

Understanding Burri (fire) on Country

Bringing Indigenous knowledge and Western science together to understand climate impacts on Country.

The NESP Climate Systems Hub Indigenous Partnerships Team is developing Indigenous-led research and resources to inform national and international climate decisions. The team is partnering with Indigenous communities to deliver on-Country case studies based on themes from the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change.

The impacts of wildfire on Country and culture

Changes:



More intense and frequent wildfires and bushfires



Increasing fuel loads across Country



Changes in fire behaviour and burn conditions

Impacts:

- Damage to soil health, seed banks and native vegetation
- Loss of habitat and biodiversity
- Drinking water quality and impacts on fresh water ecology
- Disruption to cultural burning and connection to Country
- Gaps in sharing cultural fire knowledge
- Carbon is loss from biomass and soils
- Invasive weeds germinate under extreme fire conditions
- Air pollution impacts health and well being

Case study focus

- Understand how cultural burning affects Country, culture and communities
- Bring Indigenous knowledge and Western science together to support cultural burning within current fire management systems
- Document and share Indigenous-led cultural burning knowledge and practices

Next steps

- Continue documenting cultural burning knowledge and outcomes
- Share approaches with other communities, researchers and land managers
- Develop Indigenous-led publications, comparison studies and case studies
- Inform fire management and climate adaptation, including through IPCC processes



Case study focus

- Contribute Indigenous-led research to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Case study locations

- St Lawrence Wetlands, Queensland (Koinmerburra Country)
- Avoid Island
- Blackdown, tablelands



Further information

Find out more about this and other case studies:



The Climate Systems Hub acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work across Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and future.

The Climate Systems Hub is funded by the Australian Government under the National Environmental Science Program. This work is also supported by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.



Indigenous
Partnerships
Fire in Country

