keeping (Assessment Q2)		
Yes	Record Keeping (Assessment Q3)		
Yes	Housing/Husbandry (Intensive care)		
Yes	Housing/Husbandry (Intermediate care)		
Yes	Housing/Husbandry (Pre-release care)		
Yes	Housing/Husbandry (General care)		
Yes	Rescue and Transport (Assessment Q1)		
Yes	Rescue and Transport (Assessment Q2)		
Yes	Rescue and Transport (Assessment Q3)		

Recommendations:

More information

- [Code of Practice](#)
- [Data report template](#)