

FIRST NATIONS PERSPECTIVES

Landcare Australia is proud to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which we live and work. We value and respect their deep and continued spiritual and cultural connections to the land, waters and seas, and pay our respects to their Ancestors, and Elders past, present and future.

Traditional Land Management Practices

Approaches to Traditional Land Management is often connected to the belief in Caring for Country, though the land management aspect is often a physical expression of that belief, informed by broader cultural and spiritual knowledge and practice. Traditional Land Management may relate to practices around several features in Country, such as maintaining healthy waters, ways of ensuring the abundance of trees and

plants produce, and balancing animal habitat and populations.

One notable Traditional Land Management method is using fire to manage fire responsive plant communities. This is often referred to as Cultural Burning. Cultural burning is guided by how people viewed seasons and indicators within these seasons in the way this was observed in Country. First Nations people were able to read these signs in Country and the right environmental conditions to undertake burning at the best time to create the desired outcomes. First Nations peoples



could tell when there were imbalances in these plant communities through their extensive knowledge and could support the health of Country through applying Traditional practices such as the use of fire. The application of the correct fire during the right season, supported the growth of food and medicine which benefited people and animals. It was used as an approach to improve the health of landscapes where fire was needed, but also to protect areas in Country where fire is essentially harmful. There is a greater awareness by the broader community of the continuation of

Traditional Land Management practices in some parts of Australia, often less impacted by European colonisation. Respect for the recommencement of these traditions in areas closer to cities and towns, as an expression of Caring for Country is also gaining momentum in recognising how Country is managed. To understand more about Traditional Land Practices in your local area, contact Traditional Owners groups, First Nations organisations or Land Management bodies that partner with First Nations peoples to support Caring for Country.

**For other useful resources please visit this Landcare Australia web page:
www.landcareaustralia.org.au/culturallandmanagement/**

Source: Appropriate words & terminology for First Nations topics - Creative Spirits <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/media/appropriate-terminology-for-aboriginal-topics>

Source: Demonstrating inclusive and respectful language – Reconciliation Australia Plan <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/inclusive-and-respectful-language.pdf>

Source: Narragunnawali - A Guide to Using Respectful and Inclusive Language and Terminology

The content for First Nations Perspectives was developed for Landcare Australia. The purpose of this information is to provide a useful introductory resource for educators using Junior Landcare resources, for landcare groups and other environmental community groups, and for individuals. This is dynamic content and we understand that some information may change from time to time. Please contact us if you would like to provide additional information that we can include in this important resource.