



bushfire&natural
HAZARDSCRC

HAZARDS, CULTURE AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

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Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

- It's where the majority of Aboriginal people live in Australia today, and it has always been the most densely populated part of Australia.
- They formally hold small but significant land holdings, often managed with other interests (e.g. co-managed national parks). Access to publically and privately held lands is important.
- Often live as a minority within diverse intercultural communities
- Complex identity politics
- Knowledge and authority

OBJECTIVES (IN SHORT)

- 1) Investigate current priorities and engagement
- 2) Conduct collaborative research to improve engagement
- 3) Synthesize results for broader policy and practice utilisation

→ Intercultural Focus

EXAMPLE: INTERCULTURAL 'CULTURAL BURNING' POLITICS

Why should they be supported?

What is their purpose?

What *should* their purpose be and who decides?

How are they done?

Who can do them?

What knowledge and/or support is needed?

What happens when cultural burns meet threatened species?

How do ecology and/or 'culture' affect a prescribed burn?

PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

Proposed case studies



Also: Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corp, Central East Victoria



KEY UTILISATION PRODUCTS

- Case-study interactions and findings
- 'State of play' reporting – insights and comparative analysis
- Social-institutional diagrammatic maps
- Factors for success
- National and sub-national networks

NEXT STEPS

- Ethics application
- Continue case study and end user engagement
- Recruit research assistant
- Advertise principal researcher position
- AFAC co-presentation
- Literature review

PROJECT TEAM

Dr Jessica Weir, Western Sydney University
Dr Timothy Neale, Deakin University
Principle Researcher to be appointed
Research Assistant to be appointed
Mr Oliver Costello, Firestick Farming
Dr Brian Cook, University of Melbourne
Mr Jeremy Dore, Aboriginal Carbon Fund
A/Prof Tara McGee, University of Alberta
Prof Jeremy Russell-Smith, Charles Darwin University

END USERS

John Schauble, Emergency Management Victoria, Lead end user
Darren Perry, Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations
Tim Von Carate, Department of Land, Water and Planning, Victoria
Rodney Carter, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
Simon Curry, NSW Rural Fire Service
Kate White, State Emergency Services Victoria
Dean Freeman, ACT Parks and Conservation
Adams Leavesly, ACT Parks and Conservation
Stuart Gunning, WA State Emergency Management Committee

PHD STUDENTS

- Daniel May, The Australian National University
- Another position to be advertised, Deakin University

QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK/ INVOLVEMENT?

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