

Supporting weed management including early invader weeds during bushfire recovery in Victoria after the summer of 2019/2020

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Summary The summer of late 2019 and early 2020 in Victoria was dominated by large-scale and intense bushfires in the north east and east Gippsland. Over 1.5 million hectares across the State were burnt. A short window after bushfire provides a great opportunity to treat emerging weed seedlings and regrowth before they have a chance to smother the ground preventing indigenous plant growth, and before they mature to seeding and reproduce on mass. The Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project was tasked with assisting bushfire recovery from the early months of 2020. We share a range of activities and support offered to biodiversity and public land managers, and private land holders to assist nature recover and reduce the burden of environmental weeds in the

landscape. With restrictions on travel at the time, the project shifted to a series of webinars in November-December 2020

<https://tinyurl.com/WeedsAfterFire>.

We share our findings from running online webinars and hints for those thinking of doing the same <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/early-invaders>

These webinars were funded by the Victorian Government's \$22.5 million Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery (BBRR) program. For more information on the BBRR program, visit www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/home/biodiversity-bushfire-response-and-recovery

Keywords Environmental weeds, early invader weeds, webinars, engagement