



Australian Government



**Future
Drought
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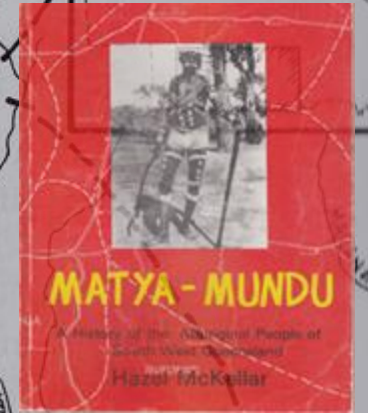
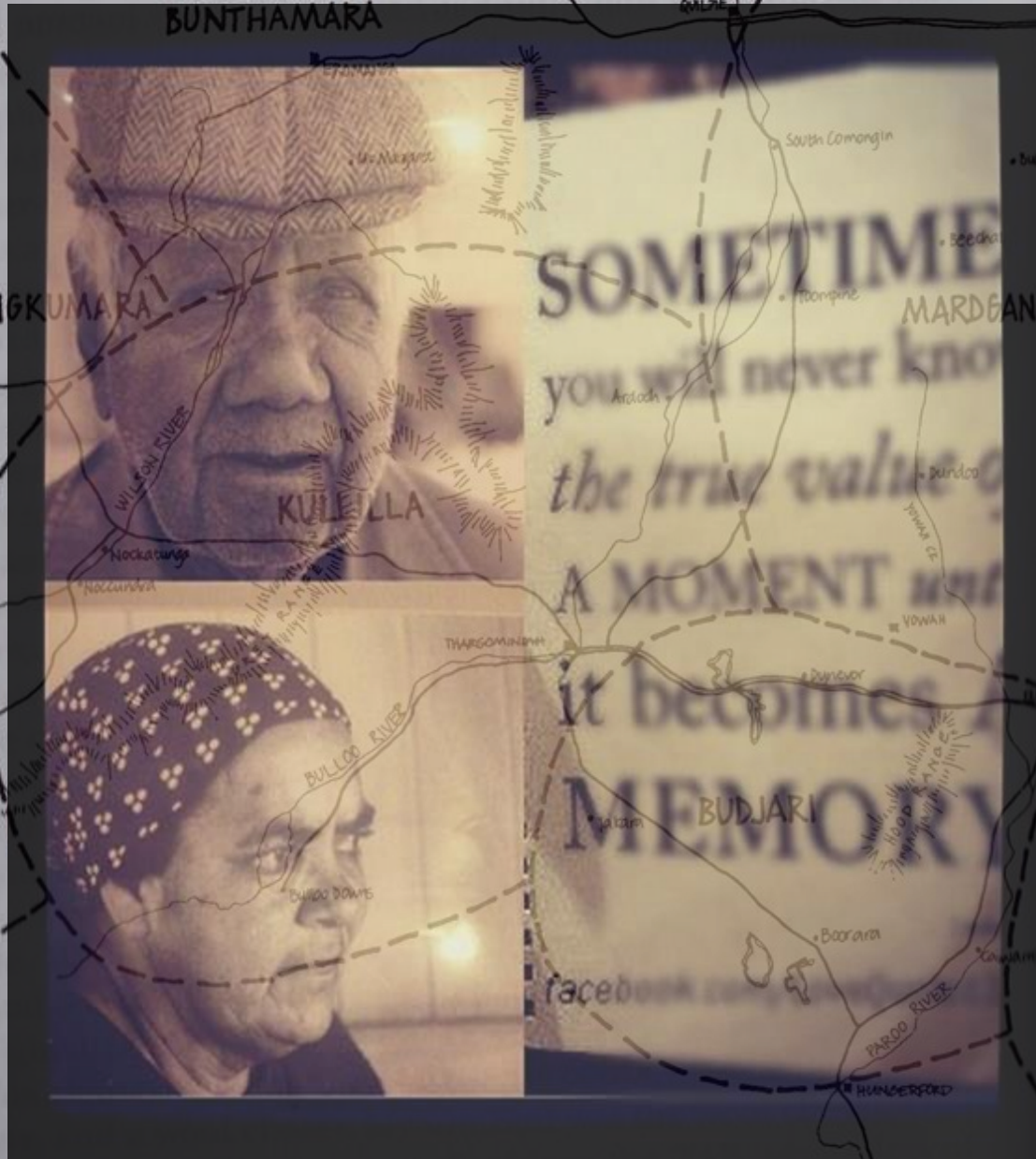
Community engagement strategies to strengthening the preparedness of First Nations People through the adoption of drought resilient processes

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**Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales Drought Resilience
Adoption and Innovation Hub**

Kunja and Kooma people of South West Queensland





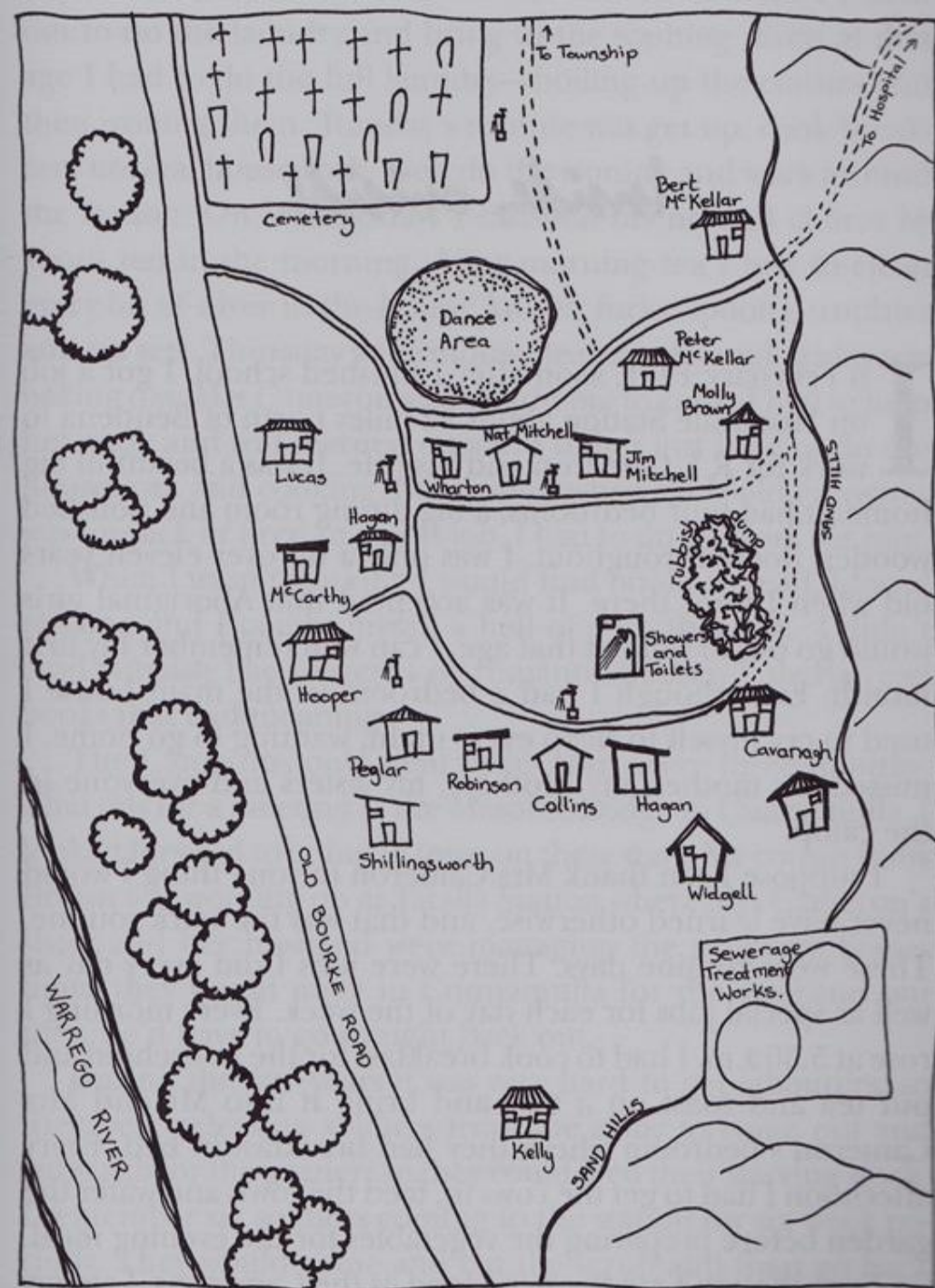
A long-time meeting place for the Indigenous community, the half-a-kilometre-long traps have also become a popular tourist destination. *Source: Brewarrina Shire/Facebook*

Drought may threaten Indigenous connection to ancient fish traps NITV, 2018

Differences in language and meaning of Western scientific terms

- Climate change
- Prefer "weather", "climate", "seasons"
- Become familiar with the local traditional owner groups language use
- Understand through conversations and stories from local groups observations of changes to country
- Vulnerable and Vulnerability
- Resilience
- Adaptation

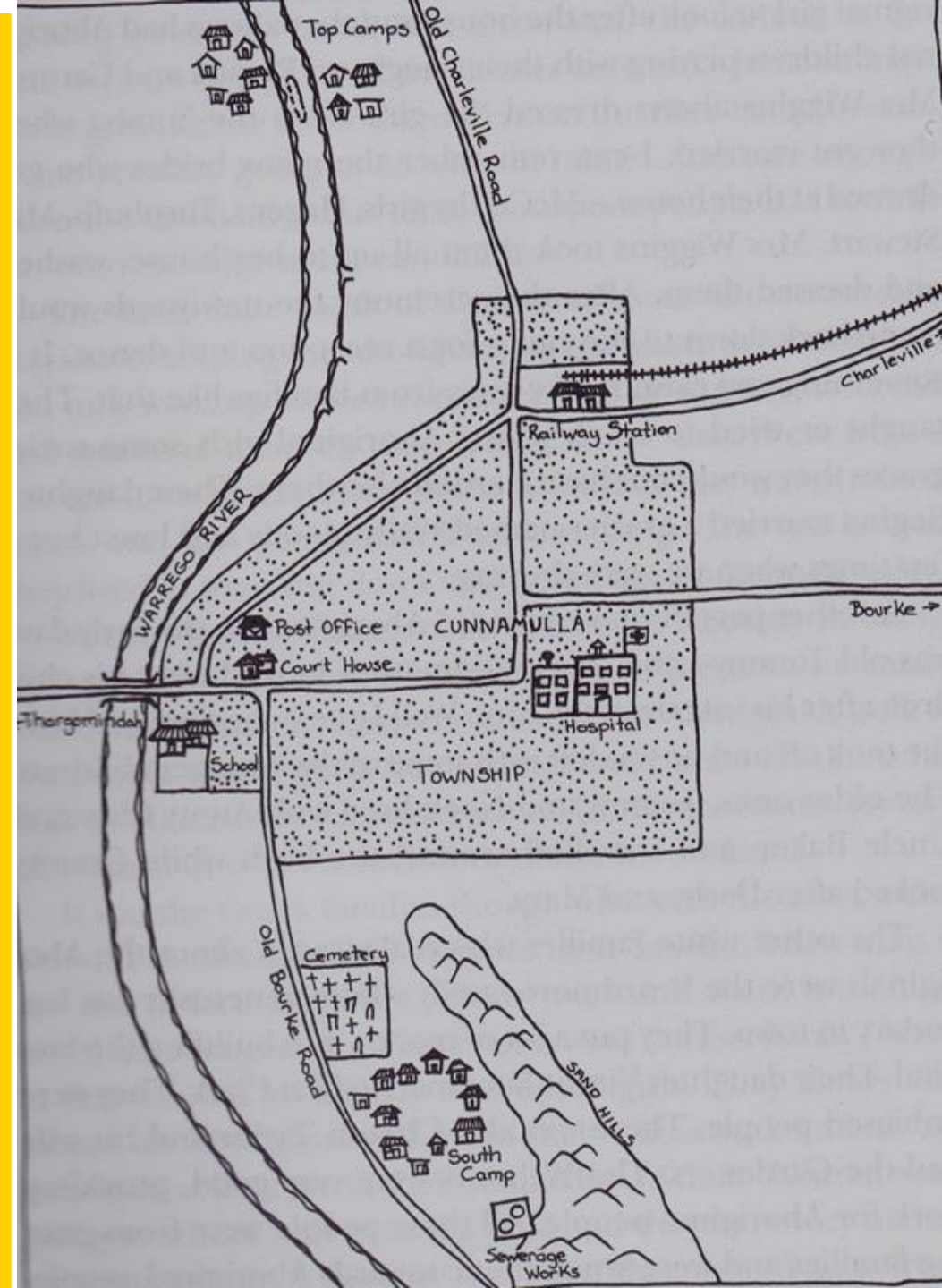
(Nursey-Bray, Palmer, Smith & Rist, 2019)

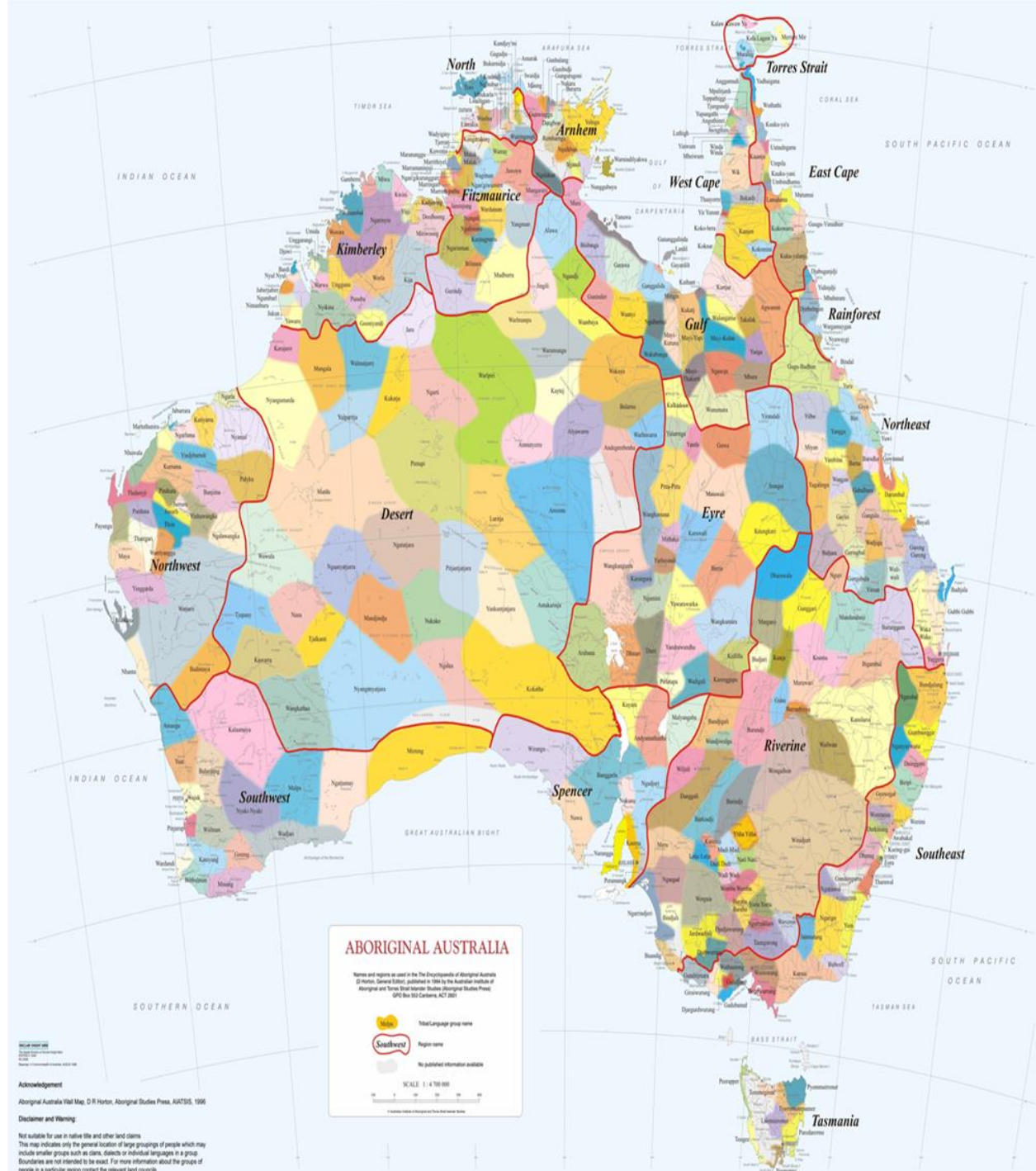
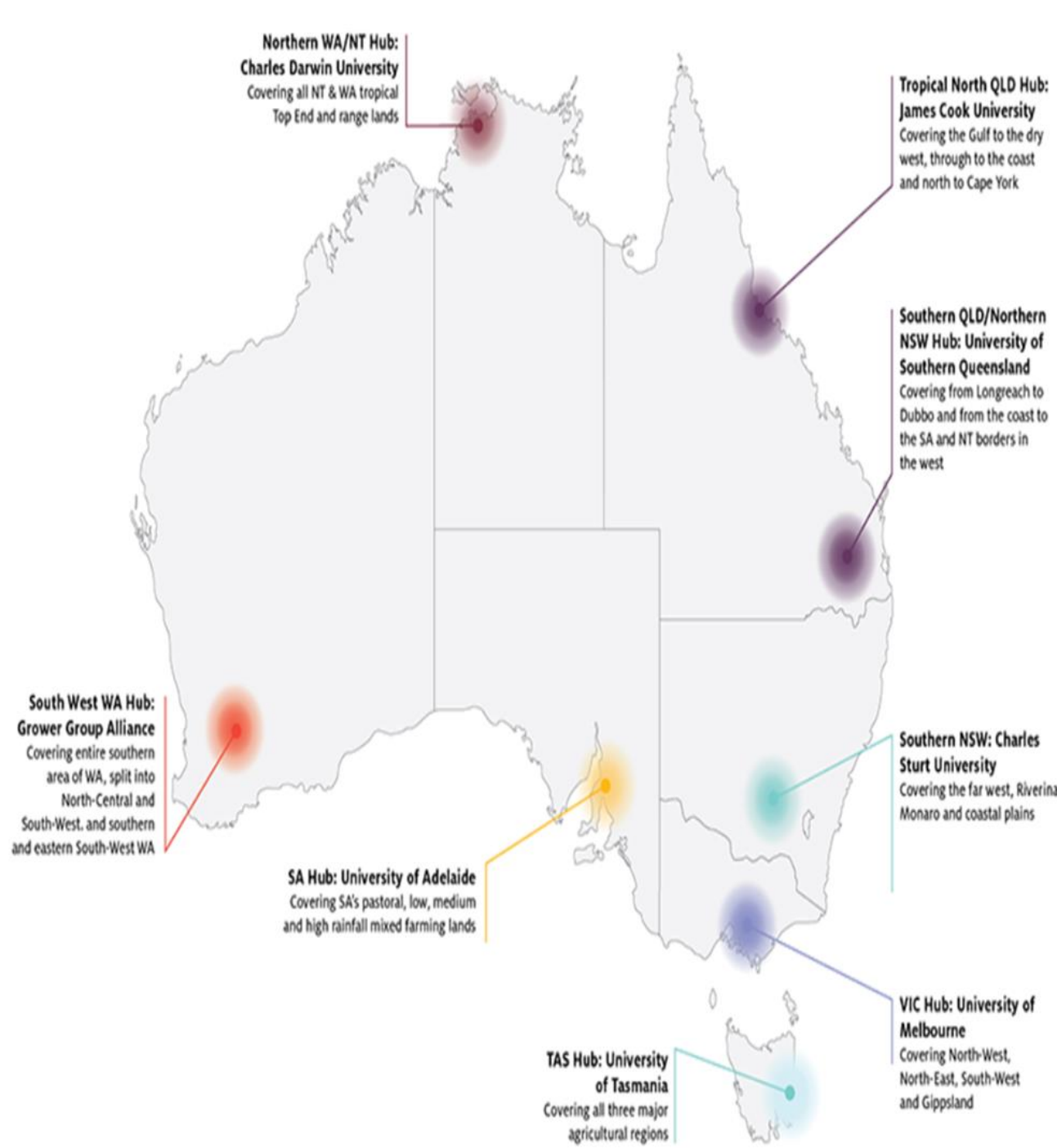


Challenges in climate change and adaptation initiatives for First Nations communities

- Past and existing programmes suffer from a lack of continuity
- Funding ceases resulting in a “start/stop” effect with programmes finding it hard to build stability over time
- Programmes led by non-Indigenous partners, fractures ongoing continuity
- More than 70% of the initiatives did not involve Indigenous organisations or community Indigenous adaptation initiatives exists separate to wider policy
- Support Indigenous organisations to gather and secure financial and other support to implement adaptation initiatives

(Nursey-Bray, Palmer, Smith & Rist, 2019)







Impacts of Climate change on First Nations people

- threatens the health and survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities, and cultures, as well as the broader population
- unequal adverse effects from climate change is currently being experienced - pre-existing health inequalities will be worse for regional and remote communities
- cause damage to land, sea and vital connections to Country, affecting spiritual and mental health existing socio-economic disadvantages such as inadequate health and educational services
- insufficient infrastructure
- limited employment opportunities (SCRGSP, 2017) linked to colonial and post-colonial periods

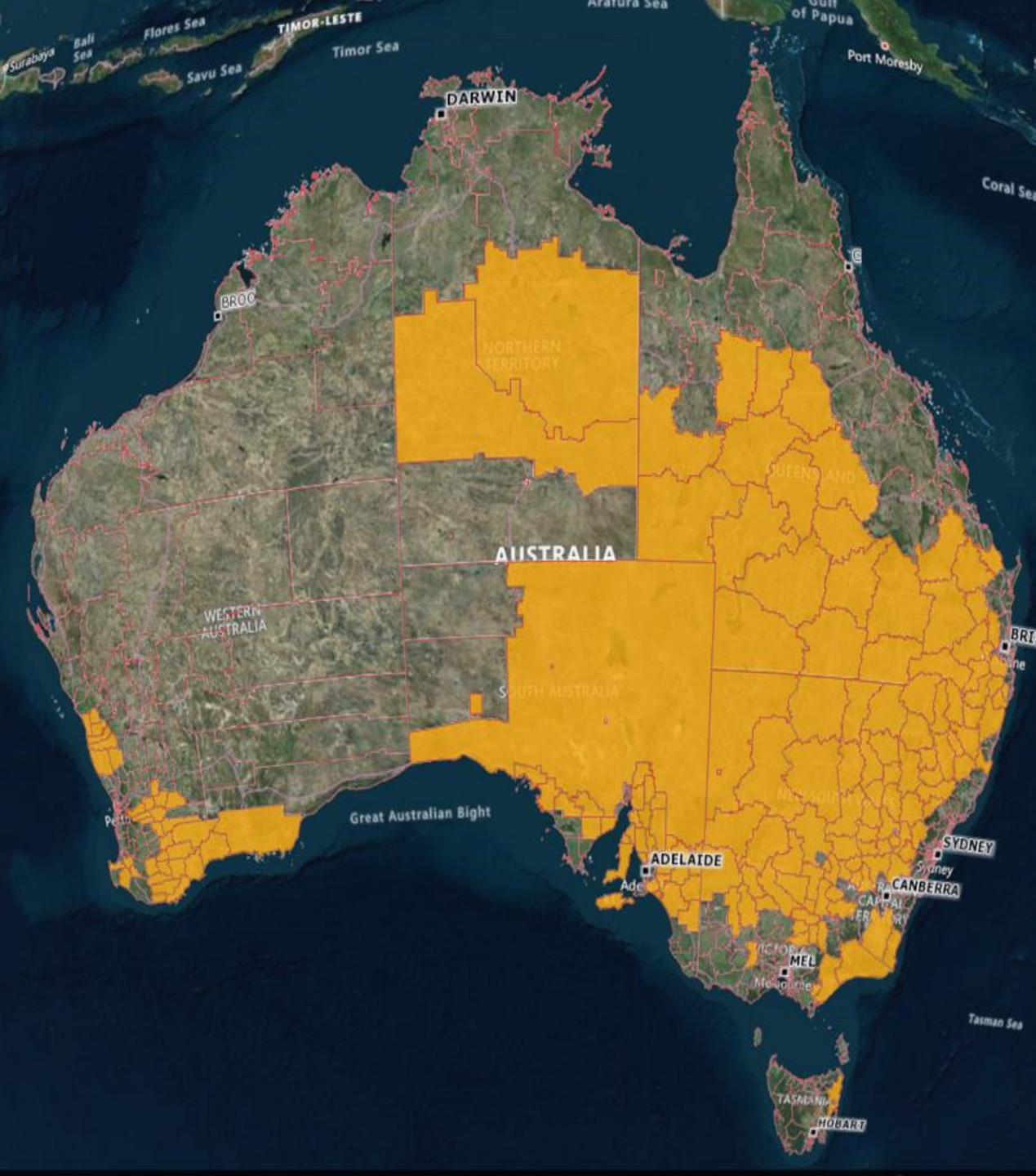
(AIDA, 2020; Bardsley and Wiseman 2012; Green, King, and Morrison 2009).

Engagement strategies with First Nations people

- Establishing a community steering group
- Building genuine partnerships - human-rights approach - engaging and supporting Indigenous peoples - reducing greenhouse gases and carbon - Indigenous traditional knowledge, land management and conservation practices
- Engagement strategies - First Nations Engagement Strategy - Identify First Nations peoples and organisations with rights and interests in the Hub - Consult in a timely way, involve and co-design - Negotiate and seek consent - Identify aspirations and skill development - RDEA&C needs incorporated into Hub plans - Intellectual Property and Cultural Rights of Traditional Owners

(Nursey-Bray, Palmer, Smith & Rist, 2019; Australian Human Rights Commission, 2008)





Protection of Intellectual and Cultural knowledge

- undertake direct consultation with Indigenous peoples regarding their customary law and other requirements and to ensure compliance with these
- seek free, prior and informed consent for the use of any Indigenous traditional knowledge from the custodians of that traditional knowledge, as well as for access to traditional lands and waters
- ensure ethical conduct in any consultation, collection or other processes
- ensure the use of agreements on mutually agreed terms with Indigenous peoples for all parts of the process
- devise equitable benefit-sharing arrangements and acknowledge the contribution of Aboriginal peoples

(Australian Human Rights Commission, 2008; United Nations Declaration on the Rights of First Nations Peoples, 2007; Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies' Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, 2021)



Summing up

- Indigenous peoples are adapting to climate changes
- Consider language use and meaning
- Adaptation occurred over millennia – holistic notion
- One size will not fit all – diversity, knowledge and contexts, place-based, co-designed, adequately resourced
- Encourage community participation
- Utilise existing governance structures
- Seek free, prior and informed consent
- Protect Intellectual and Cultural property rights of Indigenous Peoples



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Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

This project is led by the University of Southern Queensland and has received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund

Bringing together a comprehensive team of experts and networks to help our communities throughout the region become more prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of drought.

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Question time