

Tasmanian devils born on Australian mainland in rewilding push

May 25 2021



Hopes that a major rewilding effort could succeed have been boosted by the birth of wild Tasmanian devils on the Australian mainland.

Tasmanian devils have been born in the wild on Australia's mainland 3,000 years after the marsupials disappeared from the continent,

conservation groups said Tuesday, raising hopes that a major rewilding effort could succeed.

Aussie Ark and a coalition of other [conservation groups](#) revealed that seven of the carnivorous mammals were born inside a 400-hectare (1,000-acre) sanctuary at Barrington Tops, north of Sydney.

The news came less than a year after 26 adult Tasmanian devils were released in the sprawling sanctuary, which is fenced off to protect them from threats including feral pests, [noxious weeds](#) and cars.

At the time, conservationists described it as a "historic" project akin to the successful return of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in the United States in the 1990s.

"Once (the devils) were back in the wild, it was up to them, which was nerve wracking," said Aussie Ark president Tim Faulkner.

"We had been watching them from afar until it was time to step in and confirm the birth of our first wild joeys (babies). And what a moment it was."

Rangers inspected the females' pouches and found the joeys in "perfect health", the organisation said, with additional health checks planned in the coming weeks.

Tasmanian devils, which weigh up to 8 kilograms (18 pounds) and have a black or brown coat, prey on other [native animals](#) or scavenge carcasses but are typically not dangerous to humans.

Citation: Tasmanian devils born on Australian mainland in rewilding push (2021, May 25)
retrieved 14 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-05-tasmanian-devils-born-australian-mainland.html>

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