AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (**CABAH**)

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Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Motivation and mission

- transform our understanding of Australia's natural and human history — STEM, HASS and Indigenous knowledge systems

- train transdisciplinary researchers with a culturally inclusive approach — reboot the research culture

- engage with people of all ages and cultures — communicate Australia's epic story to the world

- inspire the next generation of Australians — connect with schools and Indigenous communities

- help shape a sustainable future — incorporate lessons from the past in cultural and environmental heritage management
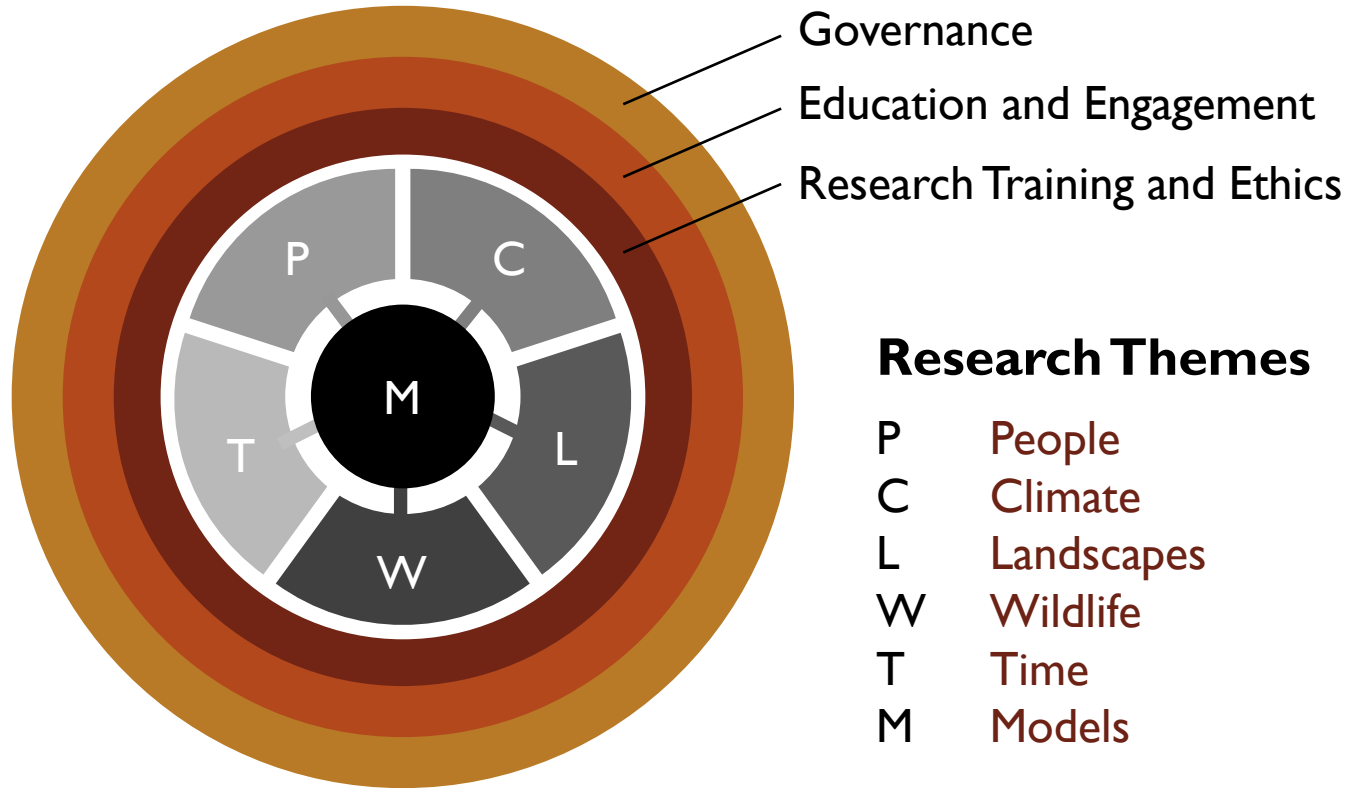
CABAH partners

- university researchers
  STEM, HASS, education and Indigenous studies

- Indigenous communities
  on-country partners and education in schools (Tagai)

- public engagement
  GLAM and media organisations in Australia and overseas

- other collaborating organisations
  Australia (BPA, Scarp, KFA) and overseas (Future Earth)

→ total of 30+ organisations involved in CABAH
  epicaustralia.org

CABAH structure

Governance

Education and Engagement

Research Training and Ethics

Research Themes

P   People
C   Climate
L   Landscapes
W   Wildlife
T   Time
M   Models

A Time Machine for Australia?

- **What would it do?** Provide an integrative platform for the past 65,000 years of Australia's human and environmental history — Indigenous cultures and 'country' (non-human kin) and later arrivals

- **What types of data would be included?** HASS, STEM and Indigenous knowledge — transdisciplinary, cross-cultural, multi-format

- **Who would be involved?** Universities, GLAM organisations, NGOs, NCRIS facilities, government agencies etc. — national, regional, global

- **What are the key challenges?**
    a) Integrating all types of 'big data of the past', especially Indigenous knowledge and languages

    b) Incorporating 'infinite archives' that are constantly evolving, especially environmental and Indigenous history

- **A history of the future?** Use past trends to improve predictions of environmental and societal trajectories