



bushfire&natural
HAZARDSCRC

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Scoping remote community resilience, building better
governance, finding new opportunities to grow resilience

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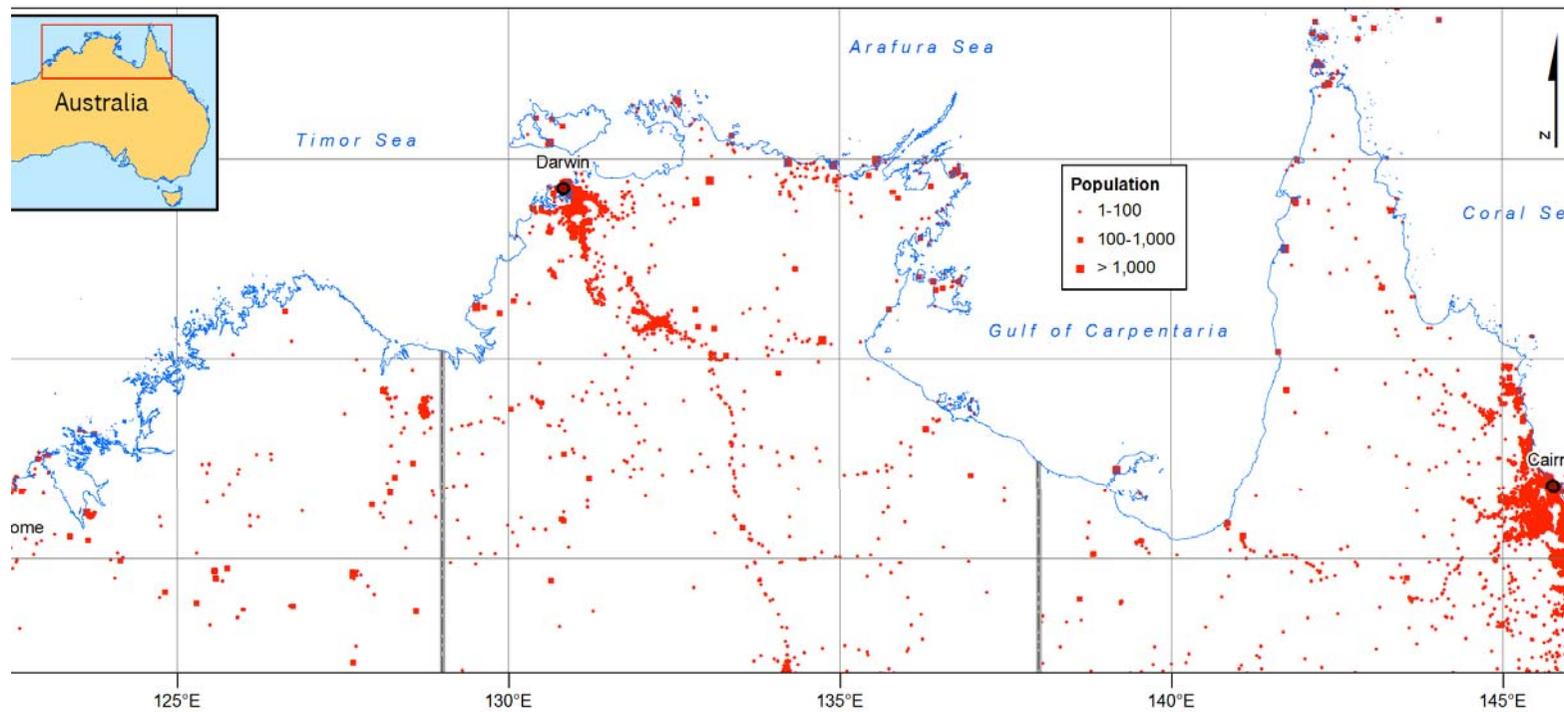
North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd



An Australian Government Initiative



THE NORTH AUSTRALIAN BNH CONTEXT: INDIGENOUS POPULATION DISTRIBUTION



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Project Team

Resilience and governance

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ARPNNet Practitioners
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PES

Dr Kamaljit Sangha (CDU)
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Cluster Lead End User

Suellen Flint (WA DFES)

UNDERSTANDING RESILIENCE & GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES: DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES



Darwin February 2016

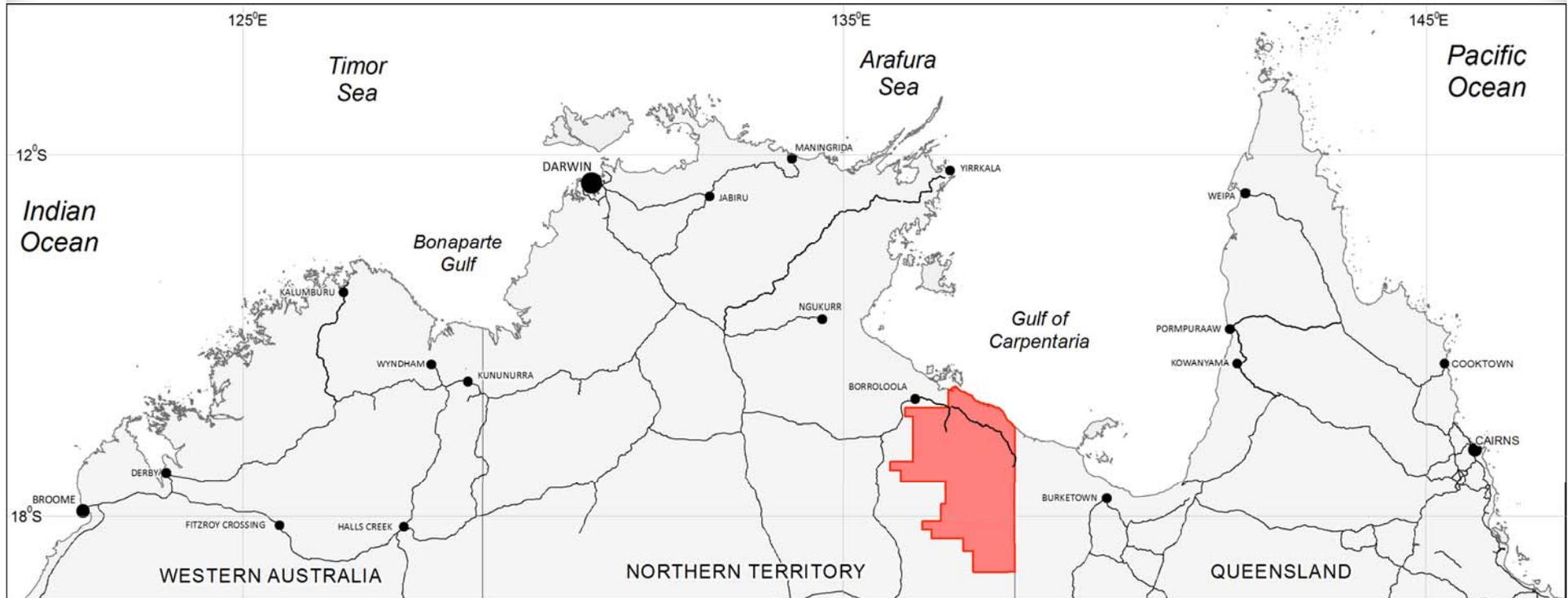
BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Key Component Projects:

- 1) Scoping remote north Australian community resilience and developing community governance models through action research
- 2) Development challenges and opportunities for building resilient remote communities in northern Australia (PES)

Direct links to north Australian Landscape Fire
Management and Training projects

ES & PES PROJECT COMPONENT—NT GULF REGIONAL CASE STUDY EXAMPLE



KEY PROJECT OUTPUT:

A sustainable future for north Australia

CHAPTERS

- 1) Introduction—the inclusive development challenge
- 2) Cultural landscapes of north Australia
- 3) History of land dispossession and land rights
- 4) Status of the regional economy
- 5) **A diversified ecosystem services economy**
- 6) **Empowering Indigenous resilience and prosperity**
- 7) **Gulf case study**
- 8) **Policy and investment challenges for regional development**

NEXT PHASE OF BNHCRC PROJECTS 2017-2020

1. Developing effective EM partnerships in remote north Australian communities

(Potential NEMP project to expand activities more broadly across northern and southern Australia)

2. Scenario planning for remote community risk management in northern Australia

RESILIENCE AND PROSPERITY

“Community Resilience through Reliable Prosperity”

Why are we talking about resilience anyway – what the problem?

The richness off Indigenous societies and the erosion of strengths

Bottom up and top down resilience and prosperity.

Unique characteristics as resilience factors and assets to prosperity.

Connection, identity, knowledge, power, seasonality

Overlapping, not parallel interests; the ‘two tool box approach’



BURRUMALALA – AN ILLUSTRATION OF LOCAL RESILIENCE ISSUES

- A housing crisis existed at Galiwin'ku before, during and after cyclones Lam and Nathan in 2015.
- Yolngu residents are often confused by the myriad of messages coming from service providers.
- Yolngu to Yolngu communication is essential to a functional Yolngu reality and Yolngu resilience.
- Yolngu were appreciative of the assistance they received from all agencies before, during and after cyclones Lam and Nathan in 2015.
- All agencies supported Yolngu to Yolngu communication before, during and after cyclones Lam and Nathan in 2015.
- In general, all agencies responded well before, during and after cyclones Lam and Nathan in 2015.
- Post cyclone Galiwin'ku is not better off than before



BURRUMALALA – CNTD

- Yolngu residents at Galiwin'ku would like to access training relevant to their expressed needs.
- Yolngu who have participated freely in this research project would like their contributions considered and respected with a view to them seeing some practical and constructive outcomes.
- Yolngu at Galiwin'ku want relevant targeted support to overcome a range of complex factors that make it difficult or impossible for Yolngu to understand and participate in mainstream activities, in particular at the Community Interface with non-Yolngu agencies.
- *"not knowing makes us weak"*
- Yolngu at Galiwin'ku want to be respected as equals and want service providers to collaborate with community leaders to develop mechanisms for visiting staff to learn how the Yolngu world works and how to engage appropriately. (*"their - the service providers – responsibility is to stand beside us and provide assistance.... bring clear information and exchange knowledge with us*)

INVISIBLE STRENGTHS

They (government) want us to work but they give all those (paid) jobs to the Balanda now, jobs we used to do in the mission times, before the intervention, they are all Balanda jobs now, it's too hard for Yolngu to get a job here now-days. We educate our kids, but all we hear from outside is how (poorly educated) our children are because they don't speak (read and write) English the same like the Balanda (mainstream) kids. No one talks about how those Balanda kids don't speak Yolngu-Matha. They (mainstream) expect too much from us, they don't know what it's like. They just want us to be like them, what defence do we have against that? (School Liaison Officer).

What are the expectations and success factors with the various parties?

- more effective service provision
- local decision making and jobs
- improved local capacity
- greater diversity and opportunity

What are the 'products' for Indigenous people and for Emergency Management agencies?

- Protocols to work through for better community engagement practice
- Process for developing better relationships
- Reliable relationships with mutual trust to work through
- opportunities to work on similar outcomes at larger scale

What are the risks in doing this?

Galiwinku TO's and community leaders are unable to achieve what they want in the timeframe available

Agencies don't commit to the process, support and shared outcomes over the long term

Opportunities to build social capital in the process are neglected

Other key players act counterproductively (eg shires, LCs, local organisations)

