



Burrow baby gets species out of a hole

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THE infrared images above are the first pictures of one of the world's most important babies.

It's proof that the endangered, northern hairy-nosed wombat is being pulled back from the edge of extinction.

It is the first joey born at a colony of nine wombats set up in 2009 on Narran Downs Station near St George in southwest Queensland.

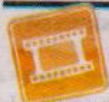
In a risky move, wombats were flown from the last remaining colony at Epping Forest National Park in central Queensland where just 138 survived.

In March, Environment Department scientists were ecstatic when images showed that a translocated wombat had a baby bump. Soon after a second mum gave birth.

It has been an exciting but frustrating time since, with scientists led by threatened species director Rebecca Williams forced to wait a further seven months before seeing the joey waddle from the burrow for the first time. (The second joey remains in its mother's pouch.)

The *Courier-Mail* raised about \$200,000 for the wombat project in the early 1990s and this was followed up with a \$3 million donation from miner Xstrata.

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Watch the video
from the burrows

