

Bushfire recovery projects

Increasing our understanding of how nature responds to fire



The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) are working together on three new innovative citizen projects to enhance our understanding of how Australia's biodiversity responds to fire and supports bushfire recovery.

The citizen science bushfire recovery projects enable people to connect with nature and science while collecting and processing crucial data for scientists and governments to use in bushfire research and recovery.

This work is supported by the Australian Government's \$200 million Bushfire Recovery Program for Wildlife and their Habitat.

"We were pleased to partner with the Atlas of Living Australia for this important community-focused work. The three projects will support fire-affected communities to re-engage with nature and the science of recovery. Citizen scientists will be able to collect evidence on the impacts of large-scale fire on biodiversity"

Dr Fiona Fraser, acting Threatened Species Commissioner DAWE.

Projects in focus



1. BioBlitzes across Australia

We are enabling community participation in a series of BioBlitzes in fire affected areas across Australia. The BioBlitzes aim to discover, identify and record as many kinds of species present in a particular area over a 24-hour period. This work is in partnership with the Centre for Ecosystem Science at UNSW, the Australian Citizen Science Association and Minderoo's Fire and Flood Resilience initiative.

« Community members taking part in a water bug survey during the Panboola BioBlitz
Photo credit: Atlas of Life
<https://atlasoflife.org.au>

2. Bushfire recovery: focus on flowers

This project focuses on developing resources for flora-focused citizen science groups to monitor and record information about how flowers, trees and foliage recovery after a fire. This work is in partnership with the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment at Western Sydney University.

Old Man Banksia (Banksia serrata) >>
Image uploaded to iNaturalist by
Stephen Snow (CC BY-NC 4.0)



Our National Insect Collection needs help to transcribe text in specimen labels
Photo credit: Nicole Fisher- National Research Collections Australia CSIRO

3. Digitising our insect collections

The insect digitisation project focuses on a list of priority insect species. Members of the public participate by using the DigiVol platform to transcribe insect specimen labels in CSIRO's National Insect Collection. DigiVol is run by the Australian Museum and is supported by Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) infrastructure.

Volunteers have already digitised and transcribed 1000s of specimens. Many of the insect specimens being digitised have few or no occurrence records in the ALA and some specimens date back nearly 100 years. This information will help us understand historical changes in insect distribution across space and time.

For more information, read [Citizen science to boost existing bushfire recovery activities](#) or contact us at support@ala.org.au.



The Atlas of Living Australia delivering research-ready data for bushfire research and recovery

This work builds on the lead role the ALA took after the 2019-20 bushfires to explore how the citizen science sector could be supported and coordinated to help deliver research-ready data in the bushfire space. Products from this work included the [Citizen Science Bushfire Project Finder](#) and tailored blogs highlighting projects to participate in pre and post disaster events.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment

OUR COLLABORATORS:

The Centre for Ecosystem Science at UNSW
Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment at
Western Sydney University
Australian Citizen Science Association
Mindereroo's Fire and Flood Resilience initiative
National Research Collections Australia, CSIRO