

Aboriginal Fire Management – Part of the Solution to Destructive Bushfires

Rekindling an ancient craft

Aboriginal communities can be involved in fire management across Australia. This could bring back an ancient tradition that was changed by European settlement.

When Aboriginal people return to country and look after it, there has been improvement in their health. This is important since Aboriginal health has been poor.

Climate change is making the bushfire problem worse. Even if we wanted to, returning to Aboriginal fire management in a rapidly warming world is no longer something we can do.

But adapting the idea of Aboriginal patch burning, where some areas are burnt and others are not, is an important way to improve fire management across Australia. This could mean restoring mosaics of small habitats in rural landscapes, or managing remote areas like the Western Tasmanian Wilderness, and large areas of outback Australia.