



National Research Collections Australia
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14 October 2021

Dear Colleague

I am pleased to inform you that National Research Collections Australia will soon be relocating our Canberra-based collections from their current locations to a new, single, purpose-built collections precinct. The new National Collections Building is jointly funded by CSIRO and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.

The new precinct will be located at the CSIRO Black Mountain site in Canberra. It will provide modern storage and research facilities including secure collections halls, dedicated storage for ethanol-preserved specimens, new molecular laboratories (including a trace DNA laboratory), digitisation facilities, and curation, office and meeting spaces. It will allow co-location of four of our seven major collections:

- Australian National Herbarium
- Australian National Insect Collection
- Australian National Wildlife Collection
- Australian Tree Seed Centre

We have now completed several years of planning and construction is expected to commence in early 2022, with the project to be completed by the end of 2023. Of necessity, preparations for the relocation, and the move itself, will have significant implications for our collections management and science operations over the period commencing 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2024 that may affect you or your institution. The extent of these disruptions will vary across the different collections.

The Australian National Algae Culture Collection and Australian National Fish Collection in Tasmania and the Australian Tropical Herbarium in Queensland will not be impacted by this process.

We expect only minimal disruption to the operations of the Australian Tree Seed Centre and some limited impacts on loans, students and visitors at the Australian National Herbarium as both collections are already located on the new precinct site and neither will be moving buildings.

The Australian National Insect Collection will move only a few hundred metres from its current location. However, this will involve disruptions to all activities as we relocate 12 million specimens and associated research equipment. We anticipate visitors, loans in/out and enquiries that require access to the collection to be significantly interrupted during the specified period.

The Australian National Wildlife Collection will move the furthest, from its current location at CSIRO's Crace site to Black Mountain, a distance of approximately 10km. We expect to be able to continue responding to requests for tissue samples, except when the freezers are being moved in mid-to-late 2023. However, as with the ANIC, it is expected that visitors, loans in/out and enquiries that require access to the collection will be significantly interrupted from January 2022.

Taking this approach of limiting our operations at ANIC and ANWC over the next two and a half years is necessary to allow our staff to focus on the important and challenging task of relocating these valuable research collections. It will also mean that we will be able to resume our full suite of collections management and science activities, interactions and services as soon as possible following the relocation.

During this challenging time we appreciate your consideration and patience and look forward to being able to welcome you to our National Research Collections Australia Precinct in 2024.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Young', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Andrew Young
Director, National Research Collections Australia
CSIRO National Facilities and Collections