Cultural land management research and governance in south-east Australia

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Introduction



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Who are we and why are we talking about this?

- Several prior research projects, leading to the current Cultural land management research and governance in south-east Australia project
- 2. Partnerships and collaborations are growing rapidly in number and scope
- 3. Partnerships and collaborations are two-way
- 4. Partnerships and collaborations need guidance





Why col	laborate?
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Ethical reasons (it's their Country)

Legal + policy reasons (it's the law)

Social reasons (it's beneficial to people)

Environmental reasons (it's beneficial to Country)

Other reasons (e.g., economic reasons)

Drivers of change?

Interpersonal relationships, regional networking, grassroots advocacy...

Legislative changes, whole-of-government reform, post-event inquiries...

Grassroots advocacy, research projects, post-event inquiries, demonstration cases...

Grassroots advocacy, research projects, post-event inquiries, demonstration cases, bushfire and biodiversity risk...

See above, plus natural resource economies (e.g., carbon, forestry)

Example

Friendships

Native Title settlements

Healthy Country, Healthy People

Dark Emu

Cultural Heritage enterprises



Hazards, Culture and Indigenous Communities (HCIC) project: Key findings



- 1. Low familiarity between TOs and agencies
- 2. Reliance on personal trust and partnerships
- 3. Obstacles to centering Country and First Peoples
- 4. Reform administration and regulation of fire use
- 5. Need for accounting and accountability





Key enablers



- 1. Interpersonal trust
- 2. Cultural literacy
- 3. Process self-determination
- 4. Specific funding
- 5. Open to change
- 6. Making it "BAU"

Governance value: how it builds capacity for Indigenous people



Principles for Enhanced Collaboration (PEC) project

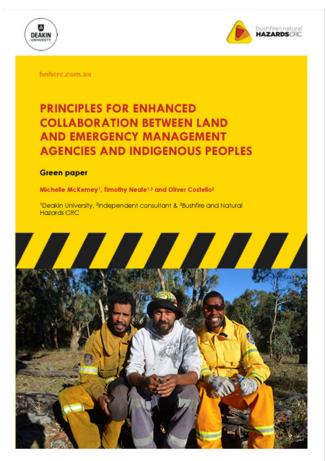


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Project outline



- Problem: a need to work towards sectorwide structures, principles and networks to foster collaboration between agencies and First Nations peoples
- Three workshops in 2021
- 20 representatives from state and territory agencies in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, the ACT, South Australia and Western Australia
- 9 principles
- 13 mechanisms of change







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Mechanisms of change

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EXTERNAL

- Whole-of-government reforms
- Legislative and regulatory changes
- Post-event inquiries
- Public expectations
- First Nations governance

Potential levers:

Native title determinations New cultural heritage policies Inquiry recommendations Community pressure

INTERNAL

- Demonstration cases
- Personal investment
- Resourcing
- Translation and education
- Mentoring
- Networking and exchange

Potential levers:

Publicising local initiatives
 Getting execs on Country
 Medium and long-term funding
 Staging practitioner gatherings



The new project...





Where to from here?



Cultural land management research and governance in south-east Australia

New project will seek to develop research that includes Indigenous voice and representation in governance structures of institutions and land management agencies, and will develop a **framework** of broad principles, **protocols and processes** to guide more ethical and collaborative cultural land management governance and research.

The project will complete **several regional workshops** with Indigenous land management organisations, Traditional Owner groups, government land management agencies and university-based researchers to provide **opportunities to create and support relationships** between these parties.

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Project Steering Group: Matt Shanks, Vikki Parsley, Daniel Miller, Jack Pascoe, Teagan Goolmeer



Principles, protocols and processes to cultural land management governance and research

- Self-determination to practice culture on Country
- Reconciliation, equity and social justice
- Healthy Country, healthy spirit, healthy people
- Empowerment of Indigenous knowledge-holders
- Benefits with and for Indigenous communities
- Respect diversity of Indigenous peoples and cultures



Principles and protocols for cultural land management governance and research

Natural hazards managements agencies and research institutions all have legal and ethical obligations to engage with indigenous peoples no matter where they work in Australia. Everywhere is Country and Indigenous peoples speak for Country. Nonetheless, starting or maintaining intercultural collaborations can present many obstacles, and there is a need for guidance on how to best work together for the benefit of Country. The following summarises a review of relevant collaborative principles, processes and protocols for agencies and research institutions. It is only a starting point for local and in-depth conversations.

	PRINCIPLE	EXAMPLE PROCESS	EXAMPLE PROTOCOL
1. SEU-DETERMINATION TO PRACTICE CULTURE ON COUNTRY	Cultural land management must be self-determined and rights based	Develop collaborative structures that respect Indigenous self-determination	Establish free, prior and informed consent mechanisms for collaborations
	Indigenous peoples have the right to speak authoritatively about Country	Resource and support representative bodies to act as partners	Require co-design and co-delivery with representative bodies
	Cultural leadership and resurgence through caring for Country 'our way'	Resource and support capacity-building according to self-determined pathways	Establish agreements that provide long-term and secure access to Country
2. RECONCILIATION, EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	(Re)centre women and their unique role within Country	Resource and support Indigenous women's access to sacred and significant sites	Establish guidelines for identifying and protecting sacred and significant women's sites
	Support truth-telling and healing	Develop awareness of historical and contemporary issues facing Indigenous peoples	Make place-based cultural sensitivity training compulsory for all staff
	Address racism and promote cultural safety	Develop training and policies to foster cultural safety and acceptance	Establish a cultural safety
3. HEALTHY COUNTRY, HEALTHY SPIRIT, HEALTHY PEOPLE	Healing Country and healthy people are interrelated	Resource and support Indigenous peoples' connection to Country and culture	Establi
	Centre Country, culture and kin in contemporary land management	Develop policies that consider, measure, and monitor cultural and natural value	
	Cultural land management is living knowledge and culture	Regulatory changes to participation in con-	
4. EMPOWERMENT OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE-HOLDERS	Empower Indigenous knowledge and knowledge-holders	Res	\sim
	Manage, protect, and share knowledge		44011.
	Transfer and maintain rekindling of January		00 " of
	1		500° \sim 011°
5. BENEFITS WITH AND FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES	Strong	3/0/8	3,45.C
	understal Accountability	dilor 1	Q/C
2 2 2 5 °	monitoring and	you indi	
6. RECOGNISE AND RESPECT DIVERSITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURES	cultures are diverse Embed flexible and pu	II IrOII	soon from
	built policy and process Understand Indigenous cut	710,	
M Q	protocols and cultural author		men
	t has been developed by th		LI Natural
stralia partr	Australia" project team as a ners and researchers to learn a re information and references and r		Hazards Research Australia
other key	guidance, see: AIATSIS 2020. AIATS : AIATSIS; Woodward, E. et al. 2020.		slander Research. enous-led approaches
	ng and sharing our knowledge for land an	perra, ACT: NAILSMA ar	

Thanks!



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