



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

Bushfire recovery for wildlife and habitats in South-east Queensland - Regional Co-design workshop

The 2019–20 bushfires burnt more than 97,000 hectares in south-east Queensland with almost half that area burnt at high or very high severity levels. The fires impacted approximately 36 per cent of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area that is located within Queensland's borders.

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, the *Rainforests of south-east Queensland* 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 28 August 2020, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment held a virtual workshop with south-east Queensland stakeholders to help co-design the region-specific response for this next phase of recovery.

Environment organisations, Indigenous land managers, scientists, wildlife experts and government agencies discussed with the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, key actions to prevent extinction, support recovery and lay the groundwork for long-term resilience of native species and ecological communities, including freshwater crayfish (*Euastacus jagara*) and Mountain Ziera (a native citrus bush), the ancient Gondwana Rainforests and the Critically Endangered Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia ecological community.

There was strong consensus between workshop participants that actions that would be of short and longer-term benefit to the region, include a whole of landscape fire management approach, pest animal control focussing particularly on feral pigs, and targeted weed control.

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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