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LIFE ABOVE GROUND

Just as there is some variety in the ways in which a wombat spends its days underground, so there is considerable diversity in its nightly activities. Probably the main factors that cause this diversity are the seasonal conditions and the type of habitat; the prevailing weather conditions and the proximity of other wombats, and enemies, such as feral dogs or dingoes or humans, will also influence a wombat's movements. But in spite of the many variations, the wombat's life above ground does follow a general theme and this applies to all three species.

The wombat emerges from the burrow, usually after sunset; it grazes for several hours, intensively at first, moving over part of its range as it feeds; it may interrupt its feeding to enter a burrow for rest or refuge; usually before sunrise it enters a burrow for the next day's sleep.

If the temperature and other external conditions are suitable, a wombat will usually emerge from the burrow about dusk. On some summer evenings, when temperatures stay above the wombat's 'comfortable' temperature of 20°C, it will wait in the cool burrow until midnight or even later before emerging to feed. In winter, when food is often difficult to obtain, it may leave the burrow as early as three or four o'clock in the afternoon, particularly on overcast days or after a night or two of heavy