

Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara Indigenous Protected Area

Research Project Idea template

This template supports the Research Project Approval Process outlined in the MKK IPA Ngaparrtji Ngaparrtji (Two-way) Science Plan 2018-2023. It is the first step towards approval of research projects on the IPA and will be considered by the MKK IPA Management Team. This template is meant to inform an initial discussion about the project. Please use font size 14, refrain from using jargon and do not exceed 2 pages. Photos and maps can also be attached.

Name of project idea:

Impacts of cats and fire on native mammals

Who? Who are the people/organisations that might be involved in the project?

MKK Traditional Owners
DBCA researchers and fire staff (Cheryl Lohr, Evan Donovan, others)
University of Sydney researchers (Tim Doherty, Chris Dickman, others)

Why? What is the question you are asking and why is this important?

Cats prey on many native mammals, such as hopping mice, dunnarts and bandicoots. Burning is good for country, but it may also make it easier for cats to hunt by removing plant cover, negatively impacting native mammals. This project will assess if cat impacts are higher in burnt areas and whether cat control helps native mammals survive after fire.

There are two key questions:

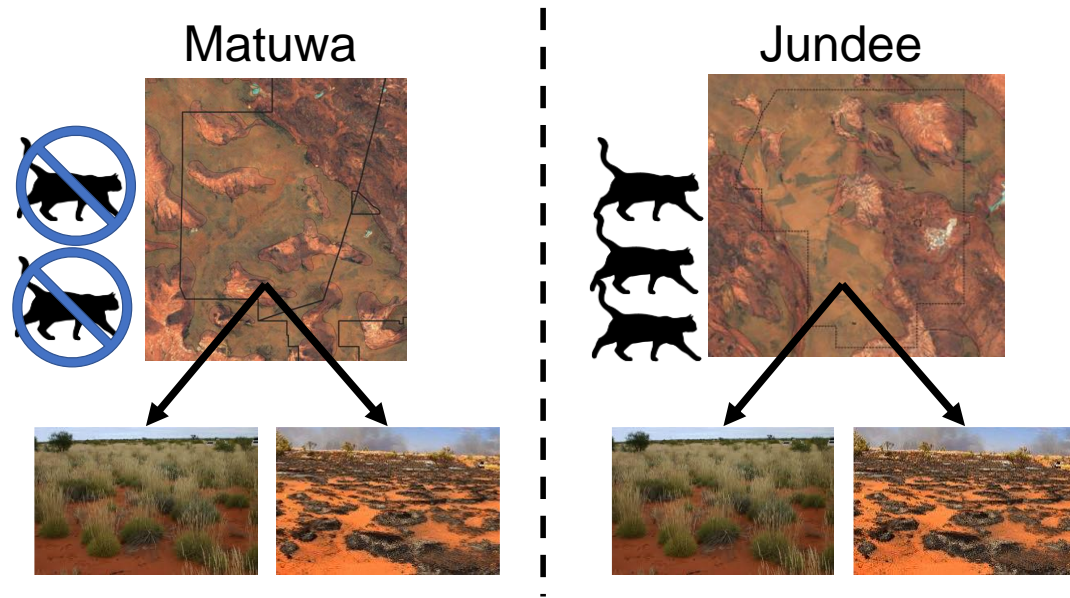
1. Is cat predation of native mammals higher in burnt compared to unburnt areas?
2. Does cat control increase survival of native mammals after fire?

Where? What areas of the MKK IPA were you thinking you might need to visit? Please be as specific as possible.

Spinifex grasslands at Matuwa

How? Please provide an outline of the research methods you might use.

The project would occur at both Matuwa (cat control) and Jundee (no cat control). Burns would be conducted at both sites and animals would be monitored in both burnt and unburnt areas.



- Camera traps to monitor predators in burnt and unburnt areas.
- Pitfall trapping and cage trapping (maybe) to monitor native mammals.
- Track plot monitoring.

When? What is the time frame of the project? How many times would you need to visit the MKK IPA?

Fieldwork beginning in autumn 2021.

Conduct ~4 field trips per year in 2021, 2022 and maybe 2023.