



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

## **Bushfire recovery for wildlife and habitats in East Gippsland - Regional Co-design workshop**

The Black Summer Bushfires burnt more than 870,000 hectares in East Gippsland, with 59 per cent burnt at high or very high severity.

The *Forests and coastal ecosystems of East Gippsland* 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 species, ecological communities and natural assets. This funding is part of the Australian Government's \$200 million investment in bushfire recovery for wildlife and their habitat.

On 1 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 East Gippsland.

Environment NGOs, natural resource managers, scientists, wildlife experts, Traditional Owners and local, state and federal government representatives met to discuss actions to support the long-term recovery and resilience of threatened species including the Long-footed Potoroo, Eastern Bristlebird, four galaxias fish species, five species of spiny crayfish, the Sedge Darter and 15 priority plant species including the Hairy Wattle, Brumby Sallee and the Gippsland Banksia

Workshop participants identified a number of actions to aid bushfire recovery in the region including weed, herbivore and feral predator control, Traditional Owner led healing of 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.

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