



**THREE CATEGORY
APPROACH**

Communicate.
Collaborate. Co-Design.

Indigenous Knowledge in Cities

For thousands of years Indigenous knowledge systems have formed and shaped Australia's environment.

Prior to urbanisation, every city was a resource-rich landscape offering an abundance of food, shelter, and water. Areas were governed by complex economic, social and cultural systems and practices.

The colonisation of Australia has drastically affected the environmental quality of the land and the relationship between Indigenous knowledge systems and practices, and the urban environment is rarely considered in Australian urban research and practice.

Caring for Country is an integrated approach for sustainable management. It encompasses the entirety of Country – its past and future; its people; its flora and fauna; its natural landscapes and urban formats; its history and culture. The principles that underpin Caring for Country provide a blueprint for dealing with the challenges of climate change.

Indigenous knowledge systems are holistic and value the connection of all things. This means that knowledge is relational. Knowledge is produced and shared through relationships between people, place and all living creatures. It is vital that researchers and practitioners build relationships with Indigenous experts in similar fields to their own and with Traditional Owner groups in the regions in which they work.

Two-way sharing in an urban context is new to many of us. We have created a Three Category Approach workbook to help guide your exploration. **To order your copy visit: nespurban.edu.au**

Background

The 3 Category Approach was developed by Torres Strait Islander researcher, scientist and consultant Stan Lui, together with members of the Indigenous Advisory Committee of the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy.

This methodology was incorporated into the research of the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes (CAUL) Hub, in recognition of the critical role Indigenous perspectives play in making cities better. It is expected that all research projects within the CAUL Hub are assessed using the 3 Category Approach, leading to increased communication, collaboration and co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations.

The stories in this workbook are taken from interviews with researchers associated with the CAUL Hub. These stories shine a light on the challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt from participating in Indigenous-led research and two-way sharing.

Three Category Approach

The Three Category Approach is a tool for non-Indigenous researchers and practitioners working with Indigenous people and organisations. This methodology was designed by Indigenous researchers and encourages reciprocal relationships and two-way learning. Some projects benefit more than others from Indigenous perspectives. Understanding where your project sits can help guide your process.

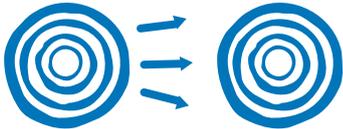


CATEGORY 3

Communicate

Category 3 projects communicate and share results with relevant Indigenous organisations. All research that is undertaken, irrespective of its nature, will have impact on Indigenous Australians. Category 3 projects are often laboratory or desktop based and do not directly work with or benefit from Indigenous knowledge.

Category 3 projects communicate outcomes.



CATEGORY 2

Collaborate

Category 2 projects explore opportunities for two-way transfer of skills and knowledge sharing through Indigenous employment and research opportunities. Category 2 projects often take place on Country, for example research that has a field work component.

Category 2 projects collaborate on the work + communicate the outcomes.



CATEGORY 1

Co-design

Category 1 projects are co-designed with Indigenous people, organisations and communities. They respect Indigenous priorities and values and ensure Indigenous people have meaningful participation in the governance of the project. These projects work towards an application of Caring for Country in an urban context to offer ways of interacting with nature for economic, social and cultural prosperity.

Category 1 projects co-design the plan + collaborate on the work + communicate the outcomes.



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