



Bushfire recovery for wildlife and habitats in Australian alpine environment - Regional Co-design workshop

The Australian alpine environment region was heavily impacted by the 2019–20 bushfires, which burnt over 570,000 hectares, 60 per cent of which was at high or very high severity.

The *Australian alpine environment across ACT, NSW and Victoria* is one of seven bushfire affected regions that will receive a share of the \$110 million regional funding available over the next two years to support strategic on-ground actions for the most impacted native plants and animals, ecological communities and natural assets. This funding forms part of the Australian Government's \$200 million investment to support the ongoing recovery of bushfire affected wildlife and their habitat.

On 23 September 2020, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment held a virtual workshop to assist in the co-design of the regional actions for the next phase of investment in bushfire recovery in the Alpine region.

Traditional Owners, landcare groups, scientists and government representatives from across the ACT, NSW and Victoria met with the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, and discussed actions to support the long-term recovery and resilience of ecological communities and species. Priorities include the threatened ecological community the Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens, and species such as the Mountain Pygmy Possum, Alpine She-oak Skink, Northern Corroboree Frog, Southern Corroboree Frog, Spotted Tree Frog, Pine Mountain Grevillea, Bago Leek-orchid and Brumby Sallee.

Workshop participants identified several actions to aid bushfire recovery in the region including weed and feral animal control, Traditional Owner led caring for Country, and species-specific actions for priority threatened species.

The Australian Government's final suite of investments in this region will be guided by the workshop outcomes and will include careful consideration of community capacity, complementarity with existing recovery efforts and value for money. The Australian Government will primarily administer these investments through existing delivery arrangements, for example with NRM regions and/or state governments. This will include developing or continuing formal and informal partnerships with other organisations and community groups where this will enhance recovery outcomes.

Thanks to: ACT NRM, Arthur Rylah Institute, Australian Alps Liaison Committee, Bushfire Recovery Expert Panel, Brungle-Tumut Aboriginal Land Council, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Forestry Corporation of NSW, Holbrook Landcare Network, HVP Plantations, Murray Local Land Services Aboriginal Advisory Group, Murray Local Land Services, National Bushfire Recovery Agency, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Department of Primary Industries, North East Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, Petaurus Education Group Inc, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (ACT Government) Riverina Local Land Services, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, Trust for Nature, Victorian Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, and Zoos Victoria.