

Developing a National Indigenous Environmental Research Network

Project information



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 wellbeing.

Background

Recognising Australia's growing Indigenous Estate and the contribution of Indigenous people and Indigenous science to the conservation and management of Australia's biodiversity is fundamental.

Indigenous groups have been lobbying for decades to have a voice in setting the national environmental science research agenda and developing the priorities for investment in research and management.

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) program and various Indigenous ranger programs.

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 for a national network for over 20 years.

What is the NIERN project?

The NIERN (National Indigenous Environmental Research Network) project is a small research project funded through the National Environmental Science Program (NESP).

The NIERN project has been established under Indigenous leadership to explore the development of a national network. It will bring together Indigenous groups, researchers and governments to collaborate on environmental projects with the intention of delivering better outcomes for Country and wellbeing.

The Network will strive to be mutually beneficial to Indigenous groups, governments and researchers, by bringing cultural legitimacy and First Nations research priorities to the national environmental science agenda.

What will the NIERN project do?

- The project will propose the roles and functions of a national network, along with the membership model and operational business structure.
- The project team will gather feedback at workshops from Indigenous groups, researchers and governments on the design of the network, with case studies providing practical insights.
- A business case will outline the feasibility of the network as well as the establishment and ongoing costs to maintain the network.

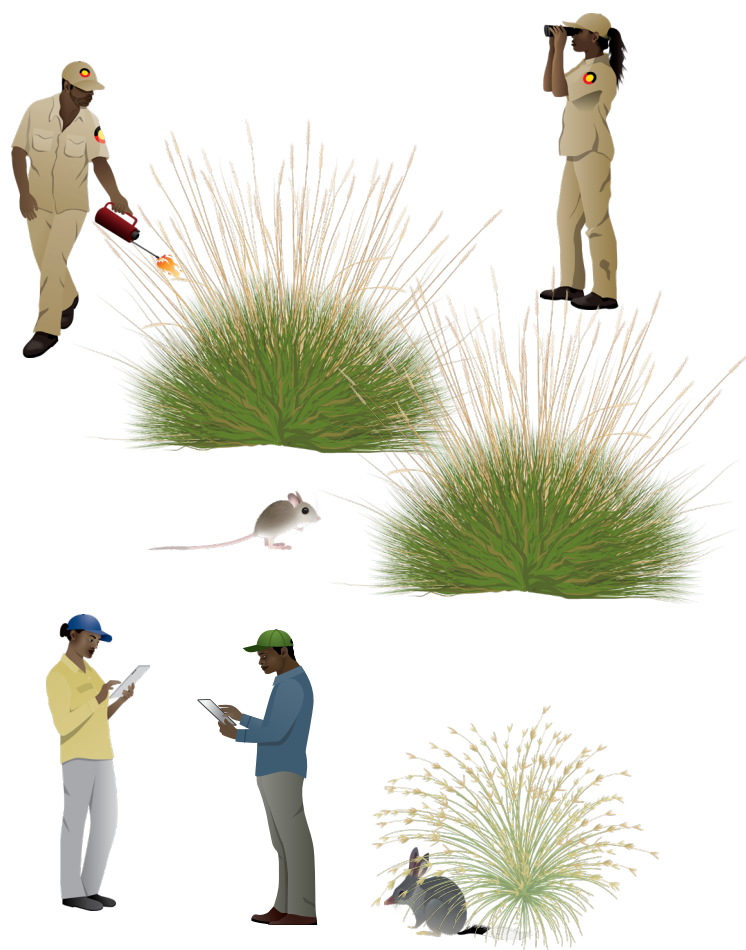


Project Governance

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 marine and coastal environments. The project is also led through Curtin University and the Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA).

The NIERN project 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, and Barry Hunter and Leah Talbot from NAILSMA.

This document and further information are available from the project website: nesplandscapes.edu.au/projects/nesp-rh/developing-niern/

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You can also scan this code to read more on the NIERN project:



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