

Indigenous Reference Group

Overview



Threatened
Species
Recovery
Hub

National Environmental Science Programme



Left to right: Bradley Moggridge, Stephen van Leuween, Gerry Turpin, Teagan Goolmeier, Cissy Gore-Birch and Oliver Costello at the University of Queensland for a TSR Hub Indigenous Reference Group meeting in October 2019. Photo: Jaana Dielenberg

The Threatened Species Recovery (TSR) Hub recognises that Indigenous people have very significant interests in, knowledge of, and responsibilities for Australia's natural environment, including its threatened species.

TSR Hub Indigenous Reference Group

The Hub established an Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) in mid-2017 to assist the Hub executive and the project teams in improving the engagement and participation of Indigenous people in the Hub's activities and research projects.

The IRG is coordinated by the Hub's Indigenous Liaison Officer. Members were appointed by the Hub Director in their capacity to understand research, community, government and threatened species, along with the aim of having a gender balance and geographical balance.

The IRG will provide advice and guidance to the NESP TSR Hub by:

- Providing advice to ensure the NESP TSR Hub's research projects are better aligned with Indigenous Australians' strategic needs

- Identifying activities within the Hub which could advance Indigenous Australians' involvement in threatened species recovery and management
- Advising project teams on Indigenous matters, to add value to their projects to better address Indigenous needs
- Advising on culturally appropriate formats for research outputs for Indigenous end-users and stakeholders.



Two-way learning at the Indigenous Desert Alliance Conference 2019. Photo: Jaana Dielenberg



The National Environmental Science Program

The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is a long-term commitment to environment and climate research. It will support decision-makers and land managers to understand, manage and conserve Australia's environment with the best available information, based on world-class science. The Threatened Species Recovery Hub is one of six hubs supported by funding through NESP.

The Threatened Species Recovery Hub

The Threatened Species Recovery Hub brings together leading environmental scientists, on-ground conservation partners, planners and policy makers, to carry out research that improves the management of Australia's threatened species.

The \$60 million dollar research initiative is supported by \$30 million of funding through the NESP, which is matched by contributions from ten of the country's leading academic institutions and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Established in June 2015, the Threatened Species Recovery Hub will conclude in June 2021.

Further Information

For more information please contact the Hub's Indigenous Liaison Officer Bradley Moggridge, 0498 332 599 or bradley.moggridge@anu.edu.au

Indigenous Reference Group Members



Cissy Gore-Birch (Broome)

Cissy has Jaru heritage through her grandmother's country and is

connected to Nyikina and Balanggarra country. She grew up on Balanggarra country in the East Kimberley region where she was the Chairperson of Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation for nearly 5 years. Cissy sits on the Kimberley Land Council & NAILSMA Board, and the Indigenous Advisory Committee to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment. She is passionate about country, people and sustainable livelihoods. We all have a role to play in managing country and taking care of our environment.



Oliver Costello (Lismore)

Oliver is a Bundjalung from the Northern Rivers of NSW and has been actively engaged

in Cultural Land Management projects with many Aboriginal communities across Australia. He feels a powerful sense of responsibility to family, communities and country. He believes strongly in the role of Aboriginal culture as a keystone to maintaining livelihoods, supporting identity, connection to country and enabling healthy and regenerative communities to care for country. He is a founding Director and CEO of the Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation and a visiting fellow at Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at UTS.



Stephen van Leeuwen (Perth)

Stephen is a Wardandi man of the Noongar Nation with strong links to Country in

the Busselton and Margaret River areas of south west Western Australia. He represented his family on the Noongar Negotiating Team for the South West Native Title Settlement and is a representative of the South West Boojarah Native Title Working Party. Stephen is a member of numerous boards and advisory panels for the Federal and Western Australian Governments. Stephen is committed to engage with Traditional Owners and other land managers to deliver innovate and enduring outcomes for biodiversity management on Country that also deliver significant and enduring benefits to community.



Teagan Goolmeer (Newcastle)

Teagan is a proud Arabunna descendant from Lake Eyre country, her family are

displaced people as a result of stolen generation and have lived off country for 3 generations. She grew up in Newcastle (Awabakal country) and has worked in the public sector across 3 states. Teagan has worked in the community engagement and environmental sector for over 10 years including in NSW, QLD and WA as well as at an international level as an ambassador to the World Indigenous Network. She coordinated community engagement across remote WA Aboriginal communities for the WA Government Regional Services Reform.

We would also like to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by Gerry Turpin and Larissa Hale who are past group members