

JANUARY 2021

# Project Phoenix: Communique

## Project Phoenix ESC Meeting 9

The External Steering Committee (ESC) of Project Phoenix met on Thursday 21 January to consider progress with priority activities.

### Communication Strategy

The Committee members discussed the importance of communication to ensure widespread stakeholder engagement. The Project Team are progressing discussions with Strategic Communications specialists to refresh and update the project approach including highlighting the achievements being made.

Outputs and outcomes are starting to be accomplished across the 20 current Activities. The Australian Seed Bank Partnership is undertaking threatened species management work on behalf of Project Phoenix. To complement seed collecting, the Partnership is undertaking germination and storage research and performing rapid flora assessments of priority taxa to inform future bushfire recovery efforts.

The Partners have worked collaboratively to identify requisite data for capture through rapid flora assessments, building on preliminary work undertaken in New South Wales. Environment agencies in the states and territories were invited to review and refine data fields with a final methodology agreed that is practical and readily implementable by seed collectors in the field.

The data from these rapid flora assessments will assist botanists, researchers and land managers to ground-truth predictive models, better understand the recovery of affected species following the 2019-2020 bushfires, and improve our ability to prepare for and respond to the impact of future bushfires.

### Project Manager Report

The Project Manager, Samantha Craigie, reported on the minimal changes to the Project Activities over the Christmas period with one additional Activity completed and one Activity (3.1) 10-Year Strategy transitioned from Allocated to Commenced with the contract now in place with ACIL Allen.

Activities are continuing 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.



Eucalypt regrowth - image credit: CSIRO

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# 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](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/project-phoenix-seed-network)

General enquiries: [projectphoenix@greeningaustralia.org.au](mailto:projectphoenix@greeningaustralia.org.au)

## PROJECT PARTNERS

