Hazards, culture and Indigenous communities

Research advisory forum / 2019

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Project objectives

BOTH FOR AND WITH THE SECTOR AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES:

1. Investigate current priorities and engagement
2. Conduct collaborative research to improve engagement
3. Synthesise results for broader policy and practice utilization
Key deliverables

- Two case studies
- Southern Australia practitioner study
- ‘State of play’ reporting – insights and comparative analysis
- Social-institutional mapping
- Factors for success ‘guidelines’
Results

What’s the research telling us?
Literature review

**Engagements**

**How they start:**
- Rights to land and water
- Policy and regulation
- Local initiatives
- Natural hazard events

**Why they occur:**
- Imperative to engage ‘local people’
- Specific socio-economic vulnerabilities
- Bridge cultural difference
- Facilitate cultural heritage protection
- Indigenous knowledge

Ongoing fieldwork

Case studies
1. Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Loddon region, VIC
2. Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri Country, Canberra, ACT

Practitioner study
Southern coastal Australia focus
>20 Indigenous and non-indigenous practitioners directly involved in engagements

Key points of inquiry:
- What has supported success?
- What has been difficult?
- Challenges and opportunities that lie ahead?

Summary points

1. The sector is **well positioned** to provide leadership on public sector collaborations with Aboriginal peoples
2. Intercultural collaborations are **not well supported** by existing sector policy
3. Aboriginal people remain **underrepresented** in natural hazard management sector
4. Asking ‘**what is normal?**’ is central to this work
Utilisation

How and where is it being used?
Key engagements:
- Southeast Australia Aboriginal Fire Forum
- Southern Western Australia knowledge exchange
- Firesticks Workshops (Nowra and Dhungala)
- Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Knowledge Holders Group
- Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference
Some personal highlights…

And some publications…
Future directions

How can it be useful to end users and others?
Workshops and materials

- Social-institutional mapping
- Factors for success ‘guidelines’
- 2020 practitioner and end user workshops
Questions, feedback, more info?


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