



Bushfire recovery for wildlife and habitats on Kangaroo Island - Regional Co-design workshop

Last summer's bushfires burnt almost 170,000 hectares on Kangaroo Island—about 38 per cent of the island. This has had a devastating impact on the native wildlife, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Species like the Kangaroo Island Dunnart and the Kangaroo Island Southern Emu-wren have had about 90 per cent of their habitats burnt.

The Australian Government has invested over \$200 million to support the recovery of native plants and animals, ecological communities and natural assets. As part of this investment, Kangaroo Island has been identified as one of seven bushfire affected regions that will receive a share of the \$110 million regional funding available over the next two years.

On 18 August 2020, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment held a virtual workshop with Kangaroo Island stakeholders to co-design the region-specific response for this next phase of recovery.

Landholders, environment organisations, scientists, wildlife experts and governments discussed key actions to prevent extinction, support recovery and lay the groundwork for the long-term resilience of Kangaroo Island's wildlife including the Glossy Black Cockatoo, the Kangaroo Island Dunnart and an amazing abundance of endemic plants and invertebrates.

Workshop participants agreed that actions to provide umbrella benefits for multiple plant and animal species are needed, including additional feral cat control, and fire management planning and implementation to protect and support habitat needs of threatened species and maximise the chances of recovery.

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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