FIRE (& NH) MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Steve Sutton
Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research,
Research Institute for the Environment & Livelihoods
Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory
THE NORTH AUSTRALIAN BNH CONTEXT

360,000 People
+ Communities from ‘outer regional’ to ‘very remote’.
+ Remote communities mostly inhabited by indigenous Australians (% rises with remoteness)
+ Poor infrastructure
+ Disconnect with emergency management paradigm
+ Poor infrastructure
+ Low population densities
+ Poor communications
+ Low levels of formal education and training
+ Limited labour market experience
+ Poor health

\[ \text{The "Gap"} \]

= Almost no formal emergency management capacity
= No spare capacity to fall back on
= No “Plan B”
= Very limited community resilience
### NORTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING – CONTEXT 2

1) Fire Management Training Objectives?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Australia (now)</th>
<th>Northern Australia (future)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Respond to fire safely</td>
<td>• As for southern Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Control fires when the occur</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Survive the fire season / regime</td>
<td>• Manage landscape scale fire regimes to achieve desired outcomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## NORTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING – CONTEXT 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Southern Australia</th>
<th>Northern Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>Well developed: 150 years + of investment</td>
<td>Poorly developed, very expensive to build &amp; maintain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Human Capital</strong></td>
<td>Substantial, networked, educated</td>
<td>Unreliable at best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
<td>Common language and axioms</td>
<td>Diverse languages, non-english, different cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tenure</strong></td>
<td>Extensive private and public land</td>
<td>Extensive Aboriginal land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technology</strong></td>
<td>Access to latest innovations</td>
<td>Improving access to new technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fire</strong></td>
<td>Mostly limited in extent</td>
<td>Mostly extensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance</strong></td>
<td>Iterated governance arrangements</td>
<td>Poor or contested governance arrangements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# NORTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING – CONTEXT 4

Axioms? Cf Kunwinggku Seasons…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June July August</th>
<th>September October</th>
<th>November December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gudjelk</td>
<td>Banggerreng</td>
<td>Yegge</td>
<td>Wurrgeng</td>
<td>Gurrung</td>
<td>Early build-up</td>
<td>The build-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main part of wet rains</td>
<td>Last rains</td>
<td>Early dry cold time</td>
<td>Middle dry</td>
<td>Hot and sticky</td>
<td>First rains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NORTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING – CONTEXT 5

bnhcrc.com.au
NORTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING – CONTEXT 6
NORTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Objective:
A comprehensive suite of fire and natural hazard emergency management units of competency for northern Australia and remote communities in particular with:

- Enhanced and targeted leadership training for remote indigenous communities.
- Integration of research findings with BNH service delivery.
- Transformative education opportunities from engagement between researchers and practitioners.
- Clear opportunities for government investment in programs that will generate objectives without perverse outcomes.
NORTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Major Outcome

A cohort of people with skills and knowledge to control fire in order to manage a fire regime within a landscape to achieve specific objectives.

- Enhanced and targeted leadership training for remote indigenous communities.
- Integration of research findings with BNH service delivery.
- Transformative education opportunities from engagement between researchers and practitioners.
- Clear opportunities for government investment in programs that will generate objectives without perverse outcomes.
NORTH AUSTRALIAN FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

1) Project Team

Research Institute of Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University;
Professor Andrew Campbell
Dr Peter Jacklyn,

The Northern Institute; Professor Ruth Wallace

The Northern Land Council
Mr Joe Morrison
Mr Brooke Watson

Charles Darwin University VET: Dennis Tonkin

NT Primary Industries Training Advisory Council: Vicki Aurisch,

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education:
Dr Tony Bowland

Bushfires NT: Ken Baulch
NT Fire and Rescue Service : Bruce Byatt

Kimberly Land Council: Anna Pickworth

WA Parks and Wildlife : Trevor Howard,