



Indigenous engagement protocol

Statement

Good engagement and benefit sharing are important to us. The exchange between Indigenous participants and scientists enriches the program and provides opportunities for employment, skills transfer, knowledge sharing and an increase in cultural awareness for everyone involved. Bush Blitz expeditions can also be the start of beneficial relationships between Indigenous communities and research organisations.

When undertaking fieldwork, Bush Blitz will respect traditional laws, intellectual property and cultural protocols. Bush Blitz will work with land managers, relevant Indigenous groups and their representatives to negotiate the level and type of engagement that will suit them and fit within the budget and logistical constraints of the expedition.

Bush Blitz will:

Consultation and planning

- start talking with Traditional Owners as early as possible to allow for adequate consultation and planning
- meet to discuss the project proposal and provide a contact person to liaise with Traditional Owners
- engage an interpreter if needed

Permits and fieldwork agreement

- apply for permits from the relevant land council or aboriginal association to enter and undertake research on aboriginal land
- prepare a fieldwork agreement with the land managers when appropriate

Indigenous participation and benefit sharing

Investigate ways in which Bush Blitz can benefit Indigenous groups and meet their information needs, which could include some of the following:

- identify research that is of interest to Indigenous groups and aim to include it within the scope of the expedition; undertake an activity at the local school; or host a Bush Blitz community event to share stories about the research
- assist relevant Indigenous groups to participate in fieldwork
- if requested, Bush Blitz will try to provide training/development opportunities
- involve Indigenous groups in promotional activities and develop shared key messages
- consider proposals from local Indigenous businesses to supply services required for the expedition. Proposals will be assessed and contracts awarded in accordance with Government procurement guidelines

Fieldwork practices

- invite Traditional Owners to perform a Welcome to Country and brief researchers on cultural protocols and sensitive sites when appropriate
- ensure researchers follow reasonable direction from Traditional Owners at all times while on country, this includes taking direction on suitable sites for sampling and requests for researchers to be accompanied to particular sites during fieldwork
- not disturb or remove cultural material without permission
- not release to any person, without prior written consent, information that is considered to be confidential
- ensure that Traditional Owners consent to being photographed, filmed or recorded

Bush Blitz deliverables

- provide Traditional Owners with a report, together with a selection of photographs and final edited version of video footage taken during the Bush Blitz

Acknowledgements

- ensure all publications produced by Bush Blitz acknowledge the Traditional Owners
- encourage scientists to seek co-authorship of research papers with Traditional Owners as a means of acknowledging Indigenous expertise, where their knowledge has assisted with the research outcomes or is included in the report.

Ownership of materials

- Use of intellectual property and traditional knowledge in reports and other outputs shall be with the prior consent of the providers.
- The intellectual property and entire copyright of all traditionally owned materials (such as songs, images, stories, names and other traditional knowledge) that is recorded and otherwise documented in association with the Bush Blitz shall remain the sole property of the original owners.
- The contract between each scientific institution and the Director of National Parks (DNP) [Bush Blitz] specifies that any new intellectual property generated by the project will be owned by the parties who generate it, but they will grant DNP a license to use it.
- If any new intellectual property created in partnership with Traditional Owners and researchers under contracts to DNP is of commercial value, researchers will be required to negotiate a new agreement with the Traditional Owners and their representative organisation.

Opportunity for traditional owners to review contents of reports, papers and presentations

- Bush Blitz will provide Traditional Owners with a copy of the final draft of the report before publishing and distribution.
- If researchers plan to publish or present results from the Bush Blitz that includes intellectual property or traditional knowledge provided by Traditional Owners, the researchers will be asked to send a draft of the paper or conference presentation to Traditional Owners for review before publication.

More information about what we do and how we work can be found here:

bushblitz.org.au/indigenous-communities