

# 2021 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum

## 2021 NORTH AUSTRALIA **SAVANNA FIRE FORUM**

SAVE THE DATE | 9 - 11 FEBRUARY | ONLINE AT YOUR COMPUTER IN 2021



## Forum Report

# Overview

On 09 - 11 February 2021, the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) once again successfully hosted the annual North Australia Savanna Fire Forum, with an online Forum enabling attendees to participate from across Australia and across the world.

The Savanna Fire Forum was attended by over 200 people from across the savanna fire industry, with representatives from government, research institutions, landowners and land managers, experts in fire management, as well as carbon project developers, aggregators, buyers and sellers attending.

The Savanna Fire Forum facilitates knowledge exchange and discussion about climate change, carbon policy and science, and savanna fire management and identifies critical barriers and opportunities facing the sector.

After the unique and unprecedented challenges of 2020, this years Forum provided a place for fire managers, Traditional Owners, carbon industry practitioners, scientists, policy makers and other interested parties from across Australia to reflect, connect and share knowledge about savanna fire management.



# 2021 Savanna Fire Forum Agenda

Tuesday 09 February 2021		
Time	Session	Facilitator and Presenter
9:00am	Technical check-in	All
10:00am	Welcome to Larrakia Country	Mr Trent Lee
10:10am	Introduction	Mr Willie Rioli, ICIN & Ms Nova Peris OAM, MC
10:20am	Keynote Presentation	Ms Marion Scrymgour, CEO Northern Land Council
10:40am	North Australia Fire Weather and NAFI Analysis 2020-21	Dr Peter Jacklyn & Mr Rohan Fisher, CDU Centre for Bushfire Research; Mr Chris Kent, Bureau of Meteorology
11:15am	Fire in the Top End: NT Panel	Ms Maggie Towers, Bushfires NT; Mr Torsten Unnasch, Warddeken Rangers; Mr Jaemie Page & Mr Uriah Crocombe, Thamarrurr Rangers; Ms Anna Pickworth, Kakadu National Park
12:15pm	<b>Break: Video – 2020 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum Highlights</b>	
12:30pm	Fire in Cape York: QLD Panel	Dr Peter Jacklyn, CDU Centre for Bushfire Research; Mr Julien Gastaldi, Natural Carbon; Mr Alex Debono, Cape York NRM; Ms Page Perry, QLD Government Land Restoration Fund;
1:30pm	Fire in the Kimberley: WA Panel	Mr Richard Whately, Kimberley Land Council; <i>Kimberley Fire Managers</i>
2:30pm	Key lessons Day 1	MC: Ms Nova Peris OAM & Facilitators
2:45pm	Housekeeping	MC: Ms Nova Peris OAM
3:30pm	<b>Close</b>	

Wednesday 10 February 2021		
Time	Session	Facilitator and Presenter
9:30am	Check-in	All
10:00am	Opening address and housekeeping	MC: Ms Nova Peris OAM
10:10am	Carbon Industry Update	Ms Karen Graham, Clean Energy Regulator; Mr John Connor, Climate Market Institute; Ms Anna Boustead, Indigenous Carbon Industry Network
11:10am	Concurrent Workshop 1: Partnerships in Fire Management	Ms Ariadne Gorring, Pollination Foundation; Mr John Tillman, Dept Fire and Emergency Services
	Concurrent Workshop 1: Equipment supporting fire management	Mr John Cross, Bawinanga Rangers; Mr Jay Evans, Charles Darwin University; Mr Mark Desailly, Arnhem Land Fire Abatement NT
12:00pm	<b>10 Minute Break: Video</b>	
12:10pm	Minister's Address	Hon Ken Wyatt, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
12:30pm	Video Competition: Screening and winners	Judges: Mr Sean Choolburra (Educator & Comedian); Dr Kamaljit Sangha (Senior Researcher, CDU) and Ms Jane Bardon (Walkley Award winning Journalist);
1:00 pm	Concurrent Workshop 2: Women in Fire Talking Circle (Women only)	Ms Mardi Weston and Julia Salt, Mimal Women Rangers Ms Lenka Vanderboom, ISFMI
	Concurrent Skill share 2: Mapping for better fire management	Mr Rohan Fisher and Dr Peter Jacklyn CDU Centre for Bushfire Research; Chris Roach (Gala)
2:15 pm	Key Lessons Day 2	MC: Nova Peris OAM & Facilitators
2:45 pm	<b>Networking</b>	
3:30 pm	<b>Close</b>	

Thursday 11 February 2021		
Time	Session	Facilitator and Presenter
9:30	Check-in	All
10:00am	Opening address and housekeeping	MC: Ms Nova Peris OAM
10:10am	Climate Change and Savanna Fire Management	Prof Jeremy Russell-Smith, CDU Centre for Bushfire Research; Mr Joe Morrison, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation; Prof David Karoly, CSIRO
11:00am	Concurrent Workshop 3: Future Proofing your fire program	Mr Tim McNaught, Dept Fire and Emergency Services Mr Lindsay McIver, Australian Bushfire Management Association
	Concurrent Workshop 3: Future of the Savanna Burning Method	Dr Jarrad Holmes (PEC Consultants) & Mr Ben Kaethner (Central Land Council); Ms Kristina Koenig (Kimberley Land Council) & Mr Gary Wyatt (Corporate Carbon)
12:00pm	<b>10 Minute Break: Video</b>	
12:10pm	Fire Stories and the Carbon Industry	Mr Robbie Dalton, NT Dept Industry, Trade and Tourism; Ms Anna Boustead, Indigenous Carbon Industry Network Mr Paul Lane, Willinggin Aboriginal Corporation; Ms Clare Price, Carbon Market Institute; Ms Robyn Bartlett (Old Mappoon Aboriginal Corporation)
1:10pm	Concurrent Workshop 4: Communicating your Fire Story	Jaemie Page and Uriah Crocombe, Thamarrurr Rangers; Terah Guymala, Warddeken Rangers;
	Concurrent Workshop 4: Global Context future economic opportunities in fire management	Mr Sam Johnston (ISFMI); Ms Ariadne Gorring (Pollination Foundation); Mr Jeffrey Castellas (South Pole); Mr Mark Gasson (Market Advisory Group); Mr Rowan Foley (Aboriginal Carbon Foundation); Dr Kamaljit Sangha (CDU)
	Concurrent Workshop 4: Measuring, monitoring and evaluating outcomes of fire management	Mr Ricky Archer (NAISMA); Dr Ann Grattidge (Njanjima Aboriginal Corporation); Mr Saras Kumar (Conservation Management); Dr Otto Camplon (Arafura Swamp Rangers AC); Mr Patrice Weber (CDU)
2:10pm	Key Lessons from day three	MC Nova Peris OAM & Facilitators
3:00pm	Networking Break Out Meetings	

# Day One:

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[View videos and presentations from Day One](#)



Opening: Ms Nova Peris OAM  
Forum MC

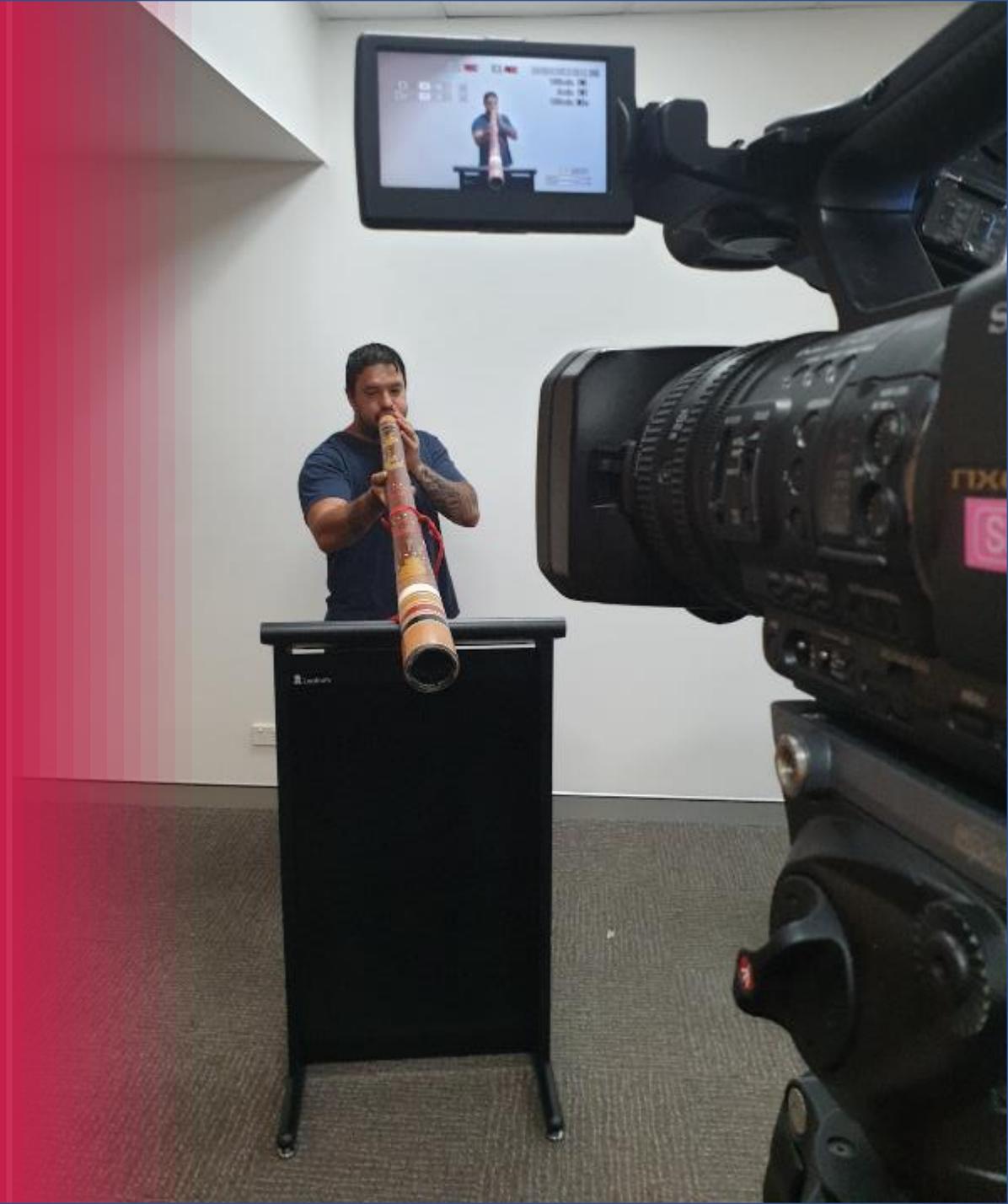
*“I’m looking forward to hearing all about your walk across North Australia, to manage country, with fire”*



# Welcome to Larrakia Country: Mr Trent Lee

*“I’d like to acknowledge the  
dreaming, ancestors and all  
the elders, past and present”*

*“Welcome to Darwin,  
welcome to Larrakia  
Country”*



## Keynote Address:

Ms Marion Scrymgour, CEO  
of Northern Land Council

*“The development of this industry, and looking at what has been achieved here, is a rare achievement in Northern Australia. This is something I think all of you should be proud of.”*



# North Australia Fire Weather & NAFI Analysis 2020-21

The Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research (DCBR), based at Charles Darwin University, provides many valuable services to the Industry. In this session, Dr Peter Jacklyn and Dr Rohan Fisher from DCBR provided an overview of the fire weather we've seen in the last 12 months, and what we have to look forward to this year, as well as introducing us to some new important tools from the North Australia Fire Information service (NAFI).

Following this, Ms Sally Cutter from the Bureau of Meteorology provided a summary of the fire weather in 2020 and the outlook for the season ahead.

All speakers emphasized the need for fire operations to be adaptable to both annual changes in weather and ongoing changes in climate, with these factors making fire operations increasingly difficult.

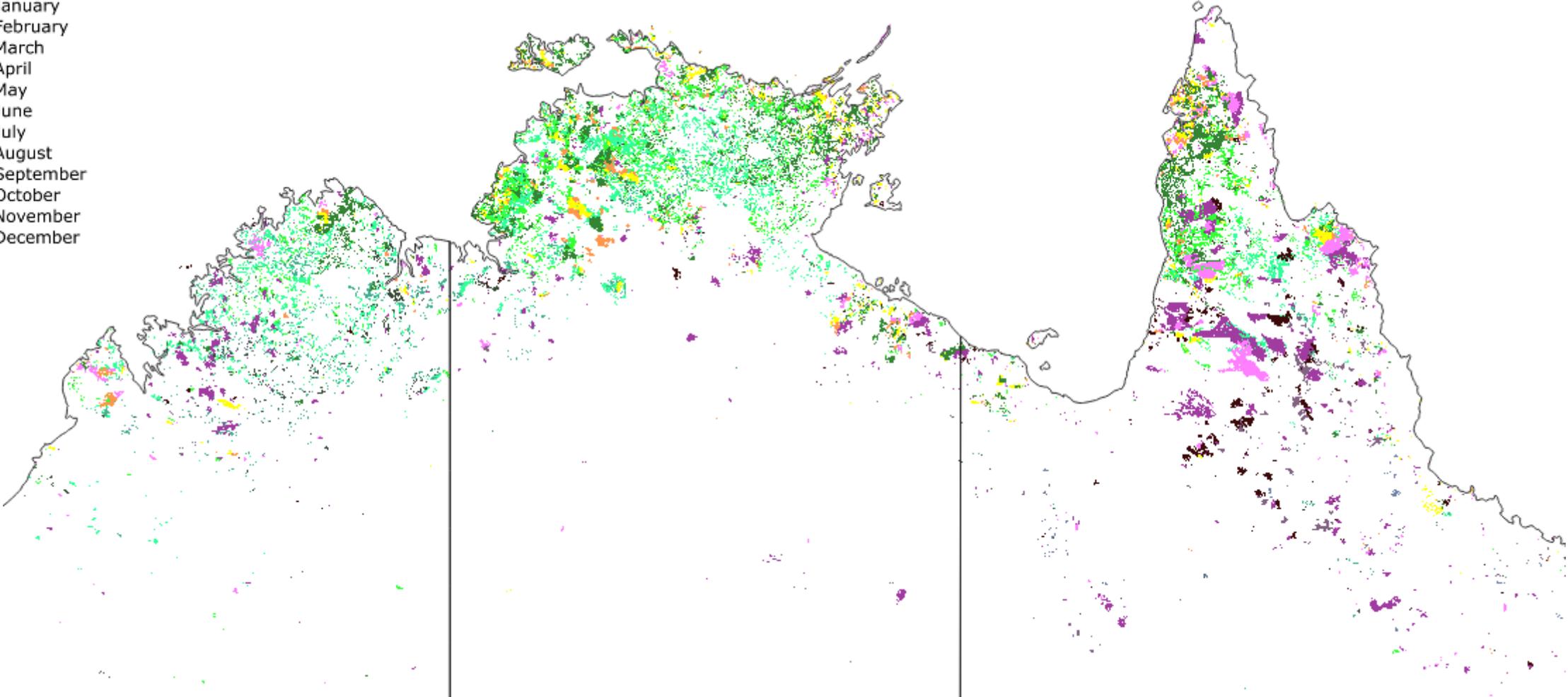


Kimberley	Top End	North Queensland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Above average maximum temperatures</li> <li>• Near average minimum temperatures</li> <li>• Above average rainfall</li> <li>• FFDI above average</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Above average maximum temperatures</li> <li>• Above average minimum temperatures</li> <li>• Above average rainfall in the west</li> <li>• FFDI above average</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average to above average maximum temperatures</li> <li>• Above average minimum temperatures</li> <li>• Near average rainfall</li> <li>• FFDI above average</li> </ul>

# 2020 Burnt area mapping



- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December



# Fire in the Top End:

The Fire in the Top End session heard presentations from: Bushfires NT; Warddeken Rangers; Thamarrurr Rangers; and Kakadu National Park Rangers.

Presenters discussed the ongoing decline in the Top End wet season (hot and dry) since 2018, which is resulting in less fuel but earlier curing. This has meant a longer fire season for some groups, like Warddeken. For Kakadu, one response to the changing conditions has been to increase the size and extent of fire breaks.

Warddeken also discussed one of the opportunities that they have pursued, which has been to set up Daluk (women) firefighting teams, which has increased their capacity and ability to respond to fires.

Thamarrurr Rangers shared their ongoing ongoing training program, which has included a focus on technical training and skills sharing. For 2019-20, they undertook a sharing exchange with Mimal, with discussions on a number of fire topics, including, use of helicopters and backburning using blowers.



Savanna burning on Warddeken IPA.  
Image Credit: Alex Batman

# Fire in Cape York:

The Fire in Cape York session highlighted that Cape York fire management is challenging, but Indigenous-led fire management is showing success – evidenced by increased EDS burning and reduced late season wildfire, with ongoing efforts to improve cooperation and coordination.

Julien Gastaldi (Natural Carbon) discussed the significant increase in early dry season burning in Indigenous carbon projects on the Cape (now 40% EDS), as well as a general reduction in late season fire on pastoral areas, with a visible difference between areas which have savanna carbon projects and those that don't.

Alex De Bono (Cape York NRM) provided an overview of Cape York NRM's current projects, which included highlighting the emerging Cape York Indigenous Fire Network.

Page Perry, from the QLD Government, provided a snapshot on the Land Restoration Fund, which supports a pipeline of carbon projects and directly purchases co-benefits from carbon proponents.



# Fire in the Kimberley:

The Kimberley session heard presentations from: Kimberley Land Council; Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation; Department of Fire and Emergency Services; Nyul Nyul Rangers; Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation; Karajarri Traditional Lands Association; Balangarra Rangers; Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation; and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

The number and diversity of speakers was testament to the fact that there are many operators in Kimberley, with ground supported operations, aerial projects and carbon projects. This creates complicated working relationships and a need for a lot of respect and cooperation between operators.

Speakers highlighted that 2020 was a complicated year for operators due to COVID, with COVID protocols forcing many groups to take on extra responsibilities. Dambimangari rangers shared their experience in isolating and operating out of a remote base for the entire duration of the fire season to meet COVID requirements.



Kimberley Rangers and KLC Staff, waiting at the KLC Offices in Broome, ready to present as part of the Fire in the Kimberley session

# Day Two:

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[View videos and presentations from Day Two](#)

ICIN Coordinator, Anna Boustead  
presents to the Forum



# Carbon Industry Update

Featuring presentations by Anna Boustead of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network; Karen Graham from the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) and John Connor from the Carbon Market Institute (CMI).

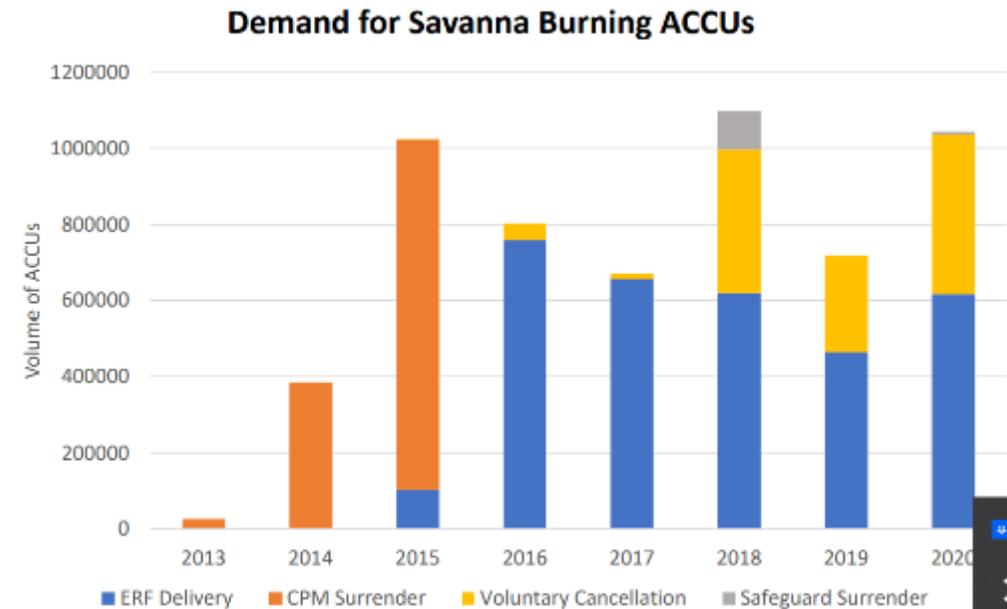
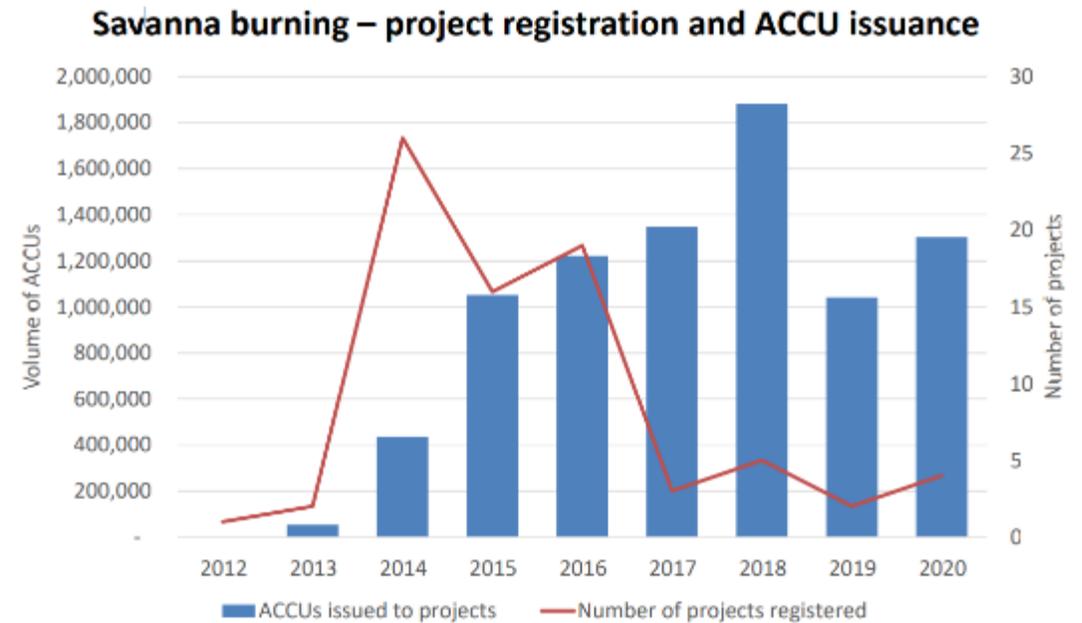
This panel highlighted the fact that the savanna carbon farming industry is fast-paced and growing. The savanna burning method has driven rapid growth of the Indigenous carbon industry, in turn generating significant benefits.

Examples of other methods being used by indigenous groups, including Human Induced Regeneration and agriculture, also show there are other potential opportunities for Indigenous groups to consider.

Presenters revealed that the majority of buyers of savanna carbon credits are from the voluntary market, which indicates the strong corporate interest in Indigenous carbon credits and their co-benefits. Co-benefits is an area that Indigenous groups will need to watch and closely engage in.

The panel also highlighted that ICIN has an important role to play in supporting the overall industry and its future development and sustainability

Graphs: Clean Energy Regulator



# Concurrent Workshop – Partnerships in Fire Management

Partnerships in Fire Management Workshop, facilitated by Ariadne Gorring of Pollination Foundation, discussed some of the key elements of a successful partnership.

The workshop heard examples of a new partnership initiative from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA, which is working with traditional owners to implement a traditional fire program that aims to incorporate cultural knowledge into fire management.

The six key elements of a strong partnership that were identified in the workshop were:

- Develop clear expectations.
- Find common ground.
- Clearly identify what each partner brings to the partnership.
- Identify each partners strengths and differences.
- Embrace diversity and acknowledge that what works in one community may not work in another.
- Be strong - don't compromise values and know when to say no.



Mr John Tillman – WA Department of  
Fire and Emergency Services

# Concurrent Workshop – Equipment supporting fire management

The equipment workshop involved a dynamic discussion across a range of topics related to the equipment supporting good fire management.

Participants identified that a lack of reliable communication systems in the remote areas of Arnhem Land can inhibit productivity and compromise employee safety and identified that Very High Frequency (VHF) radio interfaced with satellite radio systems is a viable option.

There was a discussion on mapping and fire scar maps. It can assist in the planning, analysis and evaluation of management strategies. Accurate fire scar maps remove a layer of uncertainty about what fire scars actually exist in the landscape and where they are.

Researchers also used this opportunity to launch the new NAFI iPhone App, which will improve accessibility of information to fire operators in the field.



Image of proposed BAC VHF Repeater Station at Djinkarr Homeland

## Minister's Address:

The Hon. Ken Wyatt, Minister  
for Indigenous Australians

*“The development of this  
industry, and looking at what  
has been achieved here, is a  
rare achievement in Northern  
Australia.*

*This is something I think all of  
you should be proud of.”*



# 2021 Savanna Fire Forum Video Competition

One of the highlights of the 2021 Savanna Fire Forum was the Short video competition. Video entries were judged by a high profile panel of judges including:

- Sean Choolburra, stand-up comedian, dancer, singer, and educator, who has featured in ABC's Black Comedy.
- Jane Bardon, an investigative journalist at ABC News.
- Dr Kamaljit Sangha, from the Centre for Bushfire Research at Charles Darwin University.

Competition winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Unguu Rangers, Wunambal Gaambera WA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Thamarrurr Rangers, Daly region NT
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Djurrubu Rangers, East Alligator region NT

Competition winners received prizes gifted by The Indigenous Carbon Industry Network and by MAGABALA BOOKS Indigenous Publishing House, Australia's award-winning Small Publisher of the year for 2020.

Jane Bardon presents the winners of the Video Competition



# Concurrent Workshop – Women in Fire Talking Circle

The Women in Fire Talking Circle highlighted that there is a lot of different aspects of fire, with broad opportunities for women to engage. This includes not just the burning, but preparing, planning, consulting, mopping up, reporting etcetera so you can be involved in fire without having to do the burning, if this is something you're interested in.

Workshop participants talked about the need to work with men to overcome some of the barriers to women participation, and to openly discuss what these barriers are so that everyone can understand what it takes to support an inclusive industry.

There was a discussion about the need to build capacity of women in this industry, and opportunities to do this through skills exchange and training.

Mimal rangers talked about how important it is to build connections to keep sharing information and growing capacity through the Strong Womens Healthy Country network.

Mimal Womens Rangers prepare for the Women in Fire talking circle



# Concurrent Workshop – Mapping for better fire management

This session was presented by Dr Peter Jacklyn, Dr Andrew Edwards, and Mr Rohan Fisher from the Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research, and Mr Chris Roach from Gaia.

All three presenters discussed the use of GIS technology to help better support fire management, and showcased the NAFI Website and Mobile App, which the Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research has developed.

Andrew also showed participants how to use the Savanna Monitoring and Evaluation Research Framework (SMERF), which allows users to access historical data of previous fire seasons.

Mr Chris Roach (left), Dr Peter Jacklyn (centre), Mr Rohan Fisher (right), presenting the concurrent workshop, Mapping for better fire management.



# Day Three:

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[View videos and presentations from Day Three](#)

Robbie Dalton, Director of Aboriginal Policy Unit, NT Government facilitates the Stories and Carbon session



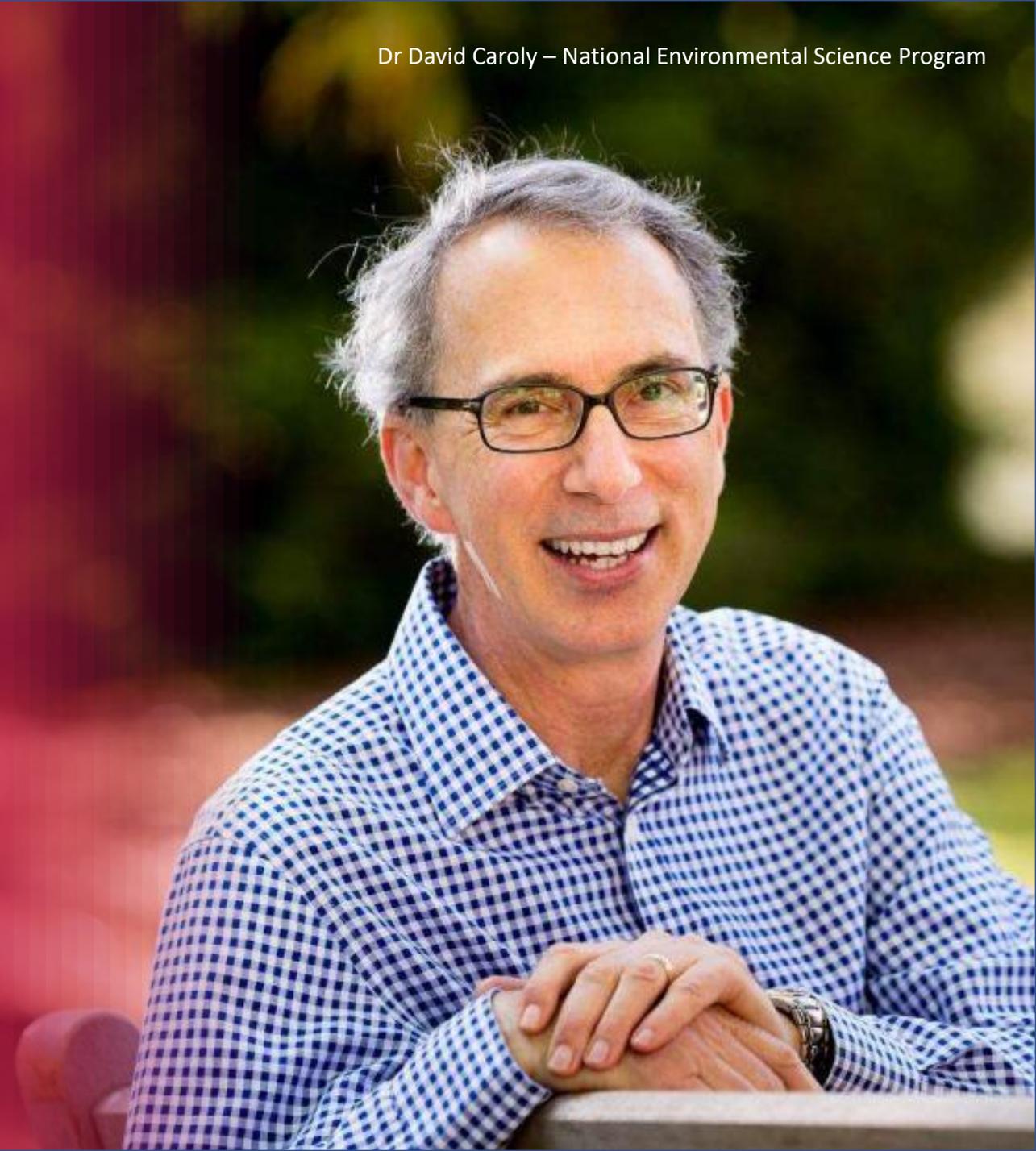
# Climate Change and Savanna Fire Management

The Climate Change and Savanna Fire Management panel brought home a humbling message – we are witnessing climate change now, and they're impacting on how fire management is happening.

This panel heard presentations from David Caroly (NESP Earth Systems Hub); Andrew Dowdy (Bureau of Meteorology); Andrew Edwards (Darwin Centre for Bushfires Research); and Joe Morrison (Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation).

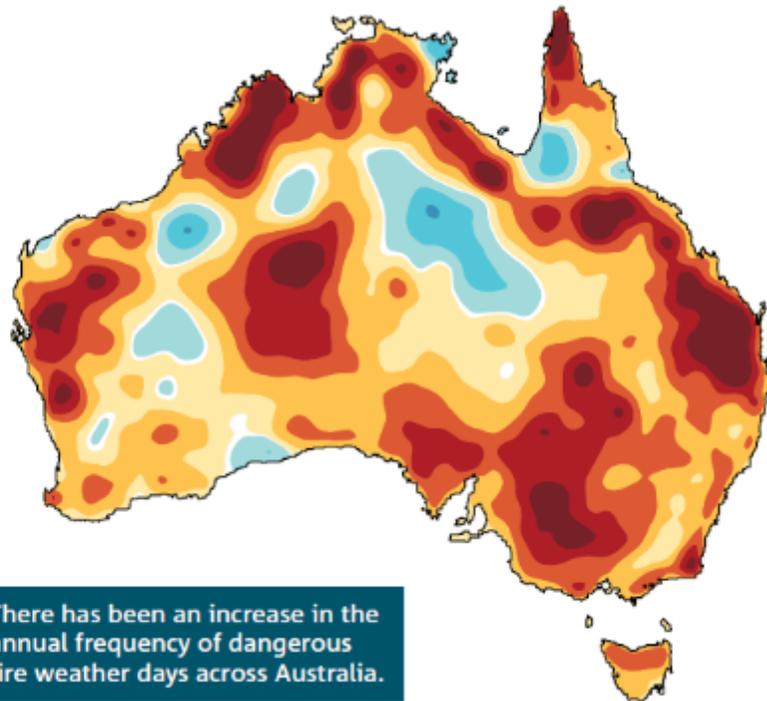
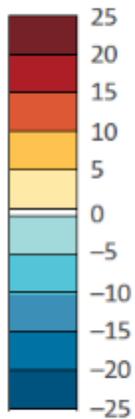
David Caroly and Andrew Dowdy provided a background on climate variation, outlining the observed impacts of climate change on fire regimes, which includes:

- A dramatic increase in average maximum temperature
- Dramatic decrease in rainfall in Southern Australia (but not Northern Australia)
- Increase in the number of dangerous fire weather days in both Northern and Southern Australia.



# Preparing for a changing climate

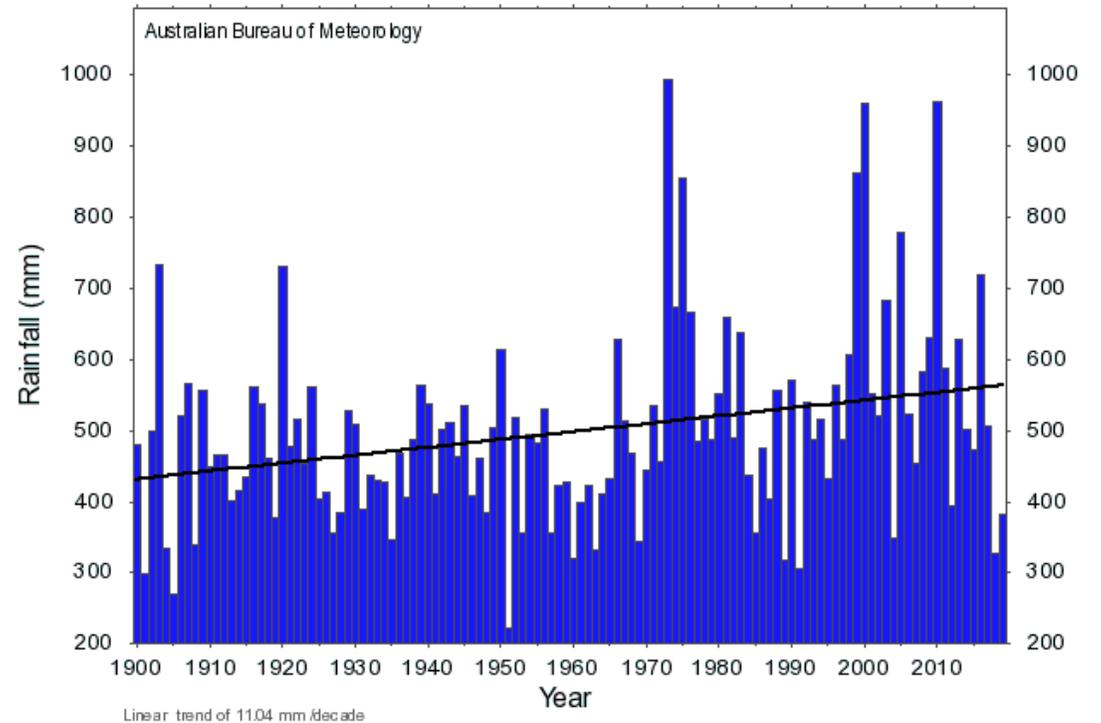
Change in number of dangerous fire weather days



There has been an increase in the annual frequency of dangerous fire weather days across Australia.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

Northern wet season (Oct-Apr) rainfall  
Northern Territory (1900-01 to 2019-20)



# Climate Change and Savanna Fire Management (cont):

This message was continued by Andrew Edwards of DCBR, who emphasized that fire management to keep fires at low severity will become more and more important over time.

Finally, the panel heard from Mr Joe Morrison of the ILSC who touched upon the impacts of climate change on Indigenous people and the role of Indigenous people in responding to climate change.

Changing climate poses a serious challenge for indigenous peoples and communities – with vulnerability to temperature extreme, weather events like cyclone, and insect borne diseases. Mr Morrison highlighted that Indigenous people need enabling policies from government to recognize and use indigenous knowledge and practice to address these trends .



Joe Morrison, CEO, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

# Concurrent Workshop – Future Proofing your fire program

The Future-Proofing workshop highlighted that the fire management sector is dynamic and faces increasing policy challenges.

This discussion recognized that the Northern Australian fire programs have led the way in integrating traditional knowledge, and there is an opportunity for this to expand to the rest of Australia.

Participants discussed the current policy focus on supporting prescribed burning for risk management and economic development. Policy makers and program managers need to ensure that policy issues don't impact on fire management operations by resolving policy issues effectively and pragmatically and working with people on the ground to make sure solutions are workable.

The workshop also recommended that there needs to be a whole of sector approach to accessing insurance, as well as managing risk. One operator making mistakes without cover can jeopardize the programs of many.

The private sector fire managers have had to adapt quickly to insurance changes in the wake of the Black Summer fires. Their experience could benefit indigenous organizations if they struggle to find insurance.

# Concurrent Workshop – Future of the Savanna Burning Method

This session was undertaken as a workshop, with presentations from the Kimberley Land Council and Corporate Carbon (Co-Chairs of the Savanna Fire Management Working Group) on improving the 2018 Savanna Sequestration methodology, and the Central Land Council and PEC Consultants on extending the current savanna burning methodology below the 600 mm rainfall isohyet.

The Savanna Fire Management Working Group has been set up to try to lobby for improvements to the 2018 Savanna sequestration method. Presenters outlined the ongoing barriers to uptake in the savanna sequestration method, and the pathways that have been identified in government to try to improve this. The change in responsibility for method development from the Department to the CER, combined with the prioritization of methods (which did not include improvement to the savanna sequestration method) are further barriers to progressing this important issue. Attendees were invited to contact and join the Working Group, to help progress this important issue.

The workshop then discussed current research on developing a sub-600mm methodology for desert communities. Presenters highlighted that while such a method would not deliver the same volume of abatement as in higher rainfall areas, a sub-600mm method could be of important value to local economies in the North Tanami, as well as improving broader landscape and ecosystem outcomes through improved fire management.

Presenters highlighted that in both these areas, there is a need for people in the industry to get engaged and support progress and improvements, as these are otherwise not priority areas for government.



Kristina Koenig (left) from the Kimberley Land Council, and Gary Wyatt (right) from Corporate Carbon, presented the concurrent workshop on the Future of the Savanna Burning Method.

# Fire Stories and the Carbon Industry

Presenters of the Fire Stories and the Carbon Industry session included Robbie Dalton from the Northern Territory Government, Clare Price of the Carbon Market Institute, Paul Lane of Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation, Anna Boustead from ICIN and Robyn Bartlett of Old Mapoon Aboriginal Corporation.

The panel discussed the interaction between Indigenous land managers and corporates in the communication and media space. The panel once again highlighted that corporate interest in Indigenous carbon farming is only going to increase, and it is important that Indigenous people are properly equipped to respond to this interest.

There was a strong discussion around the need for Aboriginal organisations to be well informed and aware of what they bring to the table and the value of what they are selling. Panellists highlighted the need for groups to take the time upfront to decide what is and is not up for negotiation.



Robyn Bartlett – CEO, Old Mapoon Aboriginal Corporation

# Concurrent Workshop – Communicating your Fire Story

This workshop included a presentation by Thamarrur Rangers and discussed the use of communications tools and media in relation to fire.

Some of the key lessons identified were:

- Communications and media are good opportunities to tell our story and increase groups profile.
- It is important for groups to also remember to protect the story: need to make sure the story remains your own, and can't be adopted or adapted by someone else.
- Videos and other visual communications may be better than written materials.
- Importantly, let people use their own words – if you're the producer, don't lead too much.
- Keep it simple and pick your audience
- Use media production to help rangers learn about their work and the work of other teams by talking about it themselves
- Just give it a try – learning through doing is often the best way.

Thamarrur Rangers use videos to communicate key messages to the community



# Concurrent Workshop – Global Context: Future economic opportunities in fire management

The purpose of this workshop was to help Indigenous landowners and managers understand what emerging economic opportunities exist for their work.

Currently, there are a number of different organisations and businesses that exist or are being set up to provide different types of co-benefit services to Traditional Owners.

It is important for Indigenous groups to understand these different opportunities and how/which one will work best for them.

The workshop discussed the importance of transparency and clear information to identify whether the particular opportunity provides any additional value to the group. It was identified that this is a space that could benefit from a lot more information and a lot more transparency, and there was a good discussion about what role ICIN might be able to play in helping with this.



Image: Aboriginal Carbon Foundation

# Concurrent Workshop – Measuring, monitoring and evaluating outcomes of fire management

Dr Otto Campion, is a Senior Gurruwilling Ranger from the Arafura Swamp region in central Arnhem Land. Otto emphasised that Traditional Owners need to be guiding and directing fire management together with rangers who then implement the fire management plan.

Saras Kumar of Conservation Coaches Network, discussed the Conservations and the MERI Framework (which are Global Conservation standards) in the context of her work with with Wunambal Gaambera Uunguu Aboriginal Corporation. There are well developed international standards for monitoring assessing fire management.



Dr Otto Campion – Senior Gurruwilling Ranger,  
Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation

# Concurrent Workshop continued

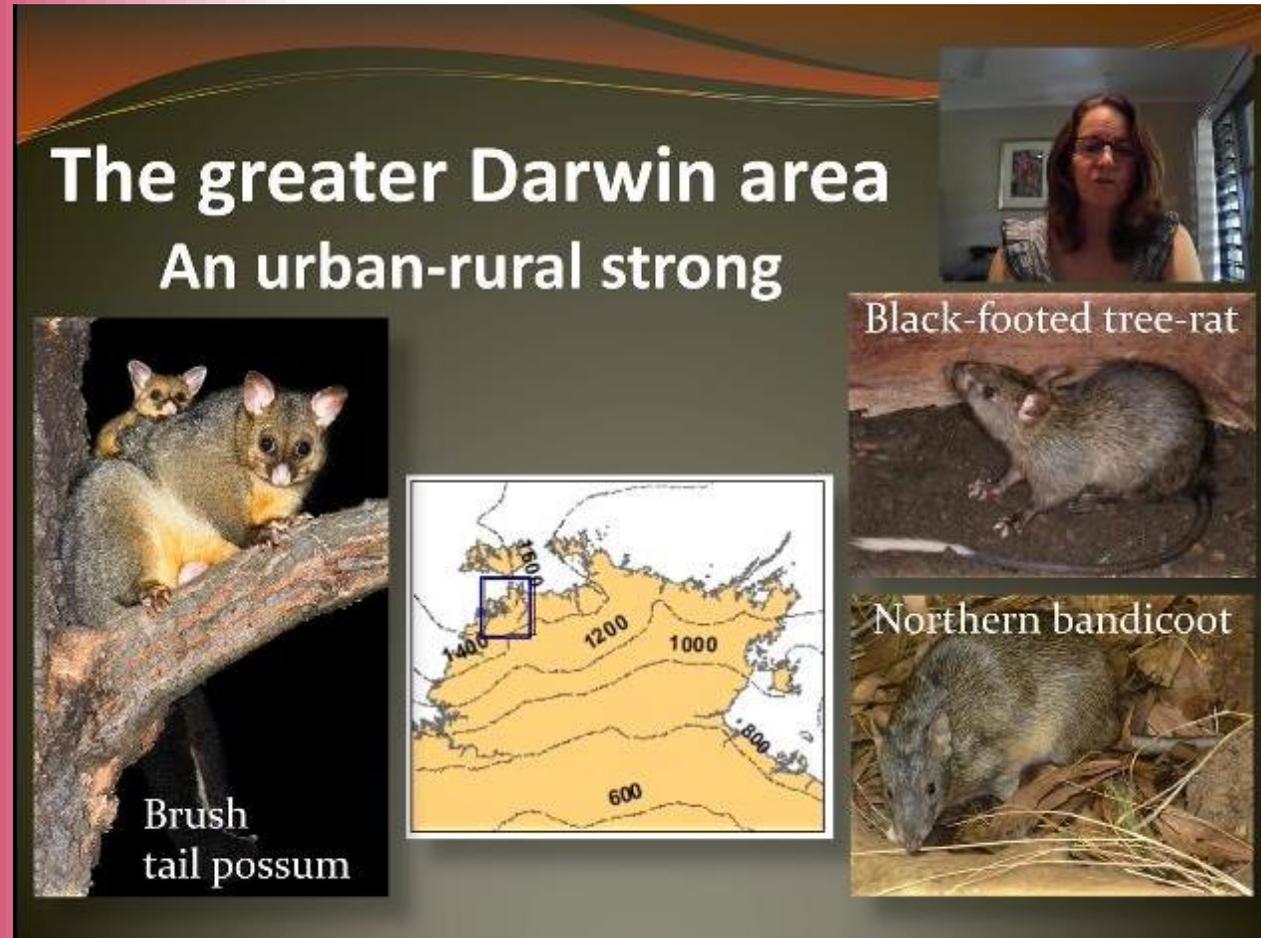
Dr Andrew Edwards, Dr Patrice Webber and Aasish Adhikari of DCBR provided information on SMERF. The SMERF system applies the best available data to monitor and evaluate fire effects, however, there is still plenty that can be done to improve it, such as using higher resolution fire and vegetation mapping.

Jonathan Vea, NT Parks & Wildlife, described the Parks & Wildlife NT, Integrated Conservation Strategy and how the fire metrics implemented in SMERF were developed in a collaborative workshop framework.

Ann Grattidge is a recent Masters (EnvMgt) graduate from CDU, provided conservation and management insights from species distribution modelling for a threatened rodent species in an urban-rural area (Darwin) (pictured).

Kerry Crosbie, DCBR, described how the ICS fire metrics were integrated through GIS analysis of the NAFI fire history for several major National Parks in the NT

## The greater Darwin area An urban-rural strong



Black-footed tree-rat

Northern bandicoot

Brush tail possum

The image is a composite slide. At the top right is a small video call window showing a woman with glasses. Below it is a photograph of a brush tail possum sitting on a tree branch. To the right of the possum is a topographic map of the Darwin region with contour lines labeled 1400, 1200, 1000, and 600. To the right of the map are two photographs of rodents: a black-footed tree-rat and a northern bandicoot. The text 'The greater Darwin area' and 'An urban-rural strong' is at the top.

# Key Lessons from 2021 Forum

1. Genuine and respectful partnerships form the back-bone to success in the savanna carbon industry.
2. There is increasing experience and professionalism of indigenous fire management, with increased sharing, learning and coordination between groups assisting this and targeted mentoring often filling the training gap of formal accreditation.
3. Climate change is impacting fire operations and changing fire practices. Groups are already thinking about and adapting to changing conditions – hotter, more frequent fires.
4. The Savanna carbon industry is fast-paced and rapidly growing – making it a difficult and complex space in which to engage. For this reason, staying informed and accessing good advice and support is key to successful carbon projects and strong partnerships.

Image: Fire management planning meeting at Judburra National Park, ILSC



# Key Lessons from 2021 Forum

5. There is a need for people in the industry to actively engage on key issues of importance – such as improvements to the 2018 savanna sequestration method – in order to gather enough momentum for the government to respond.
6. In relation to carbon sales, Indigenous groups need to carefully consider what in fact they are ‘selling’, and make sure they have in place strong media and marketing rules to protect their IP and story.
7. There is a need to improve transparency on sale terms on the carbon market.
8. Direct knowledge sharing is one of the most successful ways to increase skills across the industry, as evidenced by this year’s Savanna Fire Forum workshops across a broad range of issues affecting fire managers.



Image: Jawoyn Ranger conducts savanna burning, Jawoyn Association

# Feedback from Participants

ICIN developed a survey which was sent to all participants after the conclusion of the 2021 Savanna Fire Forum.

29 responses were received and feedback from those responses included:

- Most participants came from Northern Australia (WA, NT, QLD).
- Most respondents felt that the Forum was well run or organised, and enjoyed the forum overall.
- Most respondents found the program to be diverse, and enjoyed the mix of plenary sessions and concurrent workshops.
- Some respondents reported that the limitations of an online format meant that participation was not as valuable as a face to face forum.
- However most participants said that they would attend again if the forum were held online in 2022.
- Most participants said they would attend a physical forum again, and would attend if it were held in either WA or QLD.

# Improvements for 2022 Forum

- If possible (COVID-19 permitting), next year's forum should be held in a physical location (likely Darwin).
- Participants would like to see more opportunities for networking.
- Next year's forum program should continue to include a good mix of both plenary sessions and concurrent workshops.
- Continue to positively support Indigenous fire managers and Indigenous experts to present and lead discussions, particularly Indigenous women.



Thank you to our working group members, sponsors  
and supporters for making this year's forum possible!

[www.icin.org.au](http://www.icin.org.au)

[www.savannafireforum.net](http://www.savannafireforum.net)

The Nature  
Conservancy   
Australia

**DCBR**  
Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research

 **ICIN** Indigenous  
Carbon  
Industry  
Network

**International Savanna Fire Management Initiative**