

How you can help

LOOK OUT FOR DEVILS

Members of the local community are asked to report devil sightings. If you see a devil or find any evidence of one (scats, latrines or roadkill) please send details (and photo if you can) to the **Save the Tasmanian Devil Program** on **0427 733 511** or email **devildisease.enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au**

DRIVE SLOWLY AT NIGHT

Take care while driving at night – slow down between dusk and dawn. Tasmanian devils and other animals are often on the road scavenging the carcasses of road-killed animals. Devils in particular are very hard to see against a black road surface, especially when it is wet.

Some of the Tasmanian devils released at wukalina / Mount William will be fitted with collars which will provide valuable data on their distribution and movements. Losing devils to roadkill can impact the development of ongoing management strategies of wild populations as the information gathered from the collars will assist with planning for future releases.

REPORT TASMANIAN DEVIL ROADKILL

The **Save the Tasmanian Devil Program** keeps data of all Tasmanian devil roadkill reports.

Reports can be made online at **www.tassiedevil.com.au** or you can send a message (and photo if possible) to **0427 733 511** or **devildisease.enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au**

Acknowledgement

The **Save the Tasmanian Devil Program** is a joint response by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments to the threat of the Tasmanian devil from Devil Facial Tumour Disease. The program is supported by a range of partners including the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, Devil Island Project, San Diego Zoo Global and the Zoo and Aquarium Association and its associated wildlife parks.



Wild Devil Recovery Project at wukalina / Mount William



From May 2017, a small number of healthy devils from Maria Island are being introduced to wukalina / Mount William to live with existing populations of devils.



Australian Government



Tasmanian Government

Why are we releasing devils into wukalina / Mount William?

Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) has had massive impacts on the populations of devils around the state. Any remaining populations of healthy devils are small and concentrated. Research tells us that small wild populations (of any animals) typically lose genetic diversity, which could place those populations at greater risk of genetic problems and diseases. Our devils can't afford any new diseases on top of DFTD! It's therefore critical that these small populations are supplemented with healthy devils from elsewhere, to help ensure genetic diversity is maintained.

Restoring the natural balance

Devils mainly eat possums, wombats, wallaby and birds. As devil numbers have declined the numbers of the species they consume have probably changed too. If we increase devil numbers, the animals devils feed on and the plants these animals eat are also affected. Increasing devil numbers in the wild will help restore the natural balance.

Will immunisation work?

Scientists at the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program and the Menzies Institute for Medical Research at the University of Tasmania have developed an immunisation drug that may assist the long-term survival of devils in the wild. The devils will be immunised before being released at wukalina / Mount William and some will be fitted with GPS collars so we can track them. This will also allow us to monitor the devils and see whether the vaccine appears to be working.

Comparing soft-release to hard-release pens

One of the key questions being asked is whether hard-release or soft-release pens have a better outcome for survival when devils are released back into the wild. A hard release strategy transports the devil to the release site in a trap and then the trap door is opened to allow the devil to leave. A soft release strategy transports the devil to the release site in a trap but the animal is then released into a pen for 7-10 days and then the door is opened so the devils can leave when they feel like it. While other studies suggest that soft-release pens will often have a better outcome for the animals released, wild devils being taken from Maria Island may have a negative reaction to being penned in. All devils being released at wukalina / Mount William will come from Maria Island, some will be fitted with GPS collars so we can track where they go and gather data on how they are doing in the wild.

Devil dispersal area

Research from previous translocations indicate that released devils can disperse up to 20km from the release site. Consequently Tasmanian devils released at wukalina / Mount William may travel to Ansons Bay, Blue Tier or as far as Cape Portland.



Fighting a deadly disease

DFTD is a contagious cancer that is transmitted from animal to animal through physical contact. The Save the Tasmanian Devil Program has:

- undertaken field research and management trials to re-build devil populations in the wild
- established an effective Insurance Population, in captivity and outside of Tasmania
- successfully translocated devils to Maria Island National Park
- developed methods to enable successful release of animals into the wild
- worked with partner organisations and researchers to develop potential vaccines.

Wild Devil Recovery Project

The Wild Devil Recovery project commenced in late 2014. Our role has been to:

- assess the condition of the wild devil population in the state's north-east
- explore ways to rebuild disease-affected populations
- determine the genetic effectiveness of a vaccine to provide wild devils with resistance and immunity to DFTD
- establish special management zones across Tasmania to coordinate management of wild devils.