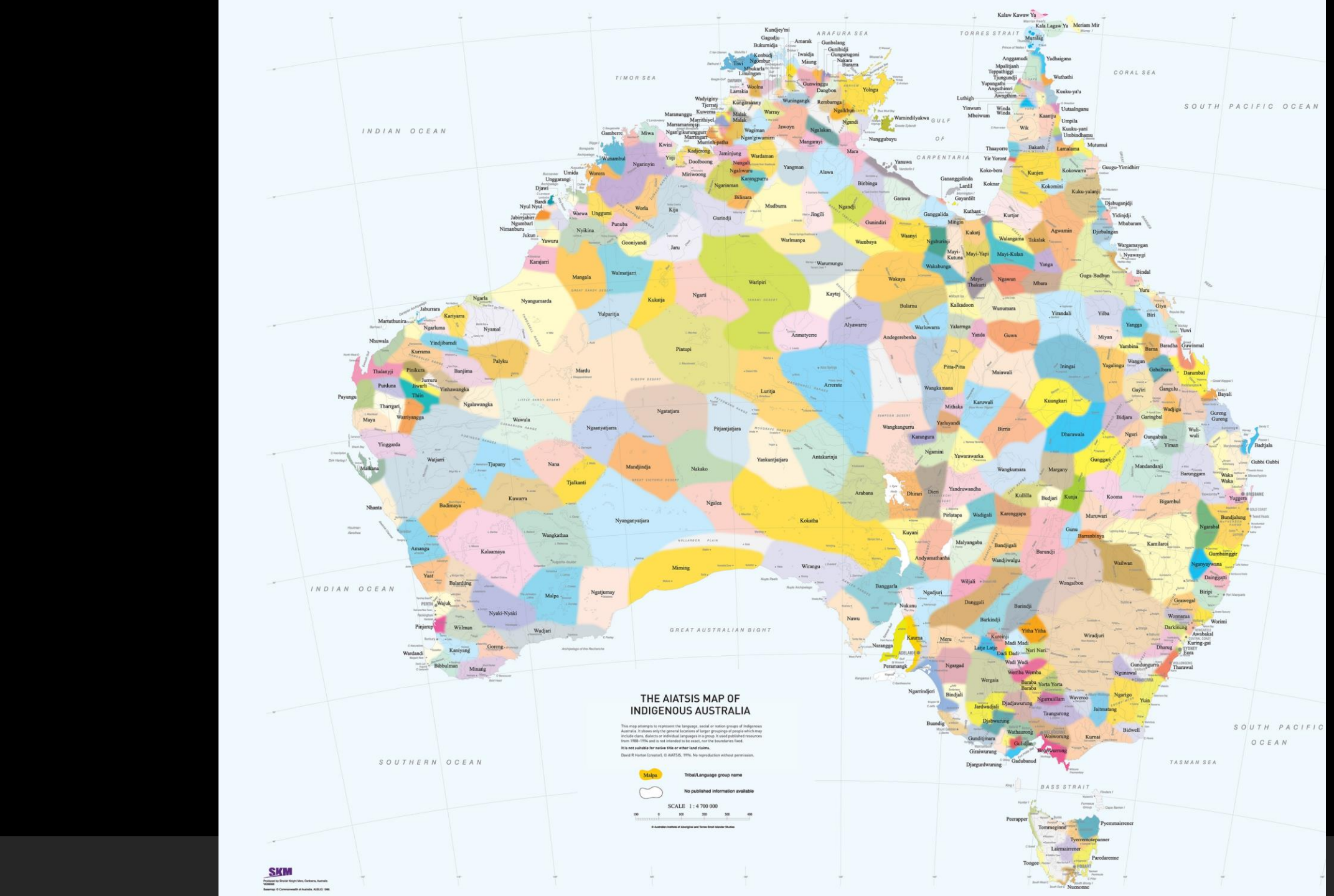
BIOREGIONING IN AUSTRALIA

Dr Michelle Maloney
Australian Earth Laws Alliance


THE AIATSIS MAP OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA
This map attempts to represent the language, social or nation groups of Indigenous Australia. It shows only the general locations of larger groupings of people which may include clans, dialects or individual languages in a group. It used published resources from 1988–1994 and is not intended to be exact, nor the boundaries fixed.
It is not suitable for native title or other land claims.
David R Horton (creator). © AIATSIS, 1996. No reproduction without permission.
Malpa
Tribal/Language group name
No published information available
SCALE 1 : 4 700 000
100 0 100 200 300 400
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SKM
Produced by Sinclair Knight Merz, Canberra, Australia
Basemap: © Commonwealth of Australia, AUSLIG 1996
INDIAN OCEAN
TIMOR SEA
ARAFURA SEA
TORRES STRAIT
CORAL SEA
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF CARPENTARIA
GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT
SOUTHERN OCEAN
TASMAN SEA
BASS STRAIT
Kundjey'mi
Gagadju
Bukurmidja
Amarak
Gunbalang
Gunibidji
Gungurugoni
Nakara
Burarra
Iwaidja
Maung
Konbudj
Ngombar
Mbukarla
Limilngan
Tiwi
Woolna
Larrakia
Gunwinggu
Dangbon
Yolngu
Kalaw Kawaw Ya
Kala Lagaw Ya
Meriam Mir
Muralag
Yadhaigana
Anggamudi
Mpalitjanh
Teppathiggi
Tjungundji
Yupungathi
Anguthimri
Awngthim
Wuthathi
Kuuku-ya'u
Luthigh
Yinwum
Mbeiwum
Winda
Kaantju
Utaalnganu
Umpila
Kuuku-yani
Umbindhamu
Mutumui
Lamalama
Thaayorre
Bakanh
Wik
Yir Yoront
Koko-bera
Kokowarra
Guugu-Yimidhirr
Kunjen
Kokomini
Kuku-yalanji
Djabuganjdji
Yidinjdji
Mbabaram
Djirbalngan
Agwamin
Takalak
Walangama
Wargamaygan
Nyawaygi
Bindal
Gugu-Badhun
Yuru
Giya
Biri
Yilba
Yirrandali
Miyan
Yangga
Yuwi
Baradha
Guwinmal
Barna
Yambina
Wangan
Yagalingu
Gabalbara
Darumbal
Gangulu
Bayali
Gureng Gureng
Badtjala
Gubbi Gubbi
Waka
Barunggam
Wulli-wulli
Yuggera
Bundjalung
Ngarabal
Gumbaynggir
Ngayawana
Dainggatti
Biripi
Gaawegal
Worimi
Awabakal
Karing-gai
Darkinung
Wonnarua
Tharawal
Gundungurra
Ngunawal
Wiradjuri
Darug
Eora
Kamilaroi
Barranbinya
Gunu
Murawari
Koorna
Bigambul
Mandandanji
Gunggari
Nguri
Gungabula
Yiman
Bidjara
Garingbal
Wadjigu
Gayiri
Iningai
Yagalingu
Wangan
Gabalbara
Darumbal
Maiawali
Pitta-Pitta
Kuungkari
Dharawala
Birria
Karuwali
Mithaka
Wangkamana
Arrernte
Luritja
Pintupi
Mardu
Ngaatatjara
Ngaanyatjarra
Pitjantjatjara
Yankuntjatjara
Antakarinja
Ngamini
Karangura
Wangkangurru
Yarluyandi
Yawarawarka
Wangkumara
Margany
Gunggari
Kullilla
Budjari
Kunja
Dhirari
Dieri
Yandruwandha
Arabana
Lake Eyre
Pirlatapa
Wadigali
Karenggapa
Kuyani
Malyangaba
Bandjigali
Barundji
Wandjiwalgu
Andyamathanha
Wailwan
Wongaibon
Wiljali
Banggarla
Ngadjuri
Nukunu
Dunggalí
Barkindji
Yitha Yitha
Madi Madi
Nari Nari
Latje Latje
Dadi Dadi
Wadi Wadi
Wemba Wemba
Wergaia
Baraba
Yorta Yorta
Ngurrailiam
Waveroo
Jaitmatang
Ngarigo
Yuin
Bidwell
Kurnai
Gunditjmara
Gulidjan
Bdjabdjarung
Djabwurung
Djadjawurung
Jardwadjali
Taungurong
Wathaurong
Worworung
Djargurdwurung
Gadubanud
Giraiwurung
Buandig
Ngarrindjeri
Peramangk
Ngargad
Kaurna
Meru
Naranggga
Nawu
Wirangu
Mirning
Kokatha
Nyanganyatjara
Ngalea
Tjalkanti
Nana
Mandjindja
Nakako
Tjupany
Watjarri
Yinggarda
Maiakana
Nhanta
Badimaya
Kuwarra
Wangkathaa
Kalaamaya
Amangu
Yuat
Balardung
Wajuk
Nyaki-Nyaki
Wiilman
Pinjarup
Wudjari
Goreng
Kaniyang
Wardandi
Bibbulman
Minang
Malpa
Ngatjumay
Nyangumarda
Ngarla
Jaburrara
Kariyarra
Martuthunira
Ngarluma
Nyamal
Nhuwala
Yindjibarndi
Kurrama
Pinikura
Thalanyji
Palyku
Banjima
Jurruru
Jiwarli
Purduna
Yinhawangka
Payungu
Thiin
Tharrgari
Warriyangga
Maya
Ngalawangka
Wawula
Yulparitja
Kukatja
Ngarti
Walmatjarri
Mangala
Karajarri
Gooniyandi
Jaru
Nyikina
Punuba
Worla
Kija
Warla
Unggumi
Jabirrjabirr
Ngumbarl
Nimanburu
Jukun
Yawuru
Djawi
Bardi
Nyul Nyul
Umida
Worora
Unggarangi
Wanambul
Ngarinyin
Miriwoong
Gajirrabeng
Gambera
Miwa
Kwini
Nyulnyul
Jawoyn
Warray
Malak Malak
Marramaninjsi
Ngan'gikurunggurr
Marringarr
Murrinh-patha
Wagiman
Ngan'giwumirri
Kadjerong
Doolboong
Jaminjung
Ngaliwurru
Nungali
Wardaman
Yangman
Karangpurru
Ngarinman
Bilinara
Mudburra
Jingili
Gurindji
Warlmanpa
Ngaanyatjarra
Warlpiri
Kaytetj
Anmatyerre
Alyawarre
Andegerebenha
Warluwarra
Yalarnga
Yanda
Guwa
Bularnu
Kalkadoon
Wununara
Ngadjonji
Mayi-Kutuna
Mayi-Yapi
Mayi-Kulan
Wakabunga
Wakaya
Mayi-Thakurti
Ngawun
Mbara
Yanga
Kuthant
Ganggalida
Gunindiri
Mingin
Kukatj
Waanyi
Wambaya
Ngarnka
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Mangarayi
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Garawa
Gayardilt
Lardil
Gananggalinda
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Thaayorre
Yanuwa
Nunggubuyu
Warnindilyakwa
Mara
Ngandi
Ngalkbun
Rembarnga
Wuningangk
Yolngu
Dangbon
Gunwinggu
Larrakia
Woolna
Limilngan
Mbukarla
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Binbinga
Garawa
Gayardilt
Lardil
Gananggalinda
Kokinar
Thaayorre
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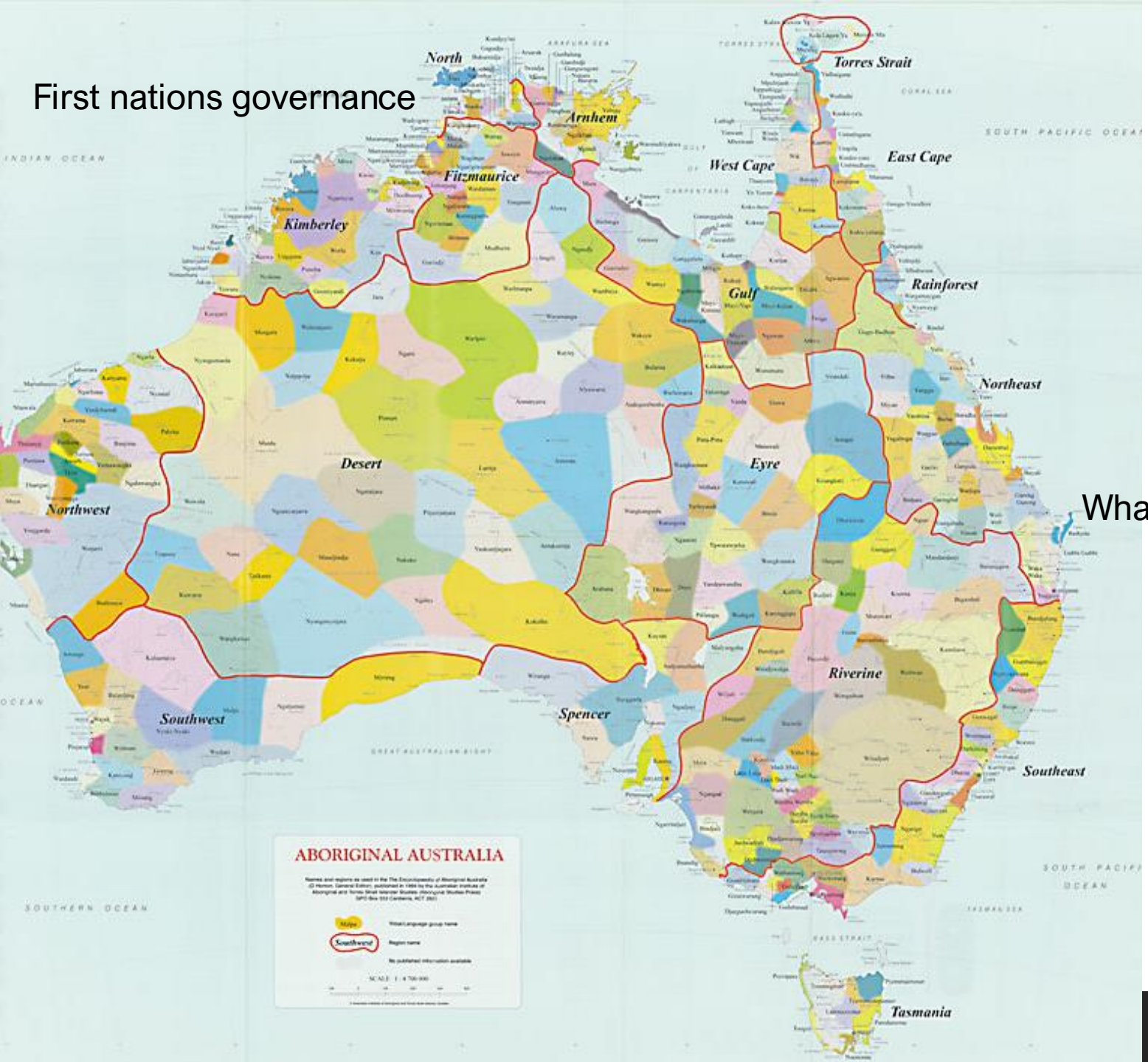
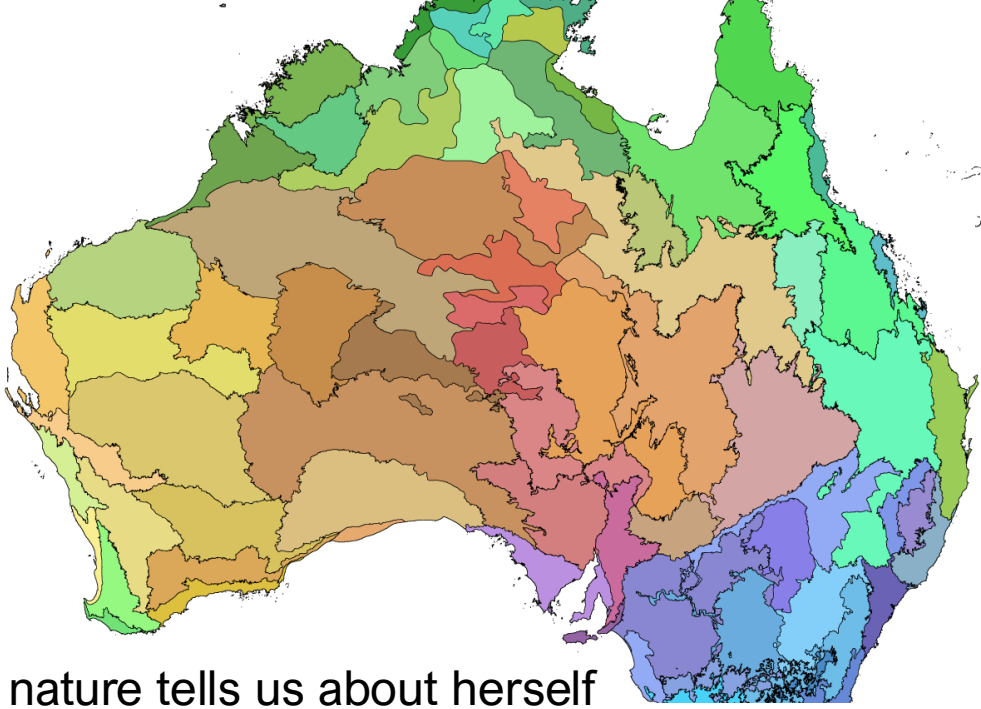
Gunibidji
Gunbalang
Amarak
Gagadju
Bukurmidja
Kundjey'mi
Peerapper
Tommeginne
Pyemmairrener
Tyerrenotepanner
Lairmairrener
Paredarerme
Toogee
HOBART
Nuenonne

Overview

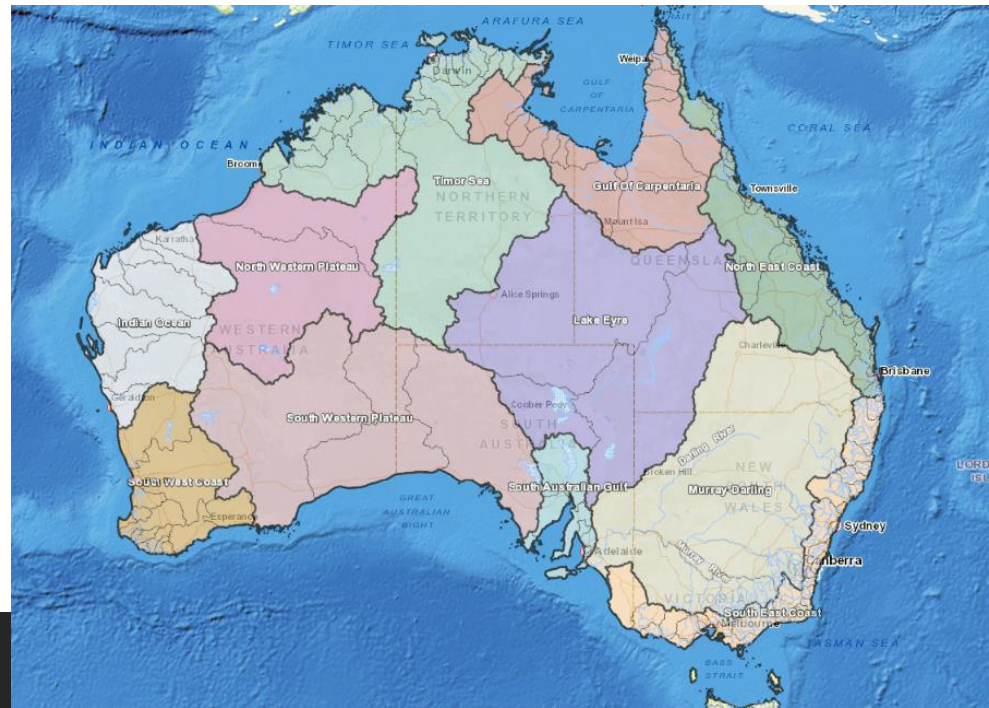
- Ancient bioregional governance - First Peoples/ Aboriginal governance and law/lore
- Colonial history – since 1788 Western governance and ongoing legacy of environmental harm
- Today – positive approaches: Caring for Country + Western science + land care + place based initiatives
- AELA– looking to the future: bioregional ***governance*** (turning modern governance upside down)

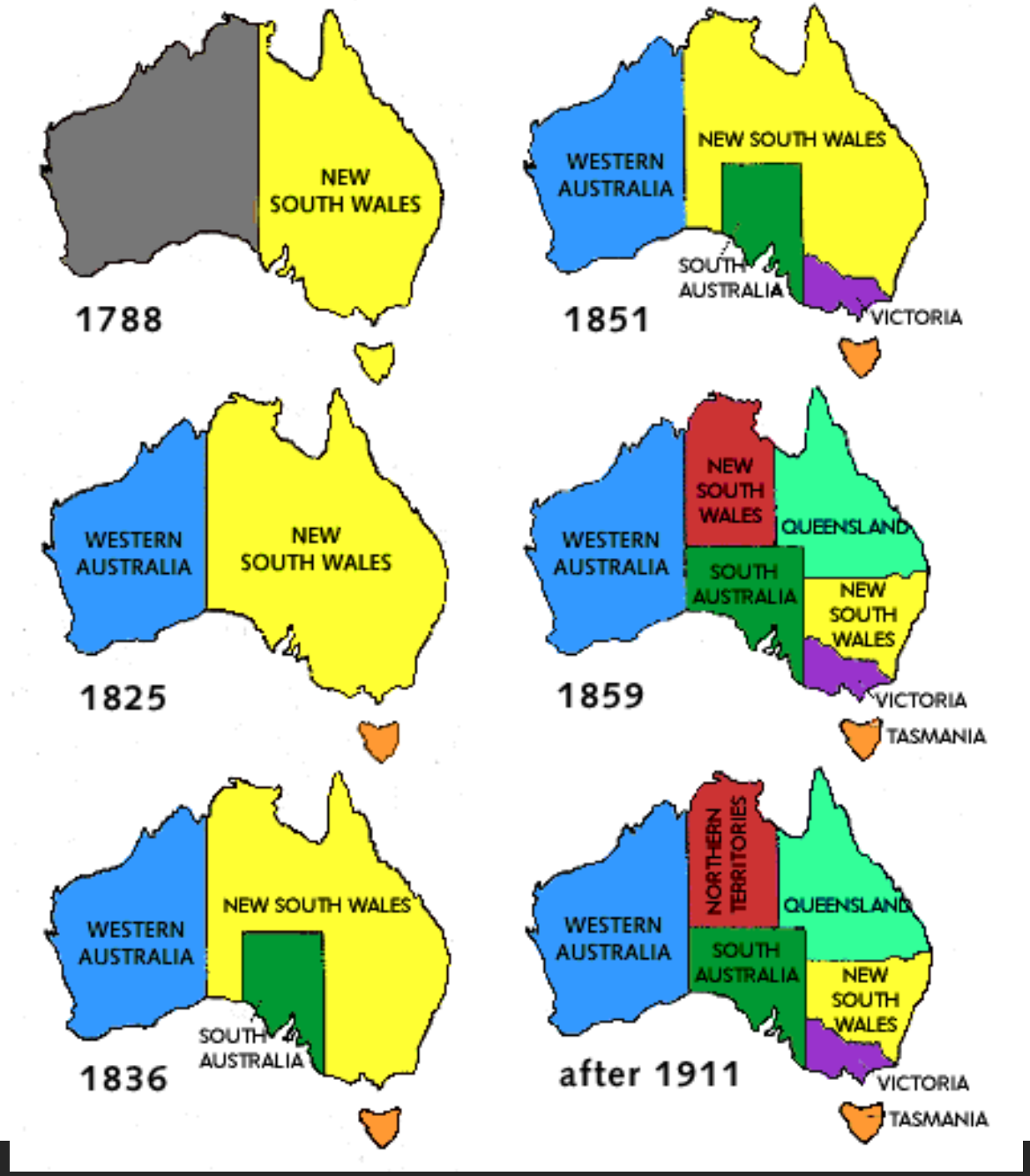
First nations governance





What nature tells us about herself





WHAT AUSTRALIA INHERITED FROM THE BRITISH EMPIRE

- HIERARCHICAL society – huge gap between rich and poor
- NATURE IS PROPERTY
- “TOP DOWN”, centralized control – powerful elites
- ‘THE STATE’ supported by the military
- PATRIARCHAL laws and culture
- RESOURCE EXTRACTION & expansion
- “The Crown” controls minerals, oil, extraction (still does)
- Power of corporations (not new, since 1600s)
- Cultural superiority
  - ‘Terra Nullius’ – empty land
  - White Australia policy

AELA's work

Small not-for-profit organization

Earth-centred governance

Bioregional approaches as a critical pathway

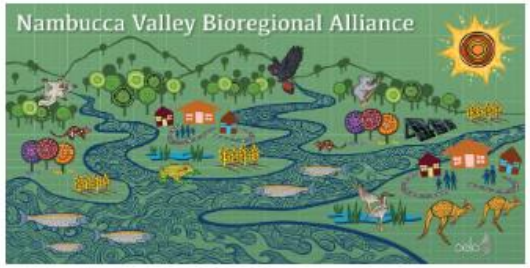
AELA's Bioregional Program

Education and frameworks for understanding our ecological foundations and guiding bioregional governance

https://www.greenprints.org.au

Bioregional projects & events

‘Global Bioregional Month’



Nambucca Valley, NSW

Juunjuwarra Community, Cape York

Somerset Region, Queensland

AELA's 'EXPLORING BIOREGIONING' SERIES

Learning from Land & Sea Country

with the Juunjuwarra Land and Sea Rangers, Cape York

FREE WEBINAR – BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
https://events.humanitix.com/aela9sep
Mon 28 Sept 2026 @ 12noon AEST, Australia (UTC+10)

celebrating "Global Bioregional Month"
Australian Earth Laws Alliance - www.earthlaws.org.au

AELA's 'EXPLORING BIOREGIONING' SERIES

Understanding "Place"

with Mary Graham, Simone Thornton,
Gilbert Burgh, Ash Markstone & Oscar Davis.
Hosted by AELA's Michelle Maloney

FREE WEBINAR – BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
https://events.humanitix.com/aela9sep
Wed 9 Sept 2026 @ 12–1.30pm AEST, Australia (UTC+10)

celebrating "Global Bioregional Month"

Australian Earth Laws Alliance - www.earthlaws.org.au

an initiative of the
australian earth laws alliance

Join us! Bring your ideas & passion
for ecocentric life, culture & governance

eco-imaginarium

SYDNEY - 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

10am to 5.30pm
101 William Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010

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future dreaming
Transdisciplinary School
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Thank you!

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www.futuredreaming.org.au

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