

ALA Biodiversity Data Mobilisation Program Guide

About the program

The Australian Biodiversity Data Mobilisation Program (ABDMP) provides financial support to Australian institutions to digitise and prepare existing biodiversity data for open access through the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).

Australia holds vast collections of biodiversity records in museum drawers, field notebooks, spreadsheets, and databases that are not yet publicly accessible. This program helps institutions make that data available for science, conservation, and decision-making.

Applications for the 2026 round closed on 24 April 2026.

All applicants will be notified of outcomes in June–July 2026.



Beard's Mallee (*Eucalyptus beardiana*)
Photo credit: callaghangardener CC-BY-NC 4.0



Giant Mudskipper (*Periophthalmodon freycineti*)
Photo credit: Roy Anderson CC BY-NC

Eligibility

Eligible applications

- Applications must be submitted through or in partnership with an ABN-registered institution
- Project must currently have data that will not otherwise be shared on the ALA
- Data must primarily feature species occurrence records (records of where and when a species was observed), ideally including species name, location, and date

Ineligible applications

- Projects proposing new data collection or fieldwork
- Funding for purchasing or developing new database systems
- Existing ALA partnership projects already receiving ALA or NCRIS funding

Additional requirements

Applicants must agree to provide data to the ALA in Darwin Core Standard (tdwg.org/standards/dwc) under a Creative Commons licence (creativecommons.org).

Not sure if your project is eligible? Email outreach@ala.org.au

Funding and Budget

Available grant levels

Small project: \$10,000 - \$20,000

Targeted datasets, specific survey series, or smaller collections

Large project: \$21,000 - \$50,000

Large collections, complex data curation, or significant volume of records



Thismia megalongensis
Photo credit Izakschoon CC-BY-NC



Tasmanian Giant Freshwater Lobster (*Astacopsis gouldi*)
Photo credit john lenagan CC BY-NC

What funding can cover

- Staff time for digitisation, data curation and technical support
- Equipment: scanners, imaging tools, storage
- Conversion of analogue data to Darwin Core Standard

What is not covered

- Fieldwork that generates new biodiversity data, or fieldwork equipment including acoustic and camera equipment
- Purchase or development of new database software
- Projects not resulting in data published on the ALA



For more information visit ala.org.au/abdmpp/ or contact outreach@ala.org.au



How to apply

The following reflects the application process for the 2026 round. Requirements may vary slightly in future rounds. This information is provided as general guidance for those interested in applying in future years.

Applications must be submitted online via the application form. A drafting template will be made available to help prepare responses offline before officially submitting, along with a budget template to attach with your application.

Visit ala.org.au/abdmp for the application form and templates when the next round opens.

What your application must include

Project description: project description Proposed data mobilisation activity (max 500 words)

Data gaps addressed: data gaps addressed Spatial, temporal, or taxonomic gaps your data fills (max 200 words)

Alignment with national priorities: how the project aligns with national priorities, e.g. Threatened Species Action Plan, National Biosecurity Strategy (max 300 words)

Budget: estimated costs completed in the provided budget template (required attachment)

Letter of support: from the financial delegate of your institution or department



Plains Wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*)
Photo credit: Anaëlle Francia CC BY-NC

Data requirements and standards

All funded project data must be:

- Published through the Atlas of Living Australia
- Formatted according to Darwin Core Standard
- Made openly accessible under a Creative Commons licence (CC0 or CC BY)

Useful resources:

Darwin Core standard: tdwg.org/standards/dwc

Sharing data with the ALA: ala.org.au/sharingdata

Sharing data with the ALA: ala.org.au/sharingdata



Ruby Bonnet (*Cruentomyces viscidocruenta*)
Photo Credit RogerP CC BY NC

Learn more about submitting a dataset to the ALA:

