

## RESEARCH STATEMENT

### Original Creative Work

**Citation:** Cooke, Grayson, 2002-2008 *Source to Sea*, Recorded/rendered Creative Works":  
"Source to Sea: Stories of Burnett River Country." This is a DVD documentary/oral-history

### Research Background

- The Burnett River is a vital part of the cultural, economic and environmental life of the Burnett and Wide Bay area, and holds immense significance for Aboriginal people in the area. But the river is changing, with dams and weirs affecting its flow, and Aboriginal elders are aging and dying, resulting in a need to preserve stories of Aboriginal association with the river, and Traditional methods of natural resource management.

### Research Contribution

- "Source to Sea" contains the oral histories of Aboriginal people who have associations with the Burnett River. It contains information of historical, cultural, and environmental importance, covering both "Dreamtime" stories and the life stories of the people interviewed. It also contains important information about natural resource management by Traditional Owners.

### Research Significance

- This project is significant in that no other document, textual or audio-visual, exists which documents stories of Aboriginal association with the Burnett River. Its significance is attested to by: a) the licensing of the project for broadcast on NITV National Indigenous Television, b) it being featured on the Australian Government's website for Natural Resource Management (<http://www.nrm.gov.au/projects/qld/bmar/2006-02.html>), c) its acceptance into various national repositories, d) local press coverage, e) its funding by the Australian Government Envirofund (\$23,000).

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