IP1.02: Sustainable people-environment interactions (led by Monash and UTas)

Links between the health of people and the health of ecosystems and the environment are being increasingly recognised in research, policy and programs. Great strides have been taken in national and international research exploring these links between human wellbeing, and environmental and ecosystem health, including through the NESP, yet critical gaps in knowledge remain. The Impact Priority Area 1 'Sustainable People–Environment Interactions' (SuPErInteract) is focused on supporting healthy people and place interactions via two projects.

These projects have been developed to meet the Department's and external partner research needs. Research needs and priorities have been, and will continue to be, determined through a co-design process with the Department and other research users, including state environment departments, local governments, non-government organisations (NGOs) and Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, across urban, regional and remote contexts. Through these projects, this impact priority area will contribute to national commitments such as *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019–2030* and the *National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021–2025*.

We will use the lens of 'nature-based solutions' (NbS), an approach widely adopted in global policy and standards (e.g., International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)) but less commonly known and applied in Australia. A NbS approach encourages transdisciplinary methodologies for co-design and co-creation of research to address environmental, ecological and human health and wellbeing challenges. It fosters multiple benefits for people and place and promotes the resilience of social–ecological systems to environmental change.

The short-term outcomes of this project are:

- new and strengthened partnerships among researchers, the Department, state environment agencies/departments, Indigenous groups, local communities, NGOs and other research-user partners

- greater understanding of the health benefits of participation in nature-based programs.

- a national approach to NbS in Australia

- awareness of the barriers to effective urban greening initiatives in regional communities

- integrating the social value of night skies for sustainable human–environment interactions into light pollution policy and dark skies programs

- a conceptual design and methodological framework for development of a national platform to support community-led, place-based participatory planning processes to advance water-sensitive outcomes for regional and remote communities and the evaluation of urban heat impacts and liveability outcomes, identifying research and infrastructure requirements.

The expected longer-term outcomes of this project are:

- new partnerships across the consortia and partners to foster innovation and creative solutions to improve people–environment interactions across Australia

- enabling federal, state and local governments to better implement and report on policy outcomes (e.g. *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019–2030*, *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*), and report on international obligations (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Aichi targets, post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Ramsar triennial reporting to the conference of the Contracting parties, post United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties 26, World Heritage Convention, IUCN)

- an evidence base for creating future-proof positive people–environment interactions through planning and program design in urban, regional, remote and Indigenous communities

- improved urban greening programs that build capacity in local governments and lead to improved outcomes for people and biodiversity across Australia.

- economic benefits – from reducing money wasted in planting/maintaining greenspaces that are not resilient, to reductions in the cost of healthcare productivity losses via management of heat-related health risk, and improved management of green infrastructure assets.

Significant community benefits, stemming from the application of tools/models/platforms that enable better planning of our cities and towns, improving liveability, sustainability, resilience, and health and wellbeing, including better understanding specific community needs and ensuring diverse perspectives are incorporated into decision-making processes.

IP1.02.01: Nature connection and urban greening

Project	Milestones - Outputs	Timeline (from Jul 2022)	Due date	Responsible person
IP1.02.01	Signing of project contract		30-Jun-22	Emily Flies (UTas)
	Co-design workshops for RP3 commenced		01-Aug-22	Emily Flies (UTas) /Dave Kendal (UTas)
	Detailed project RP3 developed		29-Aug-22	Emily Flies (UTas)
	A summary report and/or fact sheet on the health benefits of participation in nature-based programs		31-Mar-23	Pauline Marsh (UTas)
	Summary report and/or fact sheet on NbS for Australia		31-Mar-23	Emily Flies (UTas)
	Summary report and/or fact sheet on inclusive urban greening for greater liveability in regional areas		31-Mar-23	Jason Byrne (UTas)
	Summary report and/or fact sheet on social values for access to dark skies		31-Mar-23	Dave Kendal (UTas)
	Annual report on project's RP2 activities		07-Apr-23	Emily Flies (UTas)

IP1.02.02: Water sensitive and liveable communities

Project	Milestones - Outputs	Timeline (from Jul 2022)	Due date	Responsible person
IP1.02.02	Signing of project contract		30-Jun-22	Malcolm Eadie (Monash)
	Co-design workshops for RP3 commenced		01-Aug-22	Malcolm Eadie (Monash)
	Detailed project RP3 developed		29-Aug-22	Malcolm Eadie (Monash)
	Conceptual design and methodological framework for the development of a national platform to advance water sensitive outcomes for regional and remote communities and manage urban heat impacts		31-Mar-23	Malcolm Eadie (Monash) / Atiq Zaman (Curtin)

Project	Milestones - Outputs	Timeline (from Jul 2022)	Due date	Responsible person
	Annual report on project's RP2 activities		31-Mar-23	Malcolm Eadie (Monash)