

DECEMBER 2020

Project Phoenix: Communique

Project Phoenix ESC Meeting 8

The External Steering Committee (ESC) of Project Phoenix met on Thursday 17 December to consider progress with priority activities.

Ten-year Strategy for native seed and landscape restoration

Consultants from ACIL Allen were introduced to the Committee, discussing the initial stages of the project brief. The Committee discussed the approach to Strategy development and provided guidance to the consultants on sector stakeholders to be engaged and what the ESC considers to be a successful Strategy document.

Project Manager Report

The Project Manager, Samantha Craigie, reported on the important work of the Project Team, which has included engaging with government agencies including the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Austrade and the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) to identify government data sources that may be available for the native seed sector. The DTA has responded very positively to both the request and the project's need for reliable data for the Native Seed Sector. With the subsequent development of the Ten-Year Strategy, having national baseline data that is available over time will support an evidence base for monitoring and evaluating the Strategy and growth in the sector.

The Project Manager, Samantha Craigie, reported on an online meeting with representatives from the US Federal Government who authored the US Native Seed Strategy. The Project Phoenix team heard about the US Strategy development, learning from the experiences of drafting the US Strategy. The US team have expressed a willingness to continue discussions and are keen for reciprocal learnings to be shared.

Activities are underway for Priority 1 Fire impacts, Priority 2 Sector Capacity, Priority 3 Strategy development, Priority 5 Threatened species management and Priority 6 Training and engagement. These Activities are running concurrently and have a vital contribution to the 10-year strategy.

The project timeframes continue to be challenging. The project team is working with the Department, the ESC & the Activity Team Leads to review the forward works programmes to ensure continued success in the new year.



Eucalypt regrowth - image credit: CSIRO

Project Phoenix Highlights 2020

The ESC members were thanked for their contribution towards Project Phoenix throughout the year and acknowledged the 2020 Highlights, including:

- Initial connections made with the US Federal Government in learning of the development of the US Native Seed Strategy and their readiness to continue conversations.
- The Project Phoenix Project Manager, Samantha Craigie's attendance at the Virtual Roundtable on Women's Economic Security and Leadership with Federal Minister for Women, the Hon. Marise Payne and twenty-six inspiring women representing business, community and the environment.
- There have been multiple opportunities to engage with a varied range of expertise and experience as discussions begin to focus on the Ten-Year Strategy development.
- The Project Phoenix & Healthy Seeds teams meeting with Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust to discuss a holistic picture of the Seed Sector as inclusive of conservation & restoration Seedbanks. Opportunities for conservation organisations to provide research and development capacity into the restoration sector were also discussed.
- All project Activities and Scopes being endorsed, particularly through the challenges the year has presented. 19 Activities being Allocated, Commenced or Completed with 11 to be Allocated early in the new year.
- A Seed Network Portal was established to provide the seed sector with an opportunity to join the informal Network. This being a valuable mechanism to reach the broader seed community including sole traders and small businesses.



How the sector can get involved

Project Phoenix will provide responses to the 2019/2020 bushfires as well as actions and solutions to long term Seed Sector issues at scale. An improved native seed industry is central to strategic & practical responses to undertake large scale and continued bushfire restoration and achieve conservation outcomes valued by communities.

It is important that we collaborate and engage widely to develop solutions to the current and future issues affecting our industry.

If you would like to be involved, provide input or get regular updates on project progress, refer to your organisation's representative committee member & register to become part of the Project Phoenix network: www.greeningaustralia.org.au/project-phoenix-seed-network

General enquiries: projectphoenix@greeningaustralia.org.au

PROJECT PARTNERS

