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## **Royal bub wrapped in Aussie merino wool**

The royal baby was wrapped in a white shawl made from Australian merino wool when Prince William and Kate showed him off to the world for the first time.

The future British king gave what appeared to be a tiny royal wave from within the shawl as the Duchess of Cambridge held him in front of a wall of photographers outside St Mary's Hospital on Tuesday evening.

The shawl was made by a small family-run company called GH Hurt Son based in Nottingham.

The delicate creation is similar to one the baby's father, the Duke of Cambridge, had as an infant, which was also made by the firm.

A company spokeswoman on Wednesday told AAP the shawl was made from a blend of Australian Botany Wool and another thread, fine-spun in Italy, that could also be from Down Under.

'We feel honoured that William and Kate have chosen to use our beautiful merino wool shawl and in doing so have continued a tradition for the next generation of royals,' GH Hurt Son said in a statement.

The company experienced a rush of orders for the super-fine merino wool christening shawl, which costs STG45 (\$A75), within 20 minutes of the first sighting of the future king.

The design, knitted on modern machinery, is inspired by an old hand frame knitted creation in the Shetland style.

It features a fleur de lis pattern and hand-finished scalloped edge with a wide patterned border.

The royal baby's grandfather, Prince Charles, is patron of The Campaign for Wool, which aims to boost prices for Commonwealth producers by educating people about the material's 'incredible benefits and versatility'.

Charles bleated on about wool - his pun - earlier this year at a London exhibition showcasing wool floorings, furniture, art and clothing.

He was particularly taken with Pippa Caley's wool cushions.

'It was worth coming just for the cushions,' he said at the time, before adding: 'The cushions are very special.'