

The online Australian Faunal Directory, a vital biodiversity resource

Alice Wells *¹

¹ Australian Biological Resources Study, PO Box 787, Canberra, 2601, ACT, Australia

Spawned by the Australian Biological Resources Study's traditionally published Zoological Catalogue of Australia, the online Australian Faunal Directory (AFD) is being brought up-to-date to include all species names recorded for the Australian Fauna. The AFD will become the baseline names list for the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and over the last 18 months, mainly with support from the ALA, some 40-50 compilers have been adding missing taxa and data through our novel online (off-site) editing facility. Over this period addition of about 5,000 names has raised to around 90,000 the number of valid species we list, and some 5,000 entries have been modified. The contents of the AFD vary, depending on the taxa compiled and the compiler, with some entries rich in detail and illustrated. A snap shot is presented of the variety of information available in this resource.

