

Similarities and differences between cool burning and hazard reduction methods

- A guide for teachers

Use the completed example here to prompt answers. Encourage students to draw, tell and write answer on their blank sheet.

<i>Different</i> Cool burning	<i>Same</i>	<i>Different</i> Hazard reduction burning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages regrowth of grasses. • Is done to connect people to land through culture, love of Mother Earth and knowing that landscape very well. • Animals return with vegetation e.g. yellow robins who eat and carry seeds to other areas. • Is a cultural obligation to the land. • Low flame height. • Removes or reduces bracken which is a fuel, allowing other grasses a chance to grow. • People stay nearby and manage it, directing it as needed. • Is done by Aboriginal people, sometimes together with RFS. • Has been done for many thousands of years. • Uses scientific method e.g. land surveys. • Experts look for the right conditions such as after rains have finished and grass isn't too dry. • Done late afternoon when it's cooler to suppress the fire as much as possible. • Better to have small patches across the land e.g. a mosaic pattern. • Ensures the habitats for animals remain. • Is done nearly every day of the year with attention to the conditions. • Aims to protect even the smallest insect – the food source for birds. • Aims to enhance the health of the ecosystem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both feature humans deliberately lighting fire. • Both can be dangerous. • Both prevent and reduce wildfires. • Both involve checking wind strength and direction before burning e.g. burning from West to East. • Both are done during daylight. • Both are done with water nearby in case the fire gets out of control. • Both are done by experienced people. • Both feature humans deliberately lighting fire. • Both can be dangerous. • Both prevent and reduce wildfires. • Both involve checking wind strength and direction before burning e.g. burning from West to East. • Both are done during daylight. • Both are done with water nearby in case the fire gets out of control. • Both are done by experienced people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes whole area of bush in front of a wild fire coming through. • Damages the ground – seeds and nutrients in the soil. • Over 100 yrs of this and it isn't working to reduce the wild fires. • Encourages cycle of plants coming back that like very hot wild fires e.g. casuarinas. • Is done by RFS staff who are trained. • Done to create fire breaks between areas of bush in a line. • Doesn't consider the needs of animals for habitat and food. • Is done usually to protect man-made property from fire. • Is done at certain times in the lead up to Summer.

Source: ABC News Nov 2, 2018 "Indigenous fire methods protect land before and after the Tathra bushfire"
Pip Podcast #30 May 21, 2020 "Aboriginal Fire Management with Victor Steffensen"