



Photo: ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

- Key Topics:
- indigenous communities [2]
  - resilience [3]
  - risk management [4]


Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities [5]  
This project considered the challenges and opportunities arising out of engagements between Indigenous peoples and natural hazard and land management government agencies in southern Australia. The majority of this activity has focused on cultural burning. The research team undertook qualitative research, primarily through forming partnerships with key practitioners working in this space and undertaking research activities that iteratively learnt from these partnerships. The shared motivations held by some Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals to form collaborative partnerships are challenged by their operating context, including a lack of trust, bureaucratic constraints, tokenism, racism, and a lack of resources. This project finds that the sector needs to move beyond statements of support to develop specific policies and programs that demonstrably grow opportunities for Indigenous engagement and partnership, and provides suggestions as to what these policies may be.

Project: detail Notabs

Research team

Research leader

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<p>[17]</p>  <p><b>Oliver Costello</b> [17] RESEARCH TEAM</p> <p>[18]</p>  <p>Cultural burning: healthy communities, healthy landscapes</p>	<p>[19]</p>  <p><b>A/Prof Tara McGee</b> [19] RESEARCH TEAM</p> <p>[20]</p> 
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Description

This project considered the challenges and opportunities arising out of engagements between Indigenous peoples and natural hazard and land management government agencies in southern Australia. The majority of this activity has focused on cultural burning, which has also been our focus.

Significantly, there is very limited existing research about these engagements, and limited public sector experience in engaging with Indigenous peoples. This constrains evidenced-based policy and practice and practitioner decision making. This lack of capacity was clear in the responses to the 2019-20 bushfires.

The research team undertook qualitative research, primarily through forming partnerships with key practitioners working in this space and undertaking research activities that iteratively learnt from these partnerships. In this, researching both Indigenous and non-Indigenous values has been important in order to navigate and analyse this intercultural context.

The research findings are structured in two sections: the first presents the results from our literature review, the second presents a synthesis of the research findings arranged under six headings (unfamiliarity with the context itself, trust and partnerships, centring Country and First Peoples, administration and regulation, expert evidence and erasure, accounting and reporting), with recommended first steps for the natural hazard sector under each heading. Given previous sector and research practices, the suggested first steps require significant sector leadership and investment in Indigenous-led research.

[Read the final report here.](#) [51]

View the *Cultural burning in southern Australia* illustrated booklet and posters



[52]

Related News



15 DEC 2021

Best Paper in 2021 awarded to CRC researchers  
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, RESILIENCE

[53]



Stories of cultural burning in southern Australia  
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, LAND MANAGEMENT

29 SEP 2021





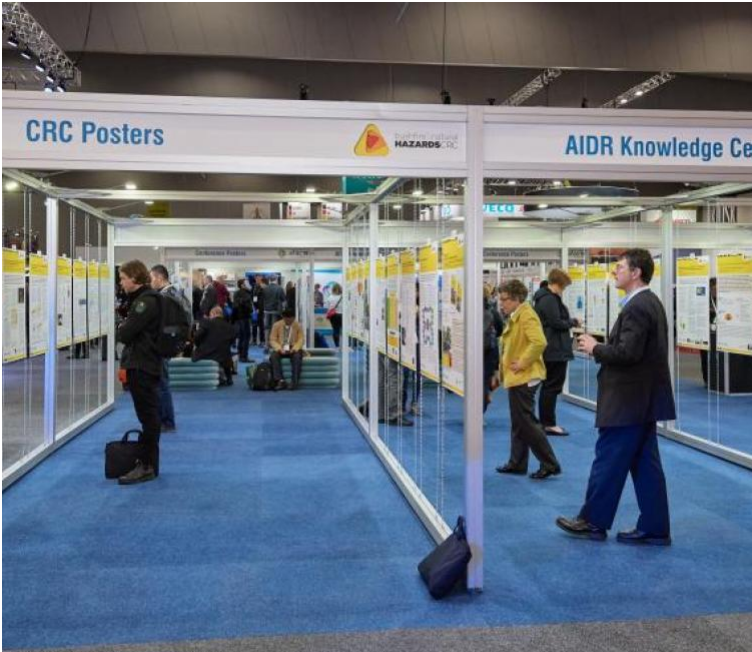
Amplifying Indigenous cultural burning voices  
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, LAND MANAGEMENT

29 SEP 2021



Supporting resilience in Indigenous communities: how the emergency management sector can do better  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

08 SEP 2021



New online - May 2021  
COMMUNICATION, MULTI-HAZARD

25 MAY 2021

[57]



New online - March 2021  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, MULTI-HAZARD

25 MAR 2021

[58]



New online - February 2021  
COMMUNICATION, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

23 FEB 2021

[59]



Emergency management in the community  
COMMUNICATION, COMMUNITIES

19 OCT 2020

[60]





New online - April 2020  
COMMUNICATION, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

21 APR 2020

[61]



What are whitefellas talking about when we talk about "cultural burning"?  
FIRE WEATHER, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

21 APR 2020

[62]





03 APR 2020

1 in 10 children affected by bushfires is Indigenous. We've been ignoring them for too long  
FIRE, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

[63]



19 FEB 2020

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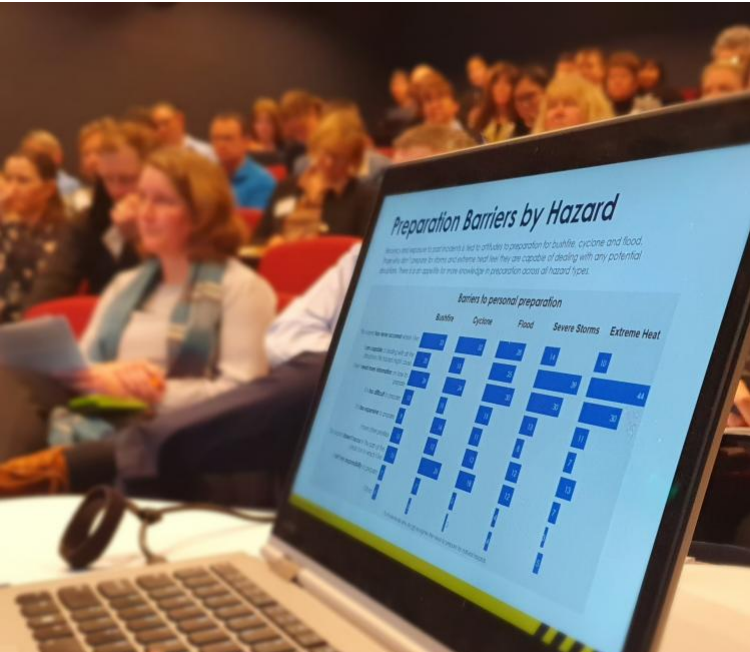
[64]



Media seek research insights  
COMMUNICATION, FIRE

23 JAN 2020

[65]



Research guides communications with community  
CHILD-CENTRED, COMMUNICATION

01 OCT 2019

[66]





04 SEP 2019

Coexisting with combustion: the future of bushfire management  
FIRE IMPACTS, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

[67]



04 SEP 2019

Magazine highlights data and warnings research  
COMMUNICATION, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[68]



19 AUG 2019

Issues of safety and engagement highlighted in Journal  
COMMUNITIES, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[69]



18 APR 2019

Coexisting with combustion: the future of bushfire management  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FIRE IMPACTS

[70]





New online - April 2019  
CYCLONE, EARTHQUAKE

16 APR 2019

[71]



New online - December 2018  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, MODELLING

18 DEC 2018

[72]



15 NOV 2018

New online – November 2018  
EARTHQUAKE, MODELLING

[73]



19 OCT 2018

Research increasing preparedness  
CHILD-CENTRED, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

[74]



New online - September 2018  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

19 SEP 2018

[75]



Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities project update  
COMMUNICATION, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

21 MAY 2018

[76]





02 MAR 2018

Project update - Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities  
COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

[77]



13 NOV 2017

Project update - Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities  
COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

[78]





31 AUG 2017

New natural hazards science for Australia  
MENTAL HEALTH, RESILIENCE

[79]



22 MAR 2017














New science set to dazzle

[80]

Publications

Year	Type	Citation
2021	Journal Article	Smith, W. [21], Neale, T. [8] & Weir, J. [6] <b>Persuasion without policies: The work of reviving Indigenous peoples' fire management in southern Australia</b> [81]. <i>Geoforum</i> <b>120</b> , 82-92 (2021). DOI [81]
2021	Journal Article	Freeman, D. [86], Williamson, B. [87] & Weir, J. [6] <b>Cultural burning and public sector practice in the Australian Capital Territory</b> [88]. <i>Australian Geographer</i> (2021). doi:https://doi.org/10.1080/000
2021	Report	Weir, J. [6], Freeman, D. [86] & Williamson, B. [87] <b>Cultural burning in southern Australia</b> [93]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2021). Google Scholar [94] BibTeX [95] EndNote XML [96]
2021	Report	McKemey, M. [97], Neale, T. [8] & Costello, O. [98] <b>Principles for enhanced collaboration between land and emergency management agencies and Indigenous peoples - green paper</b> [99]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2021). Google Scholar [100] BibTeX [101] EndNote XML [102]
2021	Report	Weir, J. [6], Neale, T. [8] & Smith, W. [21] <b>Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities – final project report</b> [51]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2021). Google Scholar [103] BibTeX [104] EndNote XML [105]
2020	Book Chapter	Weir, J. [6], Sutton, S. [106] & Catt, G. [107] <i>Natural Hazards and Disaster Justice: Challenges for Australia and Its Neighbours</i> 299-317 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). doi:https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-1080-0_10
2020	Report	Weir, J. [6], Smith, W. [21] & Neale, T. [8] <b>Hazards, culture and indigenous communities: socio-institutional modules for utilisation</b> [112]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2020). Google Scholar [113] BibTeX [114] EndNote XML [115]
2020	Report	Smith, W. [21], Weir, J. [6] & Neale, T. [8] <b>Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities – annual report 2018-2019</b> [116]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2020). Google Scholar [117] BibTeX [118] EndNote XML [119]
2020	Report	Williamson, B. [87], Markham, F. [120] & Weir, J. [6] <b>Aboriginal Peoples and the response to the 2019-2020 bushfires</b> [121]. (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2020). Google Scholar [122] BibTeX [123] EndNote XML [124]
2019	Journal Article	Neale, T. [8], Carter, R. [42], Nelson, T. [126] & Bourke, M. [127] <b>Walking together: a decolonising experiment in bushfire management on Dja Dja Wurrung country</b> [128]. <i>Cultural Geographies</i> <b>1</b> , 1-15 (2019). doi:https://doi.org/10.1080/14749059.2019.1648881
2019	Report	Weir, J. [6] & Freeman, D. [86] <b>Fire in the south: a cross-continental exchange</b> [133]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2019). Google Scholar [134] BibTeX [135] EndNote XML [136]
2019	Report	Smith, W. [21], Weir, J. [6] & Neale, T. [8] <b>Hazards, Culture and Indigenous Communities Annual Report 2017-2018</b> [137]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2019). Google Scholar [138] BibTeX [139] EndNote XML [140]
2018	Journal Article	Thomassin, A. [141], Weir, J. [6] & Neale, T. [8] <b>The natural hazard sector's engagement with Indigenous peoples: a critical review of CANZUS countries</b> [142]. <i>Geographical research</i> (2018). doi:https://doi.org/10.1080/00141801.2018.1538881
2018	Report	Smith, W. [21], Weir, J. [6] & Neale, T. [8] <b>Southeast Australia Aboriginal fire forum</b> [147]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2018). Google Scholar [148] BibTeX [149] EndNote XML [150]
2017	Conference Paper	Rumsewicz, M. [151] <b>Research proceedings from the 2017 Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and AFAC Conference</b> [152]. <i>Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC &amp; AFAC annual conference 2017</i> (2017). Google Scholar [153] BibTeX [154] EndNote XML [155]

## Presentations & Resources

DATE	TITLE	DOWNLOAD	KEY TOPICS
18 Apr 2017	Hazards, Culture and Indigenous Communities [158]	 273.08 KB	[158] (273.08 KB) indigenous communities [2], resilience [3], risk management [159]
29 Jun 2017	Cultural burning [160]	 5.35 MB	[160] (5.35 MB) [162], indigenous communities [2], prescribed burning [161]
07 Jul 2017	Lightning presentation: hazards, culture and indigenous communities [164]	 698.88 KB	[164] (698.88 KB) indigenous communities [2], resilience [3], risk management [165]
31 Aug 2017	Fire Australia Issue Three 2017 [166]	 5.22 MB	[167] (5.22 MB) [168], prescribed burning [163], severe weather [169]
17 Apr 2018	Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities [170]	 1.76 MB	[171] (1.76 MB) management [172], indigenous communities [2], risk management [173]
09 Apr 2019	Coexisting with combustion: the future of bushfire management [174]	 0 bytes	[175] (0 bytes) [162], fire [176], fire impacts [177]
24 Sep 2019	Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities [178]	 11.6 MB	[178] (11.6 MB) communities [2], multi-hazard [173]
31 Jul 2020	Bushfire lessons from cultural burns [180]	 0 bytes	fire [176], indigenous communities [2], land management [181]
13 Jul 2021	Cultural burning in southern Australia: collaborations based on Indigenous leadership [182]	 340 KB	[183] (340 KB) communities [2], resilience [3], risk management [184]
13 Jul 2021	Cultural burning in southern Australia video: collaborations based on Indigenous leadership [184]	 0 bytes	[185] (0 bytes) communities [2], resilience [3], risk management [186]
15 Jul 2021	Collaboration based on Indigenous leadership [186]	 0 bytes	indigenous communities [2], Northern Australia [187], resilience [188]
08 Sep 2021	Fire Australia Issue Three 2021 [188]	 10.72 MB	[189] (10.72 MB) [162], indigenous communities [2], recovery [190]
29 Sep 2021	Cultural burning in southern Australia [52]	 0 bytes	indigenous communities [2], land management [181], prescribed burning [161]

## Posters



[191]

Hazards, culture and aboriginal peoples in southern Australia

[191]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], RESILIENCE [3]

This new action research project will: Investigate the hazard priorities of diverse Aboriginal communities in...



[192]

Intercultural collaboration on Aboriginal country

[192]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], RESILIENCE [3]

This innovative 3-year research project explores cultural difference and similarity to gain insights into...



[193]

27 AUG 2019

‘What is normal?’ Learning to do risk management together

[193]

RISK MANAGEMENT [4]

We are investigating the existing and emerging engagements between the natural hazards sector and diverse...



[194]

Hazards, Culture and Indigenous Communities

[194]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], MULTI-HAZARD [173]

Key findings: Cultural or traditional burning requires takingthe long view about how to live with each other...



[195]

Uncle Wayne's story

[195]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], RESILIENCE [3]



[196]

Adrian's story

[196]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], RESILIENCE [3]



[197]

Aunty Carol's story

[197]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], RESILIENCE [3]



[198]

Vanessa's story

[198]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], RESILIENCE [3]



[199]

Aunty Eileen's story

[199]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], RESILIENCE [3]



[200]

Jason's story

[200]

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES [2], RESILIENCE [3]

## Links