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**HAZARDS**CRC

# THE SOCIAL LIFE OF SCIENCE: TALES FROM VICTORIA AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

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# SCIENCE & POLICY & PRACTICE

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1 + 2 + 3 = *the social life of science*



# APPROACH

## 3 case studies

- Barwon-Otway, Vic
- Greater Darwin Area, NT
- Hawkesbury-Nepean, NSW

## Methods include:

- Interviews with practitioners
- Workshop with scenario exercises





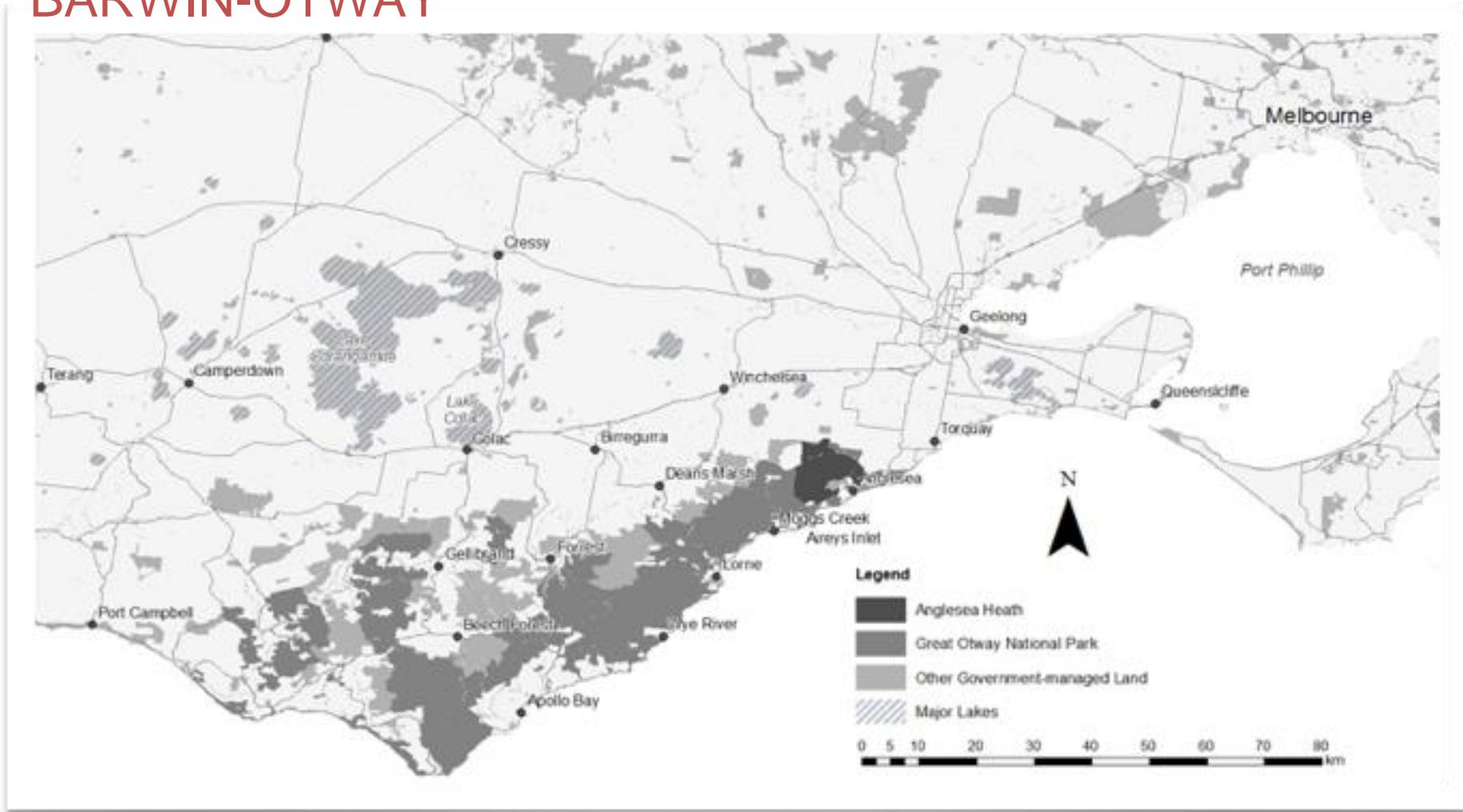
# *the social life of science*



Three questions:

1. What are the influences shaping the use of science in these contexts?
2. How do practitioners encounter and manage these uncertainties?
3. What does 'science' mean in these contexts?

# BARWIN-OTWAY



Map of Barwon-Otway area showing land managed by state agencies (credit: Andrew Edwards)

# GREATER DARWIN AREA



Batchelor, NT



Gamba Grass, [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au)

# RESULTS

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- Knowledge sharing, responsibility and blame

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## WHAT WE MEAN BY SCIENCE

- 'Science' and 'scientific' often used as synonyms for true
- Enthusiasm, motivation, frustration

# CONCLUSIONS



## MORE INFORMATION

- Check out our conference poster
- Visit our BNHCRC project page



### Journal articles to date:

- Neale T. (In Press) Burning Anticipation: wildfire, risk mitigation and simulation modelling in Victoria, Australia. *Environment & Planning A*.
- Neale, T., Weir, J. & Dovers, S. Science in Motion: integrating scientific knowledge into bushfire risk mitigation in southwest Victoria. *Australian Journal of Emergency Management* 31, (2016).
- Neale, T., Weir, J. & McGee, T. K. Knowing wildfire risk: Scientific interactions with risk mitigation policy and practice in Victoria, Australia. *Geoforum* 72, (2016). Google Scholar
- Neale, T. & Weir, J. Navigating scientific uncertainty in wildfire and flood risk mitigation: A qualitative review. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 13, 255-265 (2015).
- Wodak, J. & Neale, T. A critical review of the application of environmental scenario exercises. *Futures* 73, (2015).