



Bushfire recovery for wildlife and habitats in the Greater Blue Mountains and World Heritage Area - Regional Co-design workshop

More than 1 million hectares in the Greater Blue Mountains burnt during the 2019-20 bushfires. Over 60 per cent of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area was impacted with over half of this to a high or very high severity.

The *Greater Blue Mountains and World Heritage Area* 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 is part of the Australian Government's \$200 million investment in bushfire recovery for wildlife and their habitat.

On 9 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 region.

Traditional Owners, environment NGOs, World Heritage advisors, scientists, wildlife experts, and local, state and federal government representatives discussed actions to support the long-term recovery and resilience of for priority species, ecological communities, and the region's World Heritage values. Priority matters include the Blue Mountains Water Skink, Broad-headed Snake, Rockwarbler, Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby and Wollemi Pine.

Workshop participants identified several actions to aid bushfire recovery in the region including weed, pest animal and erosion control, protection of refuge areas, species-specific actions for priority threatened species, and fire planning and management, including Indigenous-led recovery initiatives.

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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