

Developing a National Indigenous Environmental Research Network

Project information



Resilient
Landscapes

National Environmental Science Program



Australian Outback Sunset. Photo: Yay Images/Adobe Stock

Project NIERN has been funded to explore a National Network which seeks to bring together *Indigenous groups, researchers and governments* to collaborate on environmental projects for better outcomes for Country and Well-being.

Background

Recognising Australia's growing Indigenous Estate and the role of First Nation People and Indigenous science, contributes to the conservation and protection of Australia's Biodiversity.

Indigenous groups have been lobbying for decades to have a voice in setting the National Environmental Science priorities and agenda.

Currently, there is no mechanism to allow for a National Indigenous dialogue to inform environmental programs such as the National Environmental Science Program (NESP), Nature Repair Market or Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) Rangers.

A National Network to facilitate this dialogue will be invaluable and we have an obligation to honour the process of those who initiated, lead and collaborated on this Indigenous-led solution.

While this research project is funded for 3 years, many Indigenous leaders have been championing the National Network for over 20 years.

What is Project NIERN?

Project NIERN (National Indigenous Environmental Research Network) is a small research project funded by NESP.

Project NIERN been established under Indigenous leadership to explore a National Network that will to bring together *Indigenous groups, researchers and governments* to collaborate on environmental projects for better outcomes for Country and Well-being.

The Network will strive to be mutually beneficial to Indigenous groups, governments and researchers, by bringing Cultural legitimacy to the National Environmental Science agenda.

What will Project NIERN do?

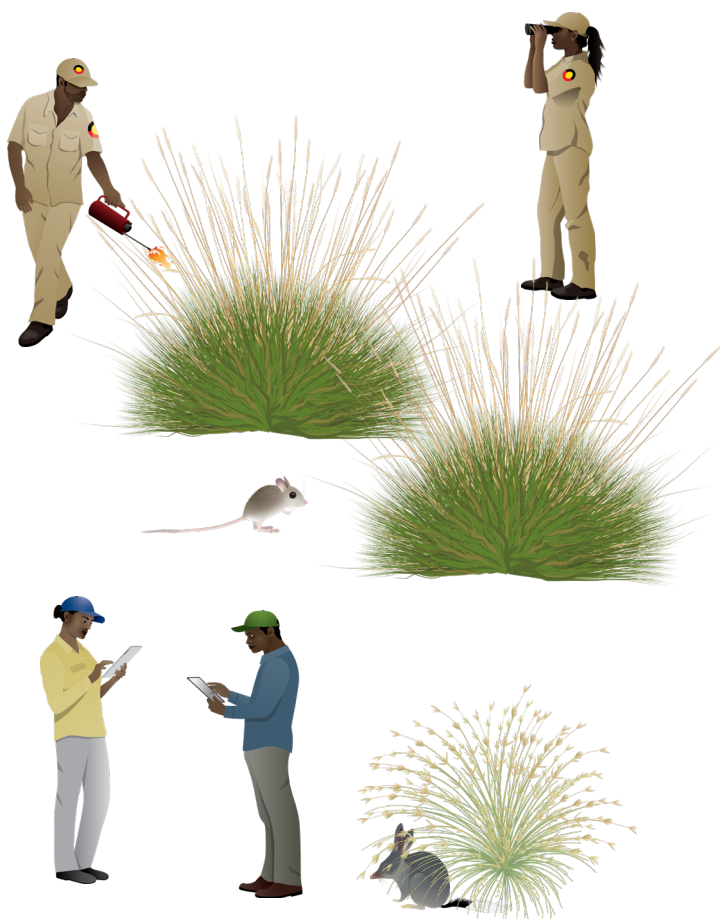
- The project will propose the roles and functions of a National Network, along with the membership model and business structure.
- The project team will gather feedback at workshops from Indigenous groups, research community and governments on the Network design, with case studies providing practical insights.
- A Business Case will outline the feasibility of the Network as well as the establishment and ongoing costs for the network.

Project Governance

This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP). NESP currently supports 4 multi-disciplinary research hubs which conduct environment and climate research

This project is funded by a partnership between the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub, whose research supports the management of Australia's terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, and the NESP Marine and Coastal Hub, whose research supports Australia's Australia's marine and coastal environments.

The National Indigenous Environmental Research Network (NIERN) is governed by an Indigenous Leadership Group in partnership with a National Project Steering Committee.



Further information

This project is being led by Professor Stephen van Leeuwen and Teagan Shields from Curtin University.

This document and further information are available from the project website at neslandscapes.edu.au/projects/nesp-rlh/developing-niern/.

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