

Tactical Taxonomy Grants 2017-18

Guidelines and Expression of Interest form

Bush represents a globally unique, cross-sector partnership, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of government, non-government organisations, industry and science to document the biodiversity of the oldest continent on Earth and provide an international benchmark for biodiversity knowledge. Bush Blitz is now offering funding for Tactical Taxonomy Grants for the publication of new species and resolution of problematic groups collected from Bush Blitz surveys.

Important dates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Expressions of Interest open | 28 August 2017 |
| Expressions of Interest close | 16 October 2017 |
| Successful applicants notified | 30 November 2017 |
| Project start date | 1 January 2018 |

Expressions of Interest received after the closing date will not be considered

**No part of the Guidelines and Expression of Interest Form should be deleted prior to submission.** If an application is submitted with any part of the Guidelines and/or Expression of Interest missing, the application may be considered ineligible.

Table of Contents

[Guidelines and eligibility 3](#_Toc489974363)

[What projects will be funded? 3](#_Toc489974364)

[Available funding 3](#_Toc489974365)

[Who is eligible to apply? 3](#_Toc489974366)

[Assessment criteria 4](#_Toc489974367)

[Successful applicants 4](#_Toc489974368)

[Submitting applications 5](#_Toc489974369)

[Expression of Interest Form 6](#_Toc489974370)

[Grant type 6](#_Toc489974371)

[Details of Principal Investigator or Project Manager 6](#_Toc489974372)

[Host Institution / Organisation details 7](#_Toc489974373)

[Taxon for funding 8](#_Toc489974374)

[Project details 8](#_Toc489974375)

[Commencement and completion dates 9](#_Toc489974376)

[Funding 10](#_Toc489974377)

[Important information 11](#_Toc489974378)

[Freedom of information 11](#_Toc489974379)

[Permits 11](#_Toc489974380)

[Genetic resources 11](#_Toc489974381)

[Lodging of specimens and digital records 11](#_Toc489974382)

[Animal ethics 12](#_Toc489974383)

[Submission of progress and final reports 12](#_Toc489974384)

[Certification from Principal Investigator or Project Manager 12](#_Toc489974385)

[Certification from Host Institution/Organisation 12](#_Toc489974386)

[Checklist 13](#_Toc489974387)

[Attachment A: Bush Blitz objectives and taxon groups 14](#_Toc489974388)

[Bush Blitz objectives 14](#_Toc489974389)

[Attachment B: Priority areas and material for Tactical Taxonomy Grants 15](#_Toc489974390)

# Guidelines and eligibility

## What projects will be funded?

1. Tactical Taxonomy Grants are available to researchers for the publication of new species and resolution of problematic groups collected from Bush Blitz surveys.

2. Tactical Taxonomy projects must contribute to achieving the Bush Blitz Priority Areas and have a focus on one or more of the Target Taxa listed in **Attachment A**.

## Available funding

3. Grants are available for an amount of $15,000 (GST exclusive) for a period of 12 month.

4. Expressions of Interest that include funding or in-kind support from other sources will be considered of higher merit.

5. Projects that propose publication in a peer reviewed journal will be considered of higher merit.

## Who is eligible to apply?

6. Expressions of Interest are accepted from Australian researchers (hereafter the Principal Investigator) who have attended a Bush Blitz survey or work in collaboration with a researcher who attended a Bush Blitz survey prior to the closing date.

7. All Principal Investigators must have submitted all reports associated with previous Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) National Taxonomy Research Grant Program (NTRGP) grants, Bush Blitz grants, previous Tactical Taxonomy Contracts and any other contract(s) related to Bush Blitz field work for their Expression of Interest to be considered. If you have not submitted a report for a previous grant or contract you must submit it with your Expression of Interest.

8. Principal Investigators need to be affiliated with an institution holding Bush Blitz collections to gain access to facilities and material from collections.

9. Up to two Expressions of Interest may be submitted by Principal Investigators in this funding round.

## Assessment criteria

10. Proposals will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Expression of Interest completed correctly | Yes/No |
| Value for money (justified expenses, substantial work output) | Yes/No |
| Extent to which the project aligns with Bush Blitz Priority Areas | 80% |
| Funding or in-kind support from other sources has been obtained | 20% |

## Successful applicants

#### Funding Agreement and Payment Arrangements

11. The successful applicant and the host institution/organisation will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Director of National Parks.

12. All Bush Blitz funding must be applied to project costs and administration fees and may not be claimed by the host institution.

13. Payment will be split with one payment on signing of the funding agreement and a second payment on completion of a progress report.

#### Intellectual Property

14. All project outputs must be publicly released under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) Licence. This should be taken into consideration when developing project proposals.

#### Reporting and Specimen Lodging Requirements

15. All successful applicants will be required to submit a progress report, final report and financial acquittal.

16. A copy of the published paper or acknowledgement from a publisher of submission of a draft manuscript must be submitted at the conclusion of the project. A copy of any publications resulting from the funding must be submitted to ABRS on publication.

17. All specimens and tissue samples collected and digital records created in relation to a funded project must be lodged with a recognised permanent collection, such as a State/Territory museum or State/Territory herbarium.

## Submitting applications

18. You must email your Expression of Interest as a single Word document (including CVs and References) with a PDF scan of the completed signature page attached separately.

19. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by an auto-reply from the ABRS mailbox. If this acknowledgement is not received it is your responsibility to contact ABRS to ensure that your Expression of Interest has been received.

20. ABRS accepts no responsibility for emailed applications that arrive with altered formatting.

21. Applications must be received by the closing date and must be submitted on the Expression of Interest Form to be considered.

**No part of the Guidelines and Expression of Interest Form should be deleted prior to submission.** If an application is submitted with any part of the guidelines and/or Expression of Interest missing, the application may be considered ineligible.

#### Email

abrs.grants@environment.gov.au

#### Mail

Director of National Parks

C/o Bush Blitz Grants

Australian Biological Resources Study

GPO Box 787

Canberra 2601

# Expression of Interest Form

## Grant type

**Type of Grant:** Tactical Taxonomy Grant up to $15,000 (GST exclusive) for 12 months.

## Details of Principal Investigator or Project Manager

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family name |  |
| Given name |  |
| Address |  |
| State/Territory/Postcode |  |
| Phone number |  |
| Email |  |
| Bush Blitz survey attended |  |
| CV attached |  |

## Host Institution / Organisation details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Legal name of institution |  |
| Short or Trading name |  |
| Street number/PO Box |  |
| Street name |  |
| Suburb/Town |  |
| State/Territory |  |
| Postcode |  |
| ABN |  |
| Is the institution GST registered? | Yes/No |
| Institution contact name |  |
| Position |  |
| Phone number |  |
| Email |  |

## Taxon for funding

Please list the core or institutional taxon you will be working on (refer to **Attachment A**). If working on an institutional taxon please state the institution for which the taxon is a priority.

## Project details

Please describe the project in plain English using the subheadings below.

#### Project title

Please use a short descriptive title of no more than 20 words.

#### Summary of project

Describe the proposed project in no more than 500 words, including the biodiversity informatics products to be produced, why the project is scientifically significant and how it relates to Bush Blitz (specifically referring to the material described in **Attachment A**).

#### Outcomes

Describe how the proposed project is relevant to the Bush Blitz program and research priorities in no more than 500 words (specifically referring to the priorities outlined in **Attachment B**).

## Commencement and completion dates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Has the project commenced? | Yes / No |
| Commencement date | DD/MM/YYYY |
| Expected completion date | DD/MM/YYYY |

## Funding

#### Expected funding breakdown

Please provide details of how the funding will be used. Please provide as much information as possible adding additional rows as necessary (maximum half page). Note that all Bush Blitz funding must be applied to the project costs and administration fees and may not be claimed by the host institution.

*Example budget table:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Bush Blitz funding* | *Other / in-kind funding* |
| *Personnel* | *$10,000* | *$10,000* |
| *Equipment* | *$3,000* | *$1,500* |
| *Other expenses* | *$2,000* | *$1,000* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Bush Blitz funding | Other / in-kind funding |
| Personnel | $ | $ |
| Equipment | $ | $ |
| Other expenses | $ | $ |

#### Other funding and/or in-kind support

If other funding or in-kind support is being included in the proposed project, please provide details of the institution(s) providing support.

# Important information

You must read this page

## Freedom of information

All relevant documents are subject to Freedom of Information (FOI) in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and are available by making a valid application to:

FOI Officer

Department of the Environment and Energy

GPO Box 787

Canberra ACT 2601

## Permits

All collecting activities carried out as part of a funded project must be undertaken in full compliance with the laws and regulations of the States and Territories and the Commonwealth of Australia. There are substantial fines for illegal collecting in most States, and these are enforced. A range of authorities in each of the States and Territories is responsible for the issue of permits for biological collection. Relevant information may be obtained from the leading wildlife management agency, museum or herbarium in each State or Territory, who should be consulted, in any case, as part of the planning process.

## Genetic resources

A permit is required to collect biological samples for genetic/biochemical research in Commonwealth areas. There are similar requirements in Queensland and the Northern Territory, and other States are considering the introduction of such measures. Contact details for each of the State and Territory management authorities can be seen at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/access/index.html>

## Lodging of specimens and digital records

All specimens and tissue samples collected and digital records created in relation to a funded project must be lodged with a recognised permanent collection, such as a State/Territory museum or State/Territory herbarium.

You must read and sign this page

## Animal ethics

Where the funded project involves the use and care of living non-human vertebrate animals or tissue for scientific purposes, the Principal Investigator must obtain review of and approval for such scientific purposes from a recognised animal ethics committee operating under the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. The Principal Investigator agrees to provide the Department with a certificate of compliance with the appropriate guidelines prior to the commencement of any such scientific activities.

## Submission of progress and final reports

Successful applicants are to provide ABRS with all reports by the due dates specified in the milestones schedule of the Funding Agreement.

## Certification from Principal Investigator or Project Manager

I certify to the best of my knowledge that:

1. I have read, understood and agree to all conditions contained in the ‘Important information’ section of this document.

2. All the details on this Expression of Interest are correct and complete.

3. I have attached an updated CV.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Principal Investigator / Project Manager Signature  | Principal Investigator / Project Manager Name | Date |
|  |  |  |

## Certification from Host Institution/Organisation

I certify that:

1. Adequate research support and facilities will be made for the researcher to complete the project.

2. The institution equipment and resources will be available for the duration of the project.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Head of Host institution/Organisation Signature  | Name and designation | Date |
|  |  |  |

# Checklist

Please read this list and ensure you have completed all items prior to submitting your application.

* Attached CV
* Project details are completed
* Principal Investigator/Project Manager signed the Expression of Interest
* Host Institution/Organisation signed the Expression of Interest

# Attachment A: Bush Blitz objectives and taxon groups

Expressions of Interest must specify how the project proposal will help meet the Bush Blitz objectives and if applicable what Bush Blitz material will be studied.

### Bush Blitz objectives

* Expand our understanding of species occurring on conservation estates in Australia
* Discover new species of flora and fauna
* Engage Australians in scientific research and communicate the importance of biodiversity and taxonomic research to all Australians
* Develop a national picture of the biodiversity of Australia’s Reserve System
* Raise awareness of biodiversity conservation at the local, regional and national levels

For research focused Expressions of Interest there are two options for identifying what taxonomic material will be used:

#### 1. Target Taxa

There are a number of taxa targeted for collection in most Bush Blitz surveys. These are:

* Vascular plants
* Reptiles and amphibians
* Arachnids
* Papilionoidea
* Gastropoda
* Odonata
* Heteroptera

#### 2. Institutional Taxa

There are a number of taxa flagged by individual collection institutions as collection and research priorities under Bush Blitz. If the project is related to these taxa groups, the Expression of Interest must specify in the ‘Project details’ section:

* The taxa group
* Which institution the taxon group is a priority

**It is the responsibility of Project Managers to liaise with collections institutions about their priorities.**

# Attachment B: Priority areas and material for Tactical Taxonomy Grants

#### 1. Biodiversity, Conservation and Vulnerable and Endangered Species

Through their work, taxonomists provide information that is fundamental to the understanding and management of our biological world. To be considered for ABRS funding under this criteria, the researcher is required to demonstrate that the intended project will encompass one or more of the following areas:

##### 1.1 Documenting Australia’s Biodiversity:

Studies that that contribute to documentation of Australia’s biodiversity, through identification, revision and documentation of understudied taxonomic groups. This may include, for example, studies of taxonomic groups in largely unexplored habitats or molecular projects that make genetic information publicly available.

##### 1.2 Conservation:

Taxonomic research that provides critical data underpinning national responses to human-induced change, for conservation planning or for the rehabilitation of degraded environments. This may include, for example, taxonomic, systematic or applied research on a group likely to be effective as an indicator of climate change, or focussed taxonomic research on a region subject to major development.

##### 1.3 Vulnerable and Endangered Species:

Taxonomic research that contributes to a greater knowledge of Australia’s vulnerable and endangered biological heritage, especially that listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

##### 1.4 Identifying Australia’s Biodiversity:

Tools and products that contribute to the identification of Australia’s biodiversity.

#### 2. Public, Plant and Animal Health

This criterion focuses on a range of research activities relevant to protecting Australians and Australia’s natural resource industries and biodiversity from disease or pests. To be considered for ABRS funding under the criterion of Public, Plant and Animal health, the researcher is required to demonstrate that the proposed project contributes to the following:

##### 2.1 Public, Plant and Animal Health

Taxonomic research on native species that are, or have the potential to become, pests or agents of disease, or may be venomous or toxic and thereby threaten public, plant or animal health in Australia.

#### Building Taxonomic Capacity

This criterion focuses on support for training and/or recruitment of taxonomists, especially for research on critical taxonomic groups. To be considered for ABRS funding under this criterion, the researcher is required to demonstrate that the proposed project will encompass one or more of the following three areas:

##### 3.1 Training of Early Career Researcher(s):

Taxonomic studies that include clearly specified opportunities for capture and passage of skills and information from professionals to junior colleagues. This may include a project where there is a component that includes a clearly documented opportunity for passing knowledge from a more senior taxonomist to an early career researcher.

#### Communicating the importance of Taxonomic Research

This criterion focuses on support for the development of innovative products or activities that communicate the importance of taxonomic research and how it links to applied outcomes such as conservation management, natural resource management or primary production/industry issues such as biosecurity. Examples of these type of products and activities are: online educational resources for students/teachers, tools to assist those working in the mining industry or agriculture, workshops/seminars, field guides etc.