



Bobsled Removal & Construction of Mountain Bike Trail

Wombat & Burrow Management Plan

1 Introduction

This Wombat & Burrow Management Plan has been prepared to detail the actions required to minimise the impacts on the *Vombatus ursinus* (Common Wombat) during the construction works associated with the removal of the Thredbo Bobsled and construction of a mountain bike trail along the existing bobsled alignment.

The construction manager is to receive a copy of the Wombat Management Plan for implementation.

2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this plan is to achieve successful management of wombats found to inhabit the construction area. The objectives of this wombat management:

- Record and mark the location of all existing burrows;
- Monitoring of burrows for activity;
- Steps to be undertaken if activity is detected (or not detected);
- Preparation of a plan for relocation (if required) of wombats found to inhabit construction areas; and
- Protection Measures for active burrows remaining in construction areas.

2.1 Location of Existing Burrows

Prior to the commencement of any demolition or construction works, the Environmental Officer is to conduct a thorough investigation of the area. The aim of this inspection is to identify any burrows that exist within (or within close proximity to) the construction area. Burrows will be marked accordingly and staff informed of locations. During demolition and construction, workers are to remain vigilant for burrows not previously identified. Any burrow located is to be reported to the Environmental Officer and works are to cease in the immediate vicinity of the burrow whilst further investigation is undertaken.

The location of wombat burrows is shown in Appendix 1 with two burrows being located within the construction corridor, three in close proximity and one within collection area 2.

Thredbo Bobsled Wombat Burrows				
Burrow number	Proximity to corridor	Status as at 17/1/24	Action	Comment
W1	Inside collection area 2	Inactive	Monitor prior to construction	Flag & retain burrow
W2	Outside construction corridor	Active	No monitoring required	Flag & retain burrow
W3	Outside construction corridor	Active	No monitoring required	Flag & retain burrow
W4	Inside construction corridor	Active	Monitor prior to construction	Flag & retain burrow
W5	Outside construction corridor	Active	No monitoring required	Flag & retain burrow
W6	Inside construction corridor	Inactive	Monitor prior to construction	Flag & retain burrow

2.2 Burrow Monitoring

Burrows identified within the construction corridor are to be monitored prior to works to determine if the burrow is active. No monitoring is required for burrows located outside the construction area although burrows located within close proximity to the construction area are to be flagged.

Monitoring is to include the placement of a fauna camera near the burrow opening to allow for the daily monitoring of activity whilst causing minimal disturbance. The placement of sticks and leaves across the entrance as well as inspecting for signs of recent activity (fresh dung, footprints and digging) will also aid in forming a picture of overall wombat activity and burrow use. As burrows can have multiple access points, the area surrounding the burrow is to be thoroughly inspected to identify and monitor all openings. The monitoring is to occur for seven days so as to determine whether the burrow is active or inactive and will be undertaken by the Environmental Officer. The monitoring will occur on a daily basis during the seven-day period.

2.3 Relocation Plan

If a burrow is deemed active and there is a necessity to remove it, a relocation plan will be prepared and implemented in conjunction with NPWS. The plan will take into consideration the potential for dependent joeys to be present and will be designed accordingly. Where possible, existing active burrows will be retained and only removed if it is likely that demolition activities or construction machinery will impact the burrow and disturbance is unavoidable. If required, relocation will occur prior to demolition or construction activities. Burrows will be marked to ensure that the entrance is not blocked or damaged during works.

Management actions for relocation will include the installation of a one-way steel gate at the burrow entrance to allow the wombat to exit the burrow but not re-enter. As wombats often build multiple burrows this will allow them to self-relocate within their home range. Steel mesh is to be placed and pinned on the ground in front of the entrance to prevent digging and re-entry. Once vacated, the placement of a deterrent such as organic fertiliser (Blood & Bone) near the entrance may assist in preventing scrapes or test digs near the site. The deterrent is to be used sparingly and will not be used in riparian areas or where it could run directly into a watercourse. Continued monitoring of the burrow entrance using a fauna camera and visual assessment as above will take place for seven days post installation of the gate. As Wombats prefer to burrow in areas of heavy vegetation and rocky debris, once vegetation height is reduced, it is unlikely the wombat will continue to burrow in this area.

Figure 1 is an example of a one-way gate installed at the Gondola mid station construction area prior to the commencement of construction as part of the approved Gondola Wombat & Burrow Management plan (DA 9130).



Figure 1: Example of a one-way gate installation

2.4 Protection Measures

Protection measures for existing active burrows that are to be retained within the construction area will include installation of a barrier mesh fence around the burrow with mesh lifted to a height of 30cm above ground level to allow for unrestricted entry/exit of the fenced enclosure and burrow. Workers are to be informed of the location of the burrow and that the burrow is to be retained. “No Go” signage is also to be installed on the enclosure. Burrows that are located outside the construction corridor but within close proximity to it will also be marked.

Care is to be taken when working around the burrow to ensure that there is minimal disturbance and impact to wombats during construction. All works must be carried out so that any wombat burrows within the area are not impacted. Demolition and construction activities are to be performed in such a way that burrow openings are not blocked.

If a burrow is to be removed, works will not commence until the burrow is deemed inactive or the wombat has been relocated.

Appendix 1 – Wombat Burrow Locations

