



Jack has a background in ecological research and augments his skills and insights from science to the public policy ecosystem. He is passionate about taking complex concepts and data and communicating them in ways that are accessible, useful and targeted to his audiences.



As a scientist, I am interested in incorporating rigorous scientific measures into evaluation data collection. But working in this field has challenged my Eurocentric view on conducting purely objective research, which I find truly invigorating.

There's a quiet satisfaction in knowing that I, in some way, am contributing to meaningful work that might improve someone's quality of life down the road.

JACK RUTHERFORD SENIOR CONSULTANT



SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Drawing on his unique biological theory-based perspective, Jack thinks critically about evaluation and analysis approaches in the environmental sector and considers the best ways to communicate complex scientific content to wider audiences.

- » **Evaluation of the Enhanced Bushfire Management Program** (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2021-22): Drawing upon a consortium of subject matter experts on risk modelling, Indigenous fire practices and economic evaluation, Jack produced a report that was well accepted by NPWS. Jack developed a rubric that was used to assess NPWS' progress against actions they had committed to in their Strategic Delivery Plan. Jack was later reengaged to develop a similar rubric for the next phase of NPWS' Bushfire Management Program.
- » **Environmental Water Management Program Evaluation** (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2020-21): Informed by systems evaluation theory, Jack conducted fieldwork, analysed survey and interview data, and reviewed environmental monitoring reports and program documentation to evaluate the health of the program in the final report.
- » **Evaluation of the National Presence Strategy** (Questacon, 2019-21).
- » **Indigenous Girls STEM Academy Evaluation Strategy** (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2019-ongoing).
- » **National Disaster Resilience Program Evaluation** (NSW Office of Emergency Management, 2018-19).

Jack also works with clients to make infographics that deftly communicate complex theories and processes, including for **ETCRE Project Riparian Rehabilitation Good Practice Guide** (NSW Environmental Trust), **Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval report** and **Old Growth Forest Reassessment** (NRC).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORKS

Jack's frameworks are thoughtful, detailed and empower readers to implement the activities they contain. Jack uses a co-design approach to bring stakeholders along on the journey, ensuring they see themselves and their work reflected in each framework.

- » **MERI Framework for the Bushfire Management Program 2022-2030** (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2022): Following the evaluation of NPWS' Enhanced Bushfire Management Program, Jack developed a MERI Framework by updating the program's logic and developing an outcomes matrix including indicators and targets. A complementary document was also delivered outlining how NPWS could design and deliver case studies to investigate the impacts, barriers and enablers of cultural burning.
- » **MERI Framework for the Feral Predator Free Area Program** (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2021-22).
- » **MERI Framework for the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data Program**