



invasive
species council



Bugs In My Backyard Week

16–22 November 2026

Help create Australia's springtime bug snapshot

This November, thousands of Australians will be heading into their backyards, parks and school grounds to help create a national snapshot of Australia's bugs – and we'd love your help getting people in your electorate involved.

Bugs In My Backyard Week runs from **16–22 November 2026** as part of Bug Hunt Australia, a national citizen science project led by the Invasive Species Council and Invertebrates Australia.

Taking part is simple: people photograph insects, spiders, snails and other invertebrates and upload their observations to iNaturalist. Every record helps build our understanding of Australia's native wildlife and can help detect invasive species before they spread.

At its heart, Bug Hunt is about inspiring a love of nature in children, families and communities while putting thousands of extra sets of eyes on the ground for biosecurity.

Last year, more than 5,000 people submitted over 40,000 observations in just seven days. This year, we want to get even more Australians looking closely at the wildlife living right under their noses.

Why it matters

Invasive species are Australia's leading driver of native species decline and are **expected to cause 75 of the next 100 extinctions**.

New pest incursions are far cheaper and easier to contain the earlier they are detected. By putting thousands of extra sets of eyes into backyards, parks and bushland across the country, Bug Hunt strengthens Australia's early detection network.

How you can help

We've put together a **Bugs In My Backyard Week communications pack** with everything you need to promote the week in your electorate, including ready-to-use social media copy and tiles, newsletter content, posters and flyers.

We'd be grateful if you could **share the campaign with your community in the lead-up to 16 November** through your social media, local schools and community networks.



Native and invasive invertebrates fact sheet - Northern Territory



National:

- Invertebrates represent over 95% of all animal species in Australia, with an estimated total count of more than 320,000 species.
- Around 70% of Australian invertebrates, or roughly 200,000 species, remain unknown to Western science.
- Australia currently lists almost 1,000 invertebrates as threatened with extinction, of which 84% are endemic to Australia.
- Citizen scientists have contributed more than half of all species records to Australia's national biodiversity database - the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) - more than 70 million records.
- Australia has more than 2,000 species of native bees.
- Invasive snails and slugs contaminate cereal and legume crops and cost the grain industry over \$170 million each year.
- About 9,111 Australian invertebrate species are likely to have become extinct since colonisation, at a continuing extinction rate of around 2-3 invertebrates per week.

Northern Territory:

- **There are 85 invertebrate species listed as threatened with extinction in the NT.**
- The threatened Atlas moth (*Attacus wardi*) has a wingspan of up to 22cm, making it Australia's 2nd largest moth, yet it is a narrow-range endemic restricted to high rainfall coastal areas of the north-western Top End and northern Kimberley.
- Invasive yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) spray formic acid to blind native wildlife and outcompete indigenous pollinators and seed-dispersing ants across the Top End. Surveillance by First Nations ranger groups and local residents is essential in identifying new satellite colonies early.



For more information, visit bughunt.org.au, or contact Jess Ward-Jones, Invasive Species Council: 0408 251 074 or jessicawj@invasives.org.au.

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