Cultural land management research and governance in south-east Australia

Oliver Costello (Jagun Alliance), Timothy Neale (Deakin University), Andrea Rawluk (University of Melbourne)

t.neale@deakin.edu.au

Introduction

Who are we and why are we talking about this?

1. 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

Many pathways to collaboration

Why collaborate?	Drivers of change?	Example
Ethical reasons (it's their Country)	Interpersonal relationships, regional networking, grassroots advocacy…	Friendships
Legal + policy reasons (it's the law)	Legislative changes, whole-of-government reform, post-event inquiries…	Native Title settlements
Social reasons (it's beneficial to people)	Grassroots advocacy, research projects, post-event inquiries, demonstration cases…	Healthy Country, Healthy People
Environmental reasons (it's beneficial to Country)	Grassroots advocacy, research projects, post-event inquiries, demonstration cases, bushfire and biodiversity risk…	*Dark Emu*
Other reasons (e.g., economic reasons)	See above, plus natural resource economies (e.g., carbon, forestry)	Cultural Heritage enterprises

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# 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"
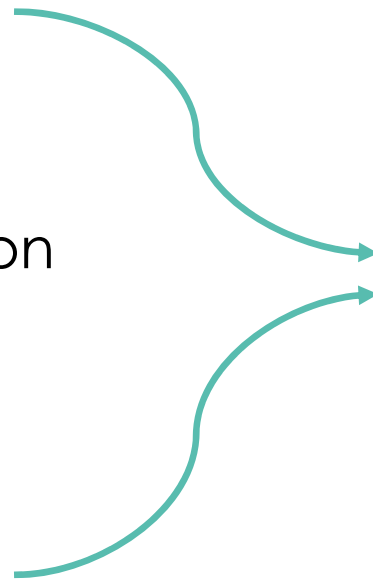
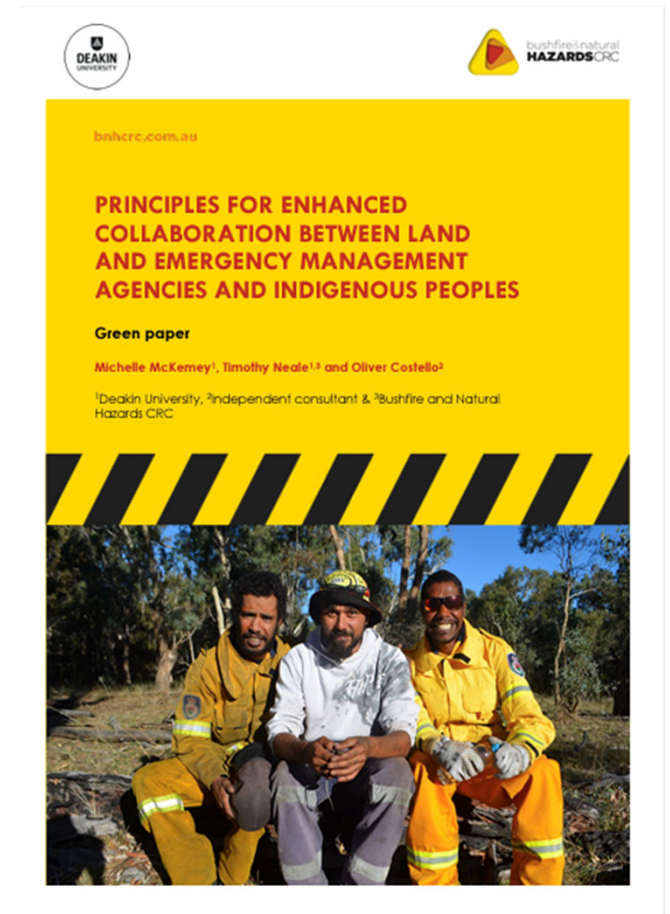**Governance value**: how it builds capacity for Indigenous people

Principles for Enhanced Collaboration (PEC) project

Project outline

- Problem: a need to work towards sector-wide 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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PRINCIPLES FOR ENHANCED COLLABORATION BETWEEN LAND AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Green paper

Michelle McKemey[1], Timothy Neale[1,3] and Oliver Costello[2]

[1]Deakin University, [2]Independent consultant & [3]Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC

Mechanisms of change

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.

Research team: Oliver Costello, Timothy Neale, Bhiamie Eckford-Williamson, Andrea Rawluk, Michael-Shawn Fletcher, Shaun Hooper, Tasmin-Lara Dilworth

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

Thanks!

Some resources:

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- **Whyte, Kyle Powys. 2018. "What do Indigenous knowledges do for Indigenous peoples?"** In *Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Sustainability: Learning from Indigenous Practices for Environmental Sustainability*, edited by Melissa K. Nelson and Dan Shilling. Cambridge University Press.

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