

MANAGING WOMBAT DAMAGE TO FENCES

Wombats are the most likely culprits that dig under fences. Wallabies are not good at digging. Large numbers of wallabies will use the hole that a wombat makes.



To prevent wombats
undermining your fence,
there are two main options:

Option 1: A hotwire 125mm from the ground will discourage wombats from digging. A robust fence mesh is required, or a wombat will move quickly under the mesh ignoring the shock. A very good energiser that quickly shows faults and has power to cope with leakage into vegetation is needed.



It can be hard to keep up maintenance, vegetation control and voltage in a wire only 125mm from the ground. If mesh with apron/footer is used, it is more difficult for wombats to dig. The hotwire can then be lifted to 200mm making maintenance easier and reducing shorts.



Option 2: Install a Wombat gate. A top swung gate (approx. 3kg), allows wombats to push the gate open to gain access without further damage to the fence, while excluding wallabies. The gate must be put in after the wombat has dug a hole under the fence as wombats are very loyal to their path.



A steel post designed wombat gate requires no welding.



A pre-set up angle iron frame requires no securing pegs; good for rocky ground.



Wombat gates can be applied to fences through the apron if necessary.



Or through the mesh and over the apron.



Under the fence works well in this situation.



The steel post version can be built without welding.



Welded frame version can be slower to make but less work is required when fitting to the fence.



Motion sensing cameras were used to check the performance of wombat gates. In 50 observations of wallabies approaching the gates, no wallabies went through.

