

Perth Zoo's Numbat Captive Breed for Release Program



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DBCA

The Program

- Commenced at Perth Zoo in 1992
- Has produced 268 numbats for release to the wild at 9 sites in 2 states

Numbats and Dryandra

Dryandra Woodland has been the direct or indirect source of all wild-born numbats used in the Zoo's breeding program

Based on 59 wild-born numbats brought into the Zoo to maintain genetic diversity

Initially Dryandra was a source for breeding stock, but none of the Zoo-bred animals were released there.

Comings and Goings From Dryandra Since 2014

19 numbats (11 males and 8 females) have been caught in Dryandra and added to the Zoo's breeding colony

52 Zoo-bred numbats (24 males and 28 females) have been released into Dryandra to boost numbers in the wild at this important site.



Catching Numbats is Only Half of the Fun

- A numbat eats 15,000-20,000 termites each day
- Perth Zoo can't source enough termites to feed its numbats a diet of just termites
- We collect ~90 kg of termites each year to support the numbat breeding program
- Developed an artificial diet, supplemented with termites (30% for breeding females and 12.5% for males)





Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Biodiversity and
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*We're working for
Western Australia.*



Closing the Circle



Questions?

