



Dark Sky Places in Australia & Benefits of IDSP Certification

Nalayini Davies

DarkSky International – President

Australasian Dark Sky Alliance - Director

Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand – Immediate Past President

New Zealand Dark Sky Network – Founding Member

Dark Skies Very Abundant in Australia ...

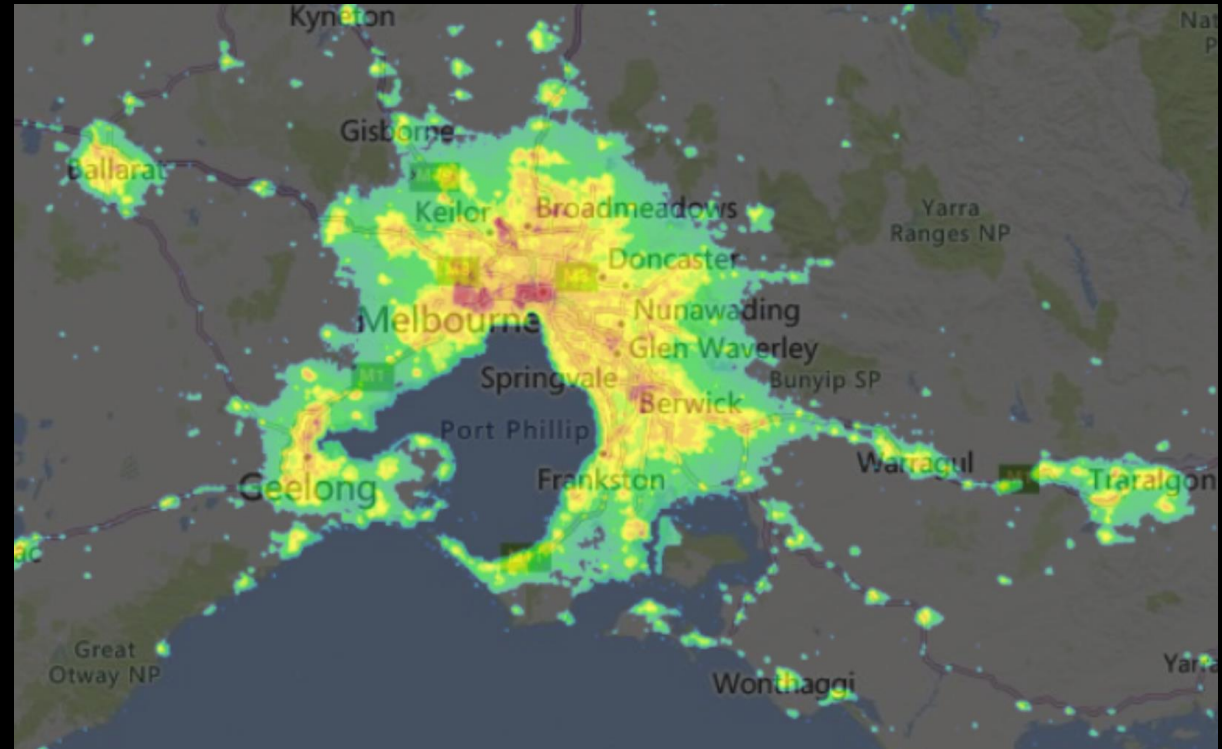


... but ~ 80% of
Australians
live in or close to
Metropolitan Areas

So, Dark Skies are Under Growing Threat



Light Pollution Map, 2012



Light Pollution Map, 2023

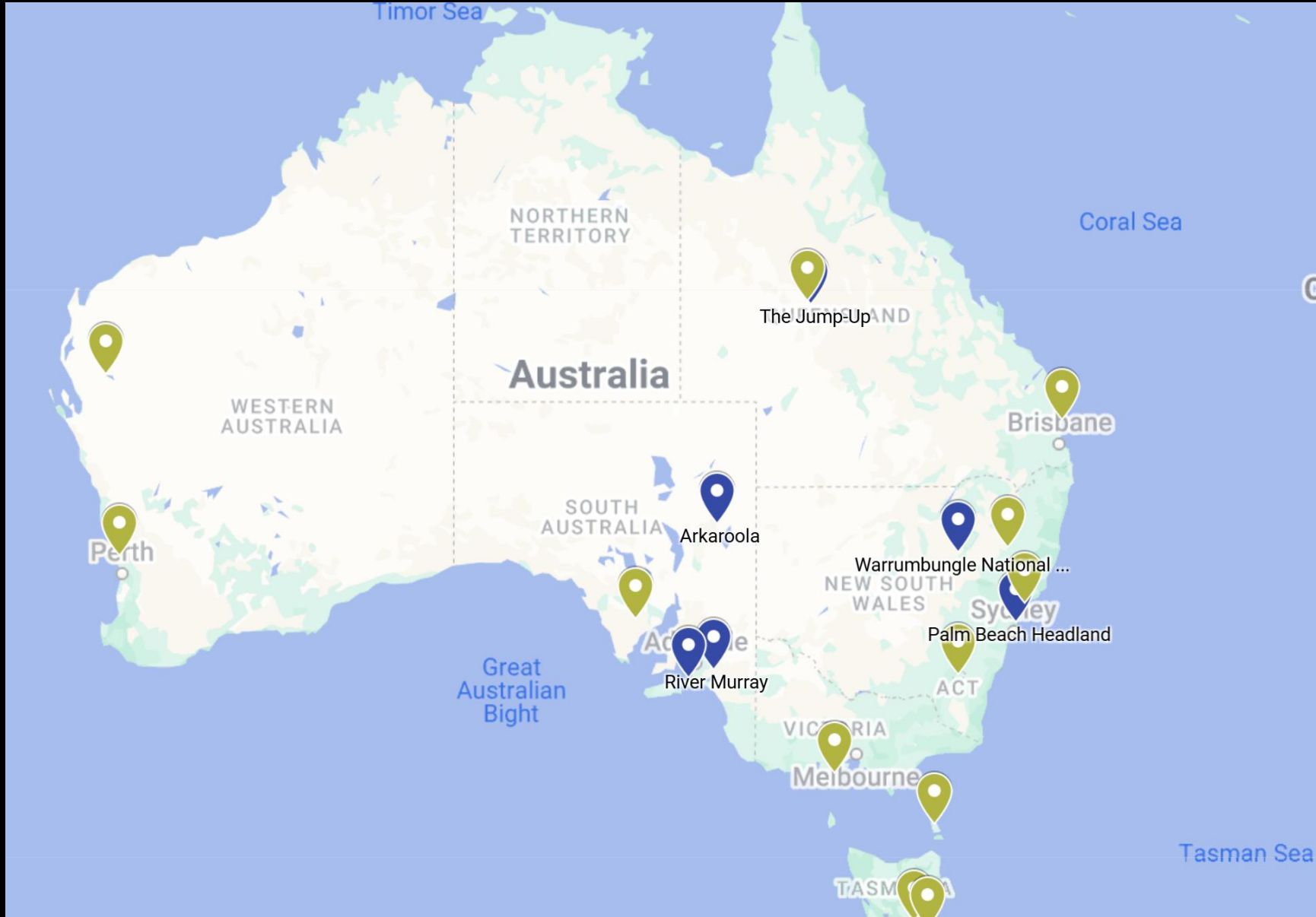
Interest in Protection also Growing Rapidly



Certified 6



Aspiring 12



Australian IDSPs vs NZ IDSPs

Australia - 7,688,287 sq. km

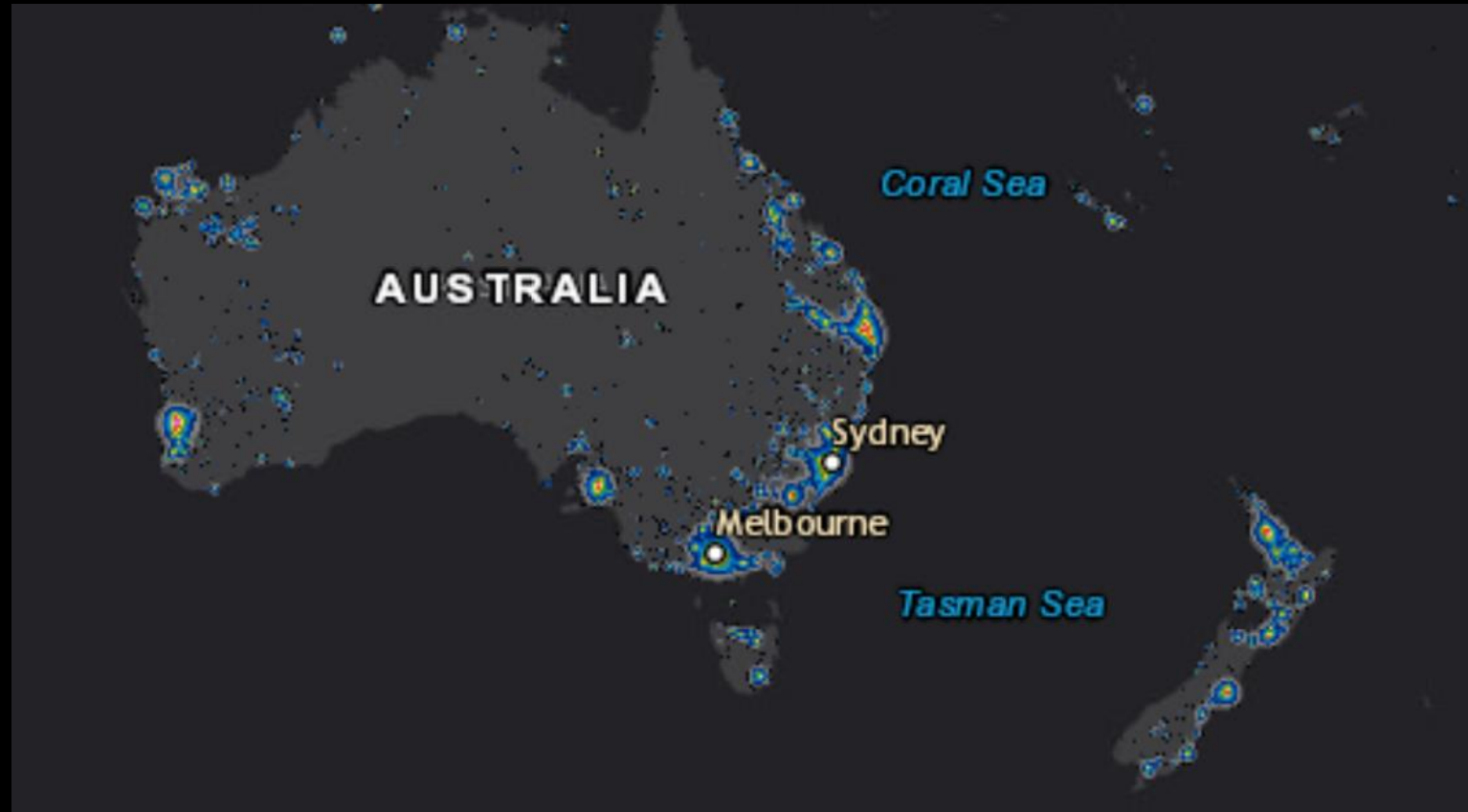
Population: 27.7 million

- 1 Warumbungle IDSP, 2016
- 2 River Murray, IDSR, 2019
- 3 The Jump Up IDSS, 2019
- 4 Arkaroola IDSS, 2023
- 5 Carrickalinga IDSC, 2024
- 6 Palm Beach Headland UNSP, 2024

New Zealand - 263,310 sq. km

Population: 5.5 million

- 1 Aoraki Mackenzie IDSR, 2012
- 2 Aotea/Great Barrier Island IDSS, 2017
- 3 Rakiura/Stewart Island IDSS, 2019
- 4 Wai-iti IDSP, 2020
- 5 South Wairarapa IDSR, 2023
- 6 Oxford Forest Conservation Area IDSP, 2024
- 7 Kawarau-Gibbston IDSP, 2024
- 8 Kaikoura IDSS, 2024
- 9 Tahuna/Glenorchy IDSS, 2024



Australia's Protected Dark Sky IDSPs

Location	Type	Date	Size (Km ²)
Warrumbungle National Park	IDSP	2016	233
River Murray	IDSR	2019	3,200
The Jump Up	IDSS	2019	14
Arkaroola	IDSS	2023	610
Carrickalinga	IDSC	2024	104
Palm Beach Headland	UNSP	2024	0.62
		Total Area Protected:	4,162
		Total Area of Australia:	7,688,287
		% Land Protected:	0.05%

Scale of Protection – Australia vs. NZ

AUSTRALIA

- Certified 6

4,162 sq. km
0.05% land area

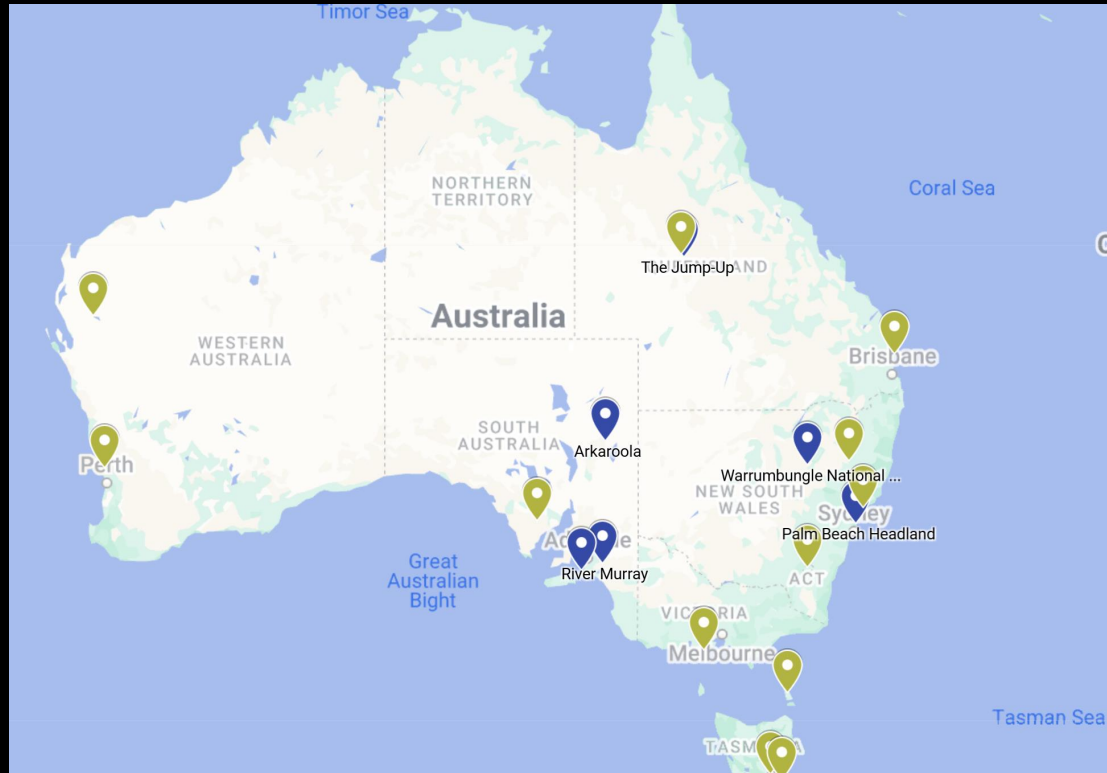
- Aspiring 12

NEW ZEALAND

- Certified 9

14,421 sq. km
5.5% land area

- Aspiring 21



Scale of Light Pollution - UK vs Australia vs NZ

UK 21 Sites

Australia 6 Sites

NZ 9 Sites

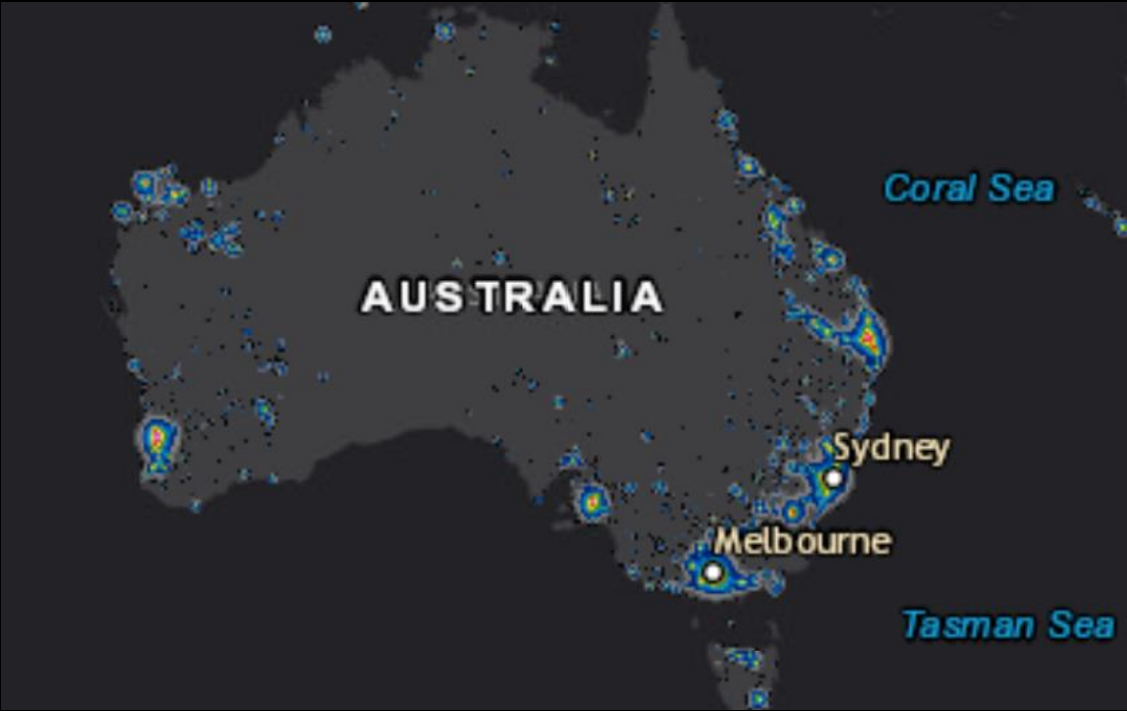
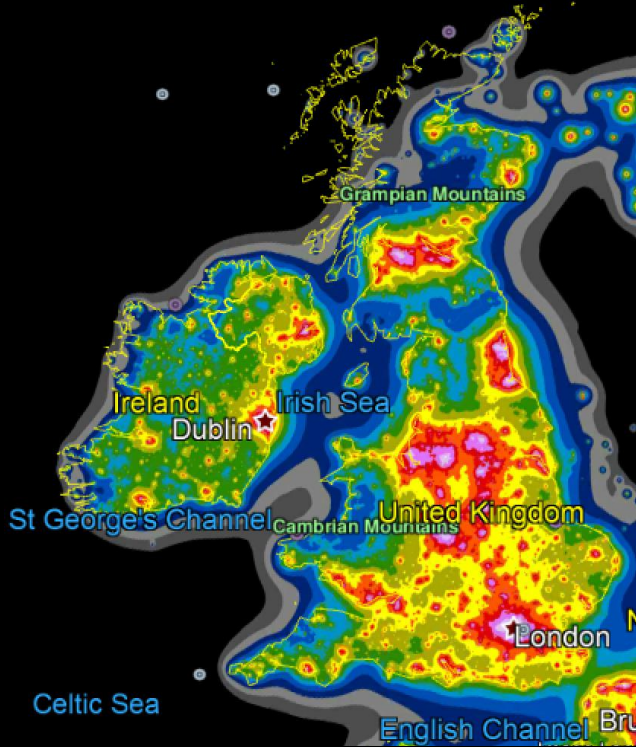


Image Landsat / Copernicus
© 2017 Google
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Naturally Occurring Opportunity – Increasingly Rare

Conservation of the environment (e.g. biodiversity, climate change) culture and history

Easy pollution to manage: Only type of pollution that can be managed/eliminated

Non-controversial: Benefits far outweigh efforts and has no adverse knock-on effects

PLUS

Equitable economic growth from sustainable and eco-friendly tourism

MOST IMPORTANTLY

Everyone can participate, contribute and benefit: grass root voluntary community movement + individual actions

Benefits of IDSP Certification

- Tangible/real sustainable protection for future generations
- Practical, participatory, supported process for communities
- Showcases the natural night sky and allows it to be enjoyed by residents, visitors and future generations
- Brings attention to the problem of light pollution and the need to preserve the night sky as a natural resource
- Join the international community – dark skies are universal
- Ability to network/Collaborate globally network, compare and be consistent
- Motivational for residents to maintain their skies remain dark
- Enhanced Visibility and Promotion

Where some Opportunities are in Australia & NZ

AUSTRALIA - 147

- NSW & ACT **23**

- Northern Ter **18**

- Queensland **24**

- South Aus **16**

- Tasmania **25**

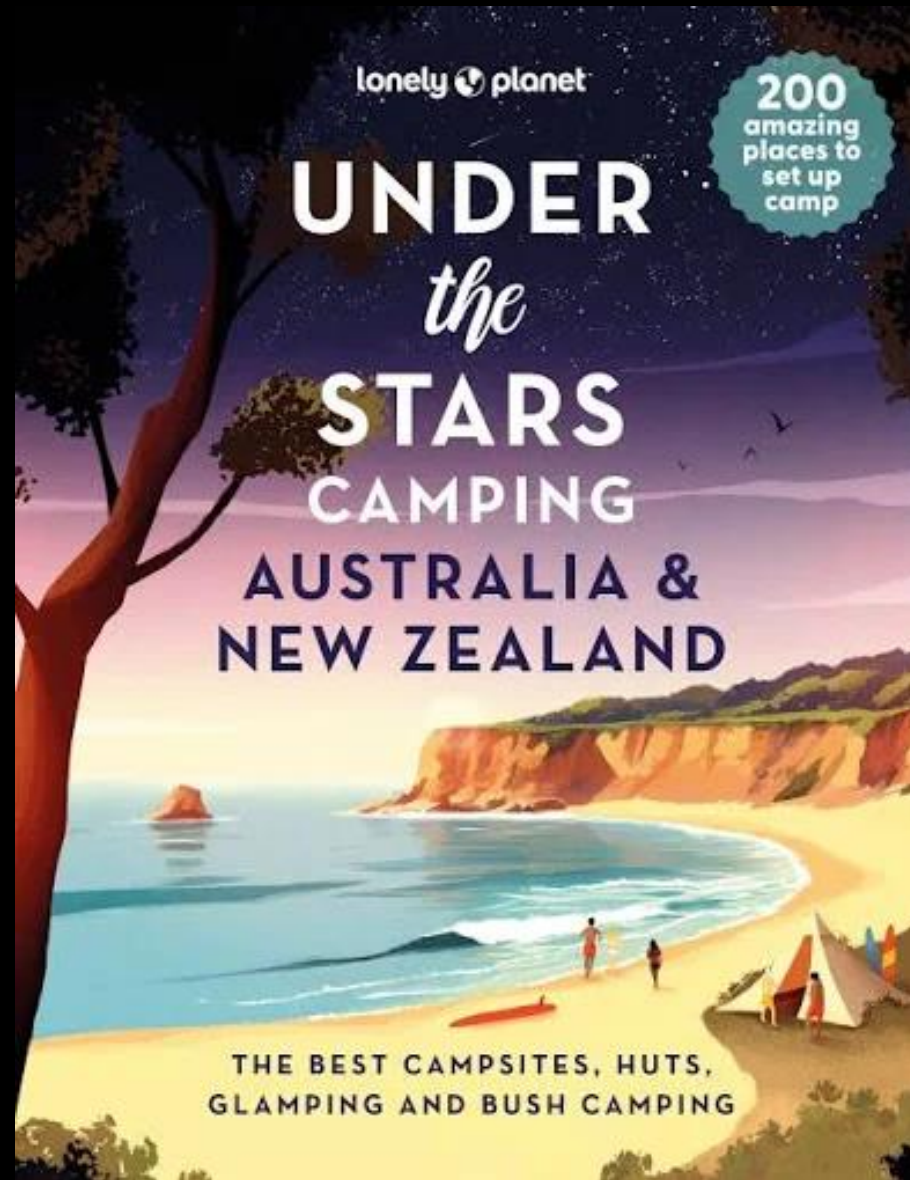
- Victoria **24**

- Western Aus **17**

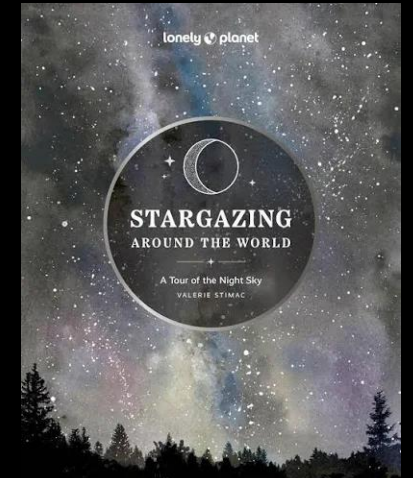
NZ - 48

- North Is **23**

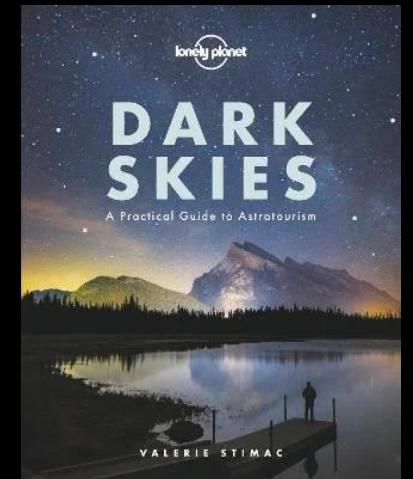
- South Is **25**



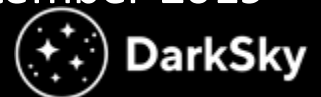
12 April 2024



9 February 2024



13 September 2019



What is Required

- Legal Protection to manage Artificial Light at Night (ALAN)
- Protect/Restore Natural Darkness in a significant percentage of the land area
- ALAN monitoring system
- Advocate, Educate and Foster Community Engagement to protect the night

LET'S PROTECT, ENJOY & SHARE

Thank You

