

# Operationalising Aboriginal Land and Sea Management



## RESEARCH TEAM

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Project duration: 24 months

## SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Department of Planning and Environment, NSW

## Background

*Aboriginal communities in NSW have been Caring for Country since the Dreaming. However, ongoing species extinctions, natural hazards caused by colonisation, climate change, and landscape changes could be supported by implementing Aboriginal Land and Sea Management (ALSM). Increased NSW Government support for ALSM will lead to Aboriginal community involvement in land management..*

*Implementing ALSM offers conservation, Cultural and social benefits, but upscaling current ALSM practices across the landscape is challenging. This project aims to prepare a pathway for ALSM implementation in NSW that includes Aboriginal cultural values and perspectives, supports more significant Aboriginal community outcomes, and promotes cultural safety and respect.*

## Project description

This project aims to explore the implementation of Aboriginal Land and Sea Management (ALSM) on a landscape-wide scale, meeting Aboriginal community aspirations for social, cultural, and economic outcomes, and addressing environmental and natural hazard challenges. The initial phase of the project focuses on addressing four key areas: the values challenge, the policy challenge, the implementation challenge, and the reporting outcomes challenge.

The values challenge aims to identify Aboriginal community values and understand how they relate to mainstream land management and conservation. The policy challenge aims to review existing policies to identify pathways for implementation of ALSM. The implementation challenge aims to scope culturally appropriate ALSM responses to contemporary challenges while addressing capacity needs and empowering Aboriginal community contribution and leadership. The reporting outcomes challenge aims to design and implement outcome measures for ALSM initiatives that are meaningful to Aboriginal communities while also informing current land management outcomes.

## Intended outcomes

This project represents the initial phase of an initiative aimed at exploring the implementation of Aboriginal Land and Sea Management on a landscape-wide scale to meet Aboriginal community aspirations including social, cultural and economic outcomes and contribute to the environmental and natural hazard challenges we face today. The primary objective is to determine the most effective ways to facilitate and support Aboriginal communities in leading and implementing ALSM.

Through addressing these challenges, this research aims to provide a foundation for the effective implementation of ALSM practices in land management policy in NSW. The overall goal is to enable a paradigm shift in landscape management that recognizes and promotes the benefits of ALSM while respecting Aboriginal perspectives. By doing so, this research seeks to empower Aboriginal communities in their land management efforts and support sustainable environmental practices.

Successful implementation of ALSM could lead to positive impacts such as the revitalisation of Aboriginal culture, improved conservation outcomes, social, cultural, and economic benefits for Aboriginal communities, better sustainability in the face of growing natural hazards, economic gains, environmental outcomes, and improved policy responses to natural hazard and conservation issues.

## Further information

For full project details head to: <https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/research/research-projects/operationalising-aboriginal-land-and-sea-management>

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## Translation and implementation potential

The project has significant potential to inform policy development and implementation, promote community engagement and capacity building, enhance monitoring and evaluation practices, and contribute to the broader recognition and impact of ALSM. Specific translation, implementation and utilisation pathways for the project could include:

- policy development
- Aboriginal community engagement
- capacity building
- monitoring and evaluation
- policy transferability.