

# RESOURCE REVIEW



## Book: Fire Country by Victor Steffensen

Victor Steffensen has had a passion for traditional cultural and ecological knowledge since a young age. His knowledge developed over many generations and this knowledge shows that Australia needs fire. Fire is part of a wholistic approach to the environment ensures proper land care and healing.

In his book Victor tells a personal story about learning about country and the use of fire using traditional ecological knowledge and cultural practices. Of particular interest for Geographers are Chapters 2–9 in which Victor explains how the use of fires depends on different ecosystems and the environmental clues that tell when the country is ready to be burnt.

*I thought I knew a lot about cultural burning until I read this book.* Editor

The following video clips illustrate some of the story that Victor tells in his book:

Fire Country by Victor Steffensen | Book Trailer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbZkkn1n4WM>

Australian story (after 2020 Bushfires) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-9hmEiH828&t=946s>

## Teaching Resource: Tweed Sand Bypassing / Coastal Management



Source: <https://www.tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au>

*Note: This resource is examined in a presentation in the GTA NSW & ACT Professional Learning Package for Term 4: Plan for 2021.*

This visually exciting and inquiry-based teaching resource covers the entire Stage 5 topic Environmental Change and Management. After the contents and introduction, Sections 2 and 3 examine in detail coastal features, change and management. The focus is on the biophysical and human processes that change coasts at local, national and global scales. There are small case studies / illustrative examples from places in Australia and overseas – an opportunity for students to work in groups.

An in-depth case study on Tweed Sand Bypassing makes up Section 4 – three parts that in order focus

on natural processes; change and management; impacts and governance. Contemporary resources and detailed information in these sections will build teacher knowledge and understanding, whether or not they are used in such detail with students. Chapter 5 is a comparative study of Waikiki Beach in Hawaii and the remaining sections provide support materials for classroom use – Assessment Task, Fieldwork, Stimulus Booklet, Student Activities and answers plus Blackline Master activity sheets.

The package uses an inquiry approach and a focus on applied knowledge and critical thinking with hyperlinked resources throughout. There is flexibility for teachers to use parts or all of the package to teach about coastal change and management.