

IMPACT EVALUATION

Purpose

This brief questionnaire (6 questions) guides you through a series of prompts to evaluate the real-world impact of your research project. If you review the information provided here carefully, it should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Completing the questionnaire, submitting it and attaching a copy to your Award Record is required for the grants team to issue a final invoice and close your project. The information collected is important so:

- CDU -- for the first time -- can identify potential high impact research projects, recognise you for the work you do, and potentially promote your work through the media and to the broader public.
- You can track and record real world impacts over time to attract additional funding, gain recognition, build robust networks and enjoy a successful research career.

There is a *Save and Complete Later* option at the bottom of each page of the questionnaire so you can save your work as you go.

Instructions

1. **Prepare** – Review the **USEFUL INFORMATION & DEFINITIONS** section below to use as a guide. You can also refer to the copy of the Impact Pathway Plan (IPP) you submitted previously. For many, this may be enough information to complete it with ease.
2. **Be concise** - Write short, simple, concise answers, in plain English, avoiding technical jargon. Write in a way that is accessible to a general audience, beneficiaries and end-users. The information may be used for future purposes such as a case study.
3. **Attach a copy of the completed Impact Evaluation to your Award Record and save a copy for yourself** - When you have completed and submitted the questionnaire a copy will be emailed to you to do so.
4. **An Impact Officer may be in contact** – to follow up and find out more about your project once submitted.

USEFUL INFORMATION & DEFINITIONS

Real-world impact is the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment or culture, *beyond the contribution to academic research*. It is the *measurable benefits and change that results due to the sustained use, application and/or influence of research*. In other words, it is real change in the real world and may include:

- **Cultural:** benefiting ideas, reality, values, beliefs and improved understanding
- **Economic:** improving revenue, economic returns, productivity, growth
- **Educational:** progressing training, capacity building, learning outcomes, skills
- **Environmental:** protecting biodiversity, natural resources, tackling climate change
- **Health:** improving life expectancy, quality of life, prevention of illness
- **Political:** enriching policy making, political stability, equality
- **Social:** enhancing wellbeing, quality of life, community welfare
- **Technological:** new advances, products, improvements

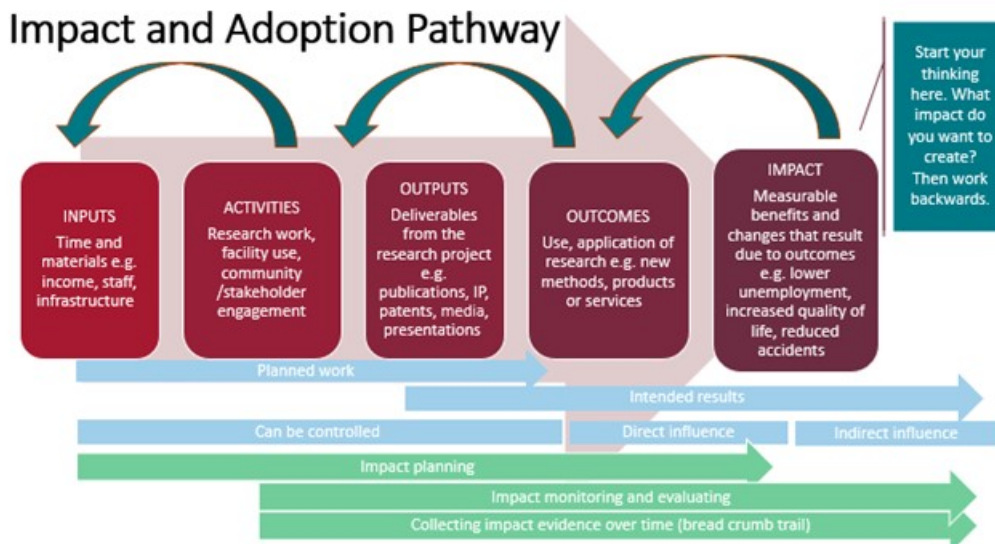
Impact evidence tends to be looser than research evidence and usually includes a mix of quantitative and qualitative **indicators** and information like testimonials, survey results, interviews, data analysis etc.

Real-world impact is what this questionnaire focuses on and differs to academic impact.

Academic impact is the demonstrable contribution that research makes to *academic advances like understanding, methods, theory or application* and may include Q1 and peer review publications, reports, outputs, citations, conference presentations and so on.

An **Impact and Adoption Pathway** is important for setting up the conditions for creating real-world impact. It is a simplified chain of events – or 'productive interactions' - that connects research to potential benefits or change to society. It includes subtle but important differences between outputs, outcomes and impacts:

- Outputs are research products.
- Outcomes are the short-term results that happen due to outputs.
- Impacts are the measurable benefits and change that happen due to the use or application of outputs and outcomes.



The Impact and Adoption Pathway requires starting with the end in mind; in other words, in addition to asking ‘what research question needs answering?’ also ask ‘what would be the best possible impact from the research program?’ and then work back from there. This approach provides a fresh way of looking at a research program and creates opportunities for recognising, tracking and collecting potential impacts during and after the research program. It also maximises the chances of asking the right questions, engaging the right beneficiaries and end users, and gathering evidence along the way, rather than waiting after the research program is complete. Then you will have the information you need to create an impact narrative, or case study, about your research program.

Impact Adoption is part of your planning process. It includes *thinking about who you will engage with, why and how to maximise the potential use and benefits from your research and minimise barriers*. This includes thinking about people or organisations who have an interest in your research project, or can affect or are affected by its outcomes, beneficiaries and end users. It also includes thinking about those who could be blockers and how to engage them to turn them into supporters. Finally, it requires thinking about how you are going to communicate and promote your research to each stakeholder, beneficiary and end-user to increase the uptake, use and benefits of your research.

Measuring real-world impact is more about collecting impact evidence over time that *demonstrates* a sustained use or application of research, particularly benefits. There is no one preferred method for demonstrating or measuring real-world impact and the evidence collected is much looser that research evidence. It just needs to be:

- Factual and hold up under scrutiny
- Be an indicator of change
- Happen over time (bread crumb trail)
- Include a mix of indicators to create a credible and convincing narrative account

Impact evidence usually includes a mix of quantitative and qualitative **indicators** and information like testimonials, survey results, interviews, data analysis etc to help develop a clear, concise, plausible **impact narrative**, or case study that ‘connects the dots’ of the bread crumb trail, evidence and indicators you have collected. The **case study** is considered the preferred way of demonstrating research impact. A case study is a short, accessible, jargon free synopsis that answers three questions: What the societal challenge is, how the research met the challenge, and how the research benefits different types of stakeholders. The benefits or change the research creates be small, or large, wide ranging or to a smaller audience. In some cases it can even be ‘hoped for change’ that informs the next steps of your research program.

RIS Application ID *

76478891

Project Title: *

Fine scale fire mapping for Kakadu National Park 2023

Based on your Impact Pathway (inputs, activities, outputs) what outcomes (short term change) and impacts (longer term change) is the research contributing to? Choose 1-3 of the most likely and describe how. *

- Cultural: contributes to ideas, reality, values, beliefs
- Economic: contributes to revenue, economic returns, productivity, growth
- Educational: contributes to training, capacity building, learning outcomes, skills
- Environmental: contributes to biodiversity, natural resources, tackling climate change
- Health: contributes to life expectancy, quality of life, prevention of illness
- Political: contributes to policy making, political stability, inequality
- Social: contributes to wellbeing, quality of life, community welfare
- Academic: understanding, methods, theory, application

Economic Impact *

enables more efficient management of Parks Australia savanna burning projects and thus carbon market returns.

Environmental Impact: *

enables more efficient management of Parks Australia savanna burning projects and thus biodiversity requirements.

Academic Impact: *

ongoing maintenance of long-term fire history archives increases our understanding of savanna fire dynamics

4. Who is benefiting or using the research and how? *

CDU and Kakadu Country section. ongoing maintenance of long-term fire history archives increases our understanding of savanna fire dynamics

50-word limit

5. How can any value, benefits, change or hoped for change be amplified/increased going forward? Who will you need to engage with to make that happen? Has there been a negative change because of your project, and if so, how can it be minimised/addressed? *

enables ongoing maintenance of long-term fire history archives increases our understanding of savanna fire dynamics, and more efficient r

50-word limit

What evidence have you collected to help inform your impact story? *

long term spatial database

50-word limit

7. How will you continue to monitor impact after the project is complete for the short, medium and/or long term? *

success of Kakadu National Park fire management program

50-word limit

8. Who are the key contacts you need to stay in contact with to track and maximise impact into the future? *

Cameron Yates. Andrew Edwards

50-word limit

Signed: *



Dated *

06/03/2024

Name: *

Jay Evans

Contact email: *

jay.evans@cdu.edu.au

Faculty/Institute/Centre: *

RIEL: Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Once you hit 'submit' will receive a copy of your answers so you can use the information as a reference. **Please ensure to check your junk/spam folder** if not received within 10 minutes.

Next steps:

- Save a copy of the IE for yourself to use as a reference and track your future impact
- Attach a copy of the IE to the Award Record to receive your final grant payment (if relevant) and close out the project. Not closing out your project may impact academic, performance and promotion criteria.
- An Impact Officer may be in contact to follow up and find out more about your project once submitted.
- If you have questions about maximising impact of your research project or program, please contact impactandexcellence@cdu.edu.au.