



Bushfire recovery for wildlife and habitats on the NSW South Coast - Regional Co-design workshop

The 2019-20 summer bushfire burnt more than 1.15 million hectares across the New South Wales South Coast region, with over 60 per cent burnt at high or very high severity.

The *Forests of the NSW South Coast* 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 16 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 on the South Coast of NSW.

Landcare and conservation groups, natural resource managers, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local, state and federal government representatives 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 native species in the region, including Littlejohn's Tree Frog, Mustard-bellied Snake, Stocky Galaxias, Tianjara Crayfish, Bermagui Bristle Snail, Merimbula Woodland Snail, Budawangs Bushpea and Wadbilliga Sticky Boronia.

Workshop participants identified several actions to aid bushfire recovery in the region including further work on weed and pest animal control, erosion management, Traditional Owner led landscape management, protecting and enhancing unburnt refugia, and seed collection.

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: Bega Valley Shire Council, Birdlife Australia, Bush Heritage, Bushfire Recovery Expert Panel, Eurobodalla Shire Council, National Bushfire Recovery Agency, NRM Regions Australia, NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW Landcare, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council, Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee, South East Local Land Services, Ulladulla Aboriginal Land Council, and WWF.