"My name is Adrian Brown, I'm a Gija man. This cultural fire stuff is old, it's ancient. When we were kids, we were taught how to burn the Bushmanland River by my dad, Carl Brown.

He just wanted us to understand this is our home, this is our country, and this is where we belong. In all of that hard work and living on the river all the time, that was beautiful.

Dad would look at a landscape and say, 'Well, we can't hunt here, can't move through it. He always said if you can't throw a spear through it, then it's good for nothing.'

That's what fire management meant to him.

Dad always knew the right time to burn.

The wind, the breezes, and just let it gently move down to the river and just push itself out.

Every time I've tried to achieve something, I've thought about that bigger picture about our ancestors and how I could do things justice. Always in the back of my mind, I think about dad. How powerful is that? That this man in his quietness, in his humility, has influenced hundreds and now probably thousands of people. I don't know what that impact is, but whenever I hear people talk here about cultural management, I know it stems from those conversations that he started back a very long time ago.

For me to see a fire makes me feel strong inside. When I see the flame, I see the fire, I see the people talking. I see all that. And I just say, 'Well here we go, I've broken up our ancestors, they're speaking again.'

Adrian Brown
Gija man.
Director, Bigeye Brown

Cultural Burning
in Southern Australia