



# Taxonomy Research Projects 2020-21

## Request for Expressions of Interest

Bush Blitz coordinates biodiversity expeditions in understudied areas of Australia to discover new species and increase knowledge about the distribution of known species. Specimens are collected by researchers under contract and accessioned into a public institution. Bush Blitz is now offering short-term contracts to taxonomists to publish new species, and resolve problematic groups of species, using material collected from Bush Blitz expeditions.

### BACKGROUND

Bush Blitz 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 a partnership between the Australian Government, Parks Australia, BHP and Earthwatch Australia.

### Bush Blitz Objectives

- The availability of taxonomic information on the flora and fauna of Australia is increased.
- Land managers are implementing practices that are more effective at protecting biodiversity.
- All land managers, including Indigenous rangers and traditional owners, are implementing practices that are more effective at protecting biodiversity.
- Communities are taking sustainable on-ground action to protect local biodiversity.

### REQUEST FOR SERVICES

Bush Blitz proposes to contract taxonomists to study and publish new species and resolve problematic groups using specimens and data collected on Bush Blitz expeditions, as detailed in the Scope of Works. Bush Blitz is open to Expressions of Interest (EOIs) that may target one, or several, taxa. This project may involve multiple contracts (operating in parallel) with Suppliers, each focused on different taxa. Each contract will be awarded for a maximum of \$15,000 (GST excl.).

EOIs should be sent to [BushBlitz@environment.gov.au](mailto:BushBlitz@environment.gov.au) using the form provided on the [Bush Blitz website](#) by **5pm (EDT) Friday 11 October 2019**.

EOIs will only be accepted from Australian institutions or individual researchers.

Personnel listed on the EOI must be affiliated with an institution holding Bush Blitz collections, or have an agreement in writing to gain access to facilities, data and material from collections.

A person may be listed on up to two EOIs.

Once EOIs are received by Bush Blitz, they will be evaluated and selected via a competitive selection process (see Selection Process below).

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

Projects must describe new taxa, using specimens and data from Bush Blitz expeditions, or contribute to achieving the Bush Blitz Objectives in some other substantial way. Outputs of projects must include submission of a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal or publication.

## **PROJECT TIMEFRAME**

Suppliers will be expected to undertake work in accordance with the Milestones schedule and detailed within a Commonwealth Contract – Goods and Services.

Individual contracts will vary in detail and length, depending on the number of taxa to be worked on by the Supplier. Bush Blitz is flexible on the starting date and the number of days per week a Supplier undertakes the work.

All work on this project is expected to be completed by no later than 30 June 2021.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

All EOIs will be evaluated by the scientific staff of Bush Blitz and the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) for merit, value for money, expertise and capacity to deliver.

‘Merit’ is defined as the overall standard or quality of the proposal being submitted, as compared to other proposals received.

‘Value for money’ is defined as the extent to which the project costings are realistic and are commensurate with the proposed outcomes and likely benefits of the project. The commitment of salary, cash or in-kind support by a Supplier’s organisation would be looked on favourably by Bush Blitz in its assessment of value for money.

‘Expertise’ is demonstrated by relevant tertiary qualifications and track record. Sharing of knowledge and expertise by established researchers, collaborating and co-applying with early career researchers, to support and develop their track records, is encouraged.

‘Capacity to deliver’ is demonstrated through the Supplier’s history of publishing and providing outputs in a timely manner. This capacity may be further demonstrated by the inclusion of attachments, e.g. curriculum vitae, publication histories and published papers, with the EOI.

To be eligible, any institution or individual listed on the EOI must have submitted any overdue reports associated with previous ABRS National Taxonomy Research Grant Program (NTRGP) grants, and any other contracts with Bush Blitz.

Contact officers identified on the EOI will be notified of the outcome by Bush Blitz within 21 working days of the closing date. Draft Contracts will then be provided to successful institutions/individuals for their review and signature.

## **REPORTING**

All successful Suppliers will be required to submit a progress report nine months after the contract start date. Evidence of manuscript submission to a peer-reviewed journal or publication editor must be provided by the contract completion date.

Bush Blitz must be acknowledged on all manuscripts and publications.

A copy of all publications resulting from the contract must be submitted to Bush Blitz on publication.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

For more information on this project please contact Helen Cross, Bush Blitz Administration Officer on 02 6250 9443 or [BushBlitz@environment.gov.au](mailto:BushBlitz@environment.gov.au)