

NYUL NYUL

Healthy Country & Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan 2024-2034

NYUL NYUL PBC ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

Strong country, manage it and keep it that way

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan was developed with input from a broad community of people and organisations – to everyone who gave their time, thank you and we trust that this plan reflects your vision for Country. In particular, we thank the current Nyul Nyul leadership group including the PBC Chairperson, Directors and Rangers who have guided its development.

The IPA steering committee comprised: Marcella Augustine, Greg Francis, Georgina Helwend, Selena Helwend, Leanne Manado and Fiona Smith.

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DEDICATION

This plan is dedicated to our ancestors and past elders who held onto Nyul Nyul language and identity throughout the mission years and looked after Country so that we may have a bright future. We recognise their knowledge and strength and will be guided by their legacy.

Image: Hughes, DF (1952). Cottages and egg-plant garden, Beagle Bay Mission, Western Australia, 1952. Sourced from the State Library of Western Australia (275563PD) and reproduced with the permission of the Library Board of Western Australia

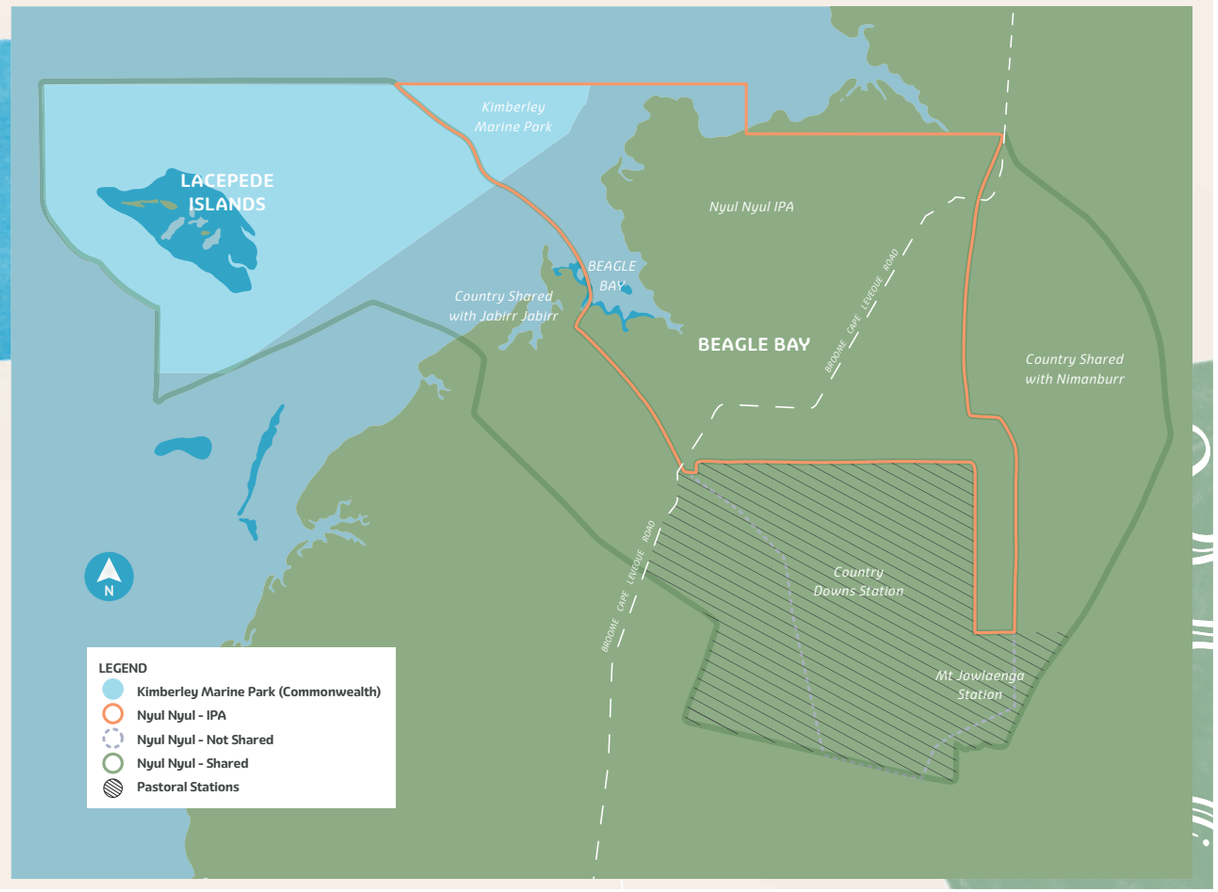
NYUL NYUL HEALTHY COUNTRY PLAN 2024-2034: SUMMARY

Nyul Nyul Country is a striking, culturally significant and biodiverse landscape of fresh and saltwater places that we have called home since time immemorial. This plan sets out a roadmap for looking after Country and Culture for the next 10 years that will help us deliver on our vision.

Our Vision

- Culture and community are strong, revived and maintained
- Strong Country, manage it and keep it that way
- Future generations are empowered and engaged
- We manage our resources sustainably and work with visitors to do the same

We have dedicated 144,500 hectares of Country as an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), managed to IUCN categories IV and VI. The IPA does not include Country shared with other native title groups and pastoral leases. We will continue to manage these areas in partnership with our neighbouring Traditional Owner groups and pastoral station managers.



Over the next 10 years we will focus our management efforts on the following to ensure our Country and Culture are strong and healthy:

Culture and knowledge



Learning on country and increasing in the use of Nyul Nyul language.

Cultural places



Improving the protection of places and access to materials for Nyul Nyul people.

Spring places



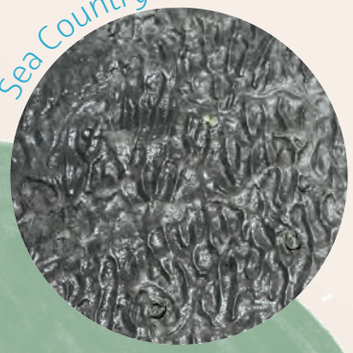
Maintaining system health, reducing donkey numbers and restoring system connectivity.

Bush tucker & medicine



increasing the use and knowledge of bush tucker and medicine resources and developing sustainable enterprises

Sea Country



Protecting resources, respecting seasonal hunting protocols and establishing formal management arrangements for improved protection.

Lacepede Islands



Respecting customary hunting protocols for turtle and dugong, establishing joint management arrangements and protecting habitat.

Saltwater coast



Improving interactions of visitors and locals with our coastal environment, and maintaining our saltwater resources.

Next generations



Building young people's strength in their culture, identity, language and spirt, and developing young leaders.

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INTRODUCTION

A MESSAGE FROM NYUL NYUL REPRESENTATIVES

Nyul Nyul people have lived on and managed this Country for thousands of years but only in recent times has this connection been recognised. Following the Bindunbur native title determination in 2018 we have set to rebuild Nyul Nyul people's collective authority for managing our Country.

This plan seeks to provide a framework for Nyul Nyul people to deliver on our vision – to revive and maintain our culture, community and Country, make our Country strong, empower the next generation and work with others to use our Country sustainably.

We are so fortunate that the Nyul Nyul Rangers were established in 2009 prior to our native title recognition and that much of the work we seek to do on Country has been started. With the declaration of our Indigenous Protected Area we are now looking to the future, to manage Country as our community intends.

This plan reflects the vision, dreams, stories and knowledge of Nyul Nyul people shared through the consultation process, or passed through generations, and so we ask that partners and potential partners respect this plan and work with us to look after Country together.

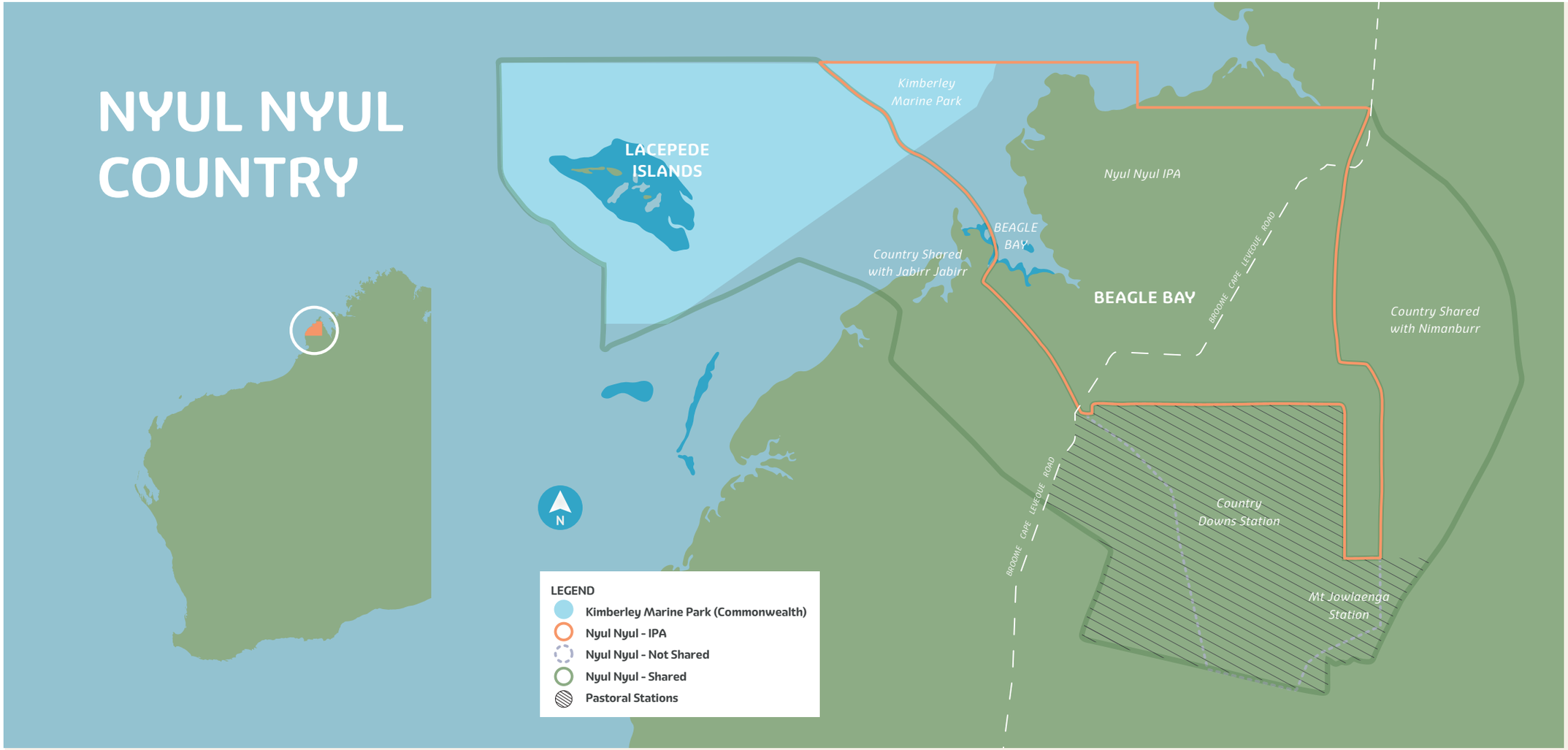


Selection of Nyul Nyul PBC directors, IPA steering committee members and rangers, May 2023. From left: Portia Wright, David Francis, Lelia Nunju, Doris Victor, Rosemary Nunju, Willie Smith, Carlene Cox, Marcella Augustine, Greg Francis

Our Vision

- Culture and community are strong, revived and maintained
- Strong Country, manage it and keep it that way
- Future generations are empowered and engaged
- We manage our resources sustainably and work with visitors to do the same

NYUL NYUL COUNTRY



Nyul Nyul Country is on the western coast of the Dampier Peninsula, north of Broome, Western Australia. It is defined by the determination of native title in Manado (on behalf of the Bindunbur Native Title Claim Group) vs State of Western Australia (2018) FCA 854.

The determination recognised Nyul Nyul people as holding native title over some areas, and sharing native title with Jabirr Jabirr and Nimanburr people over other areas 'for their respective rights and customs' in accordance with traditional laws and customs.

Nyul Nyul Country is managed accordingly and the Nyul Nyul IPA has been dedicated over 144,500 ha of land and sea on which Nyul Nyul people have sole, not shared native title rights and have management influence. Country within the native title boundary but outside the IPA is shared with neighbouring Jabirr Jabirr and Nimanburr people. As neighbouring Traditional Owners build their capacity to develop land and sea management programs, the Nyul Nyul people will collaborate on shared country activities that align with common priorities for those areas.

This plan is both a healthy country plan for the whole of Country, and a plan of management for the Nyul Nyul IPA. This plan reflects Nyul Nyul people's vision and activities only, and does not reflect the views of Jabirr Jabirr or Nimanburr people.

THE STORY OF THIS PLAN

Dedication of an IPA has been a long-held dream for Nyul Nyul people and is a key goal within the Nyul Nyul PBC strategic plan. We first sought funding to support development of an IPA plan in 2018, to coincide with our native title declaration. In 2021 we were awarded funding by the Australian government to see it through. The consultation program commenced in late 2021 and was led by the Nyul Nyul PBC with day to day oversight by a steering committee and regular input from our rangers and community. The steering committee held community meetings in Beagle Bay and Broome, addressed Nyul Nyul AGMs in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and regularly engaged with the Nyul Nyul PBC. In total over 25 meetings were held to design this plan.

The result, we believe, is a plan that reflects a collective vision for future management of Nyul Nyul Country and Culture.

Structure and Theory of the Plan

This plan was developed applying the principles of Healthy Country Planning, adapted as required for our local context and needs, and in May 2023 a number of steering committee members received training in principles and practice of Healthy Country Planning.

This plan sets out our long-term vision and our ideas to deliver it over the 10 year life of this plan. Our plan focuses on 'targets', the values of greatest importance that we will manage. It then sets out the threats to those targets and a series of projects designed to improve the health of our targets and minimise the impact of threats. This plan is supported by an Operations Plan which details actions and responsibilities, and a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement plan (MERI) to track performance.

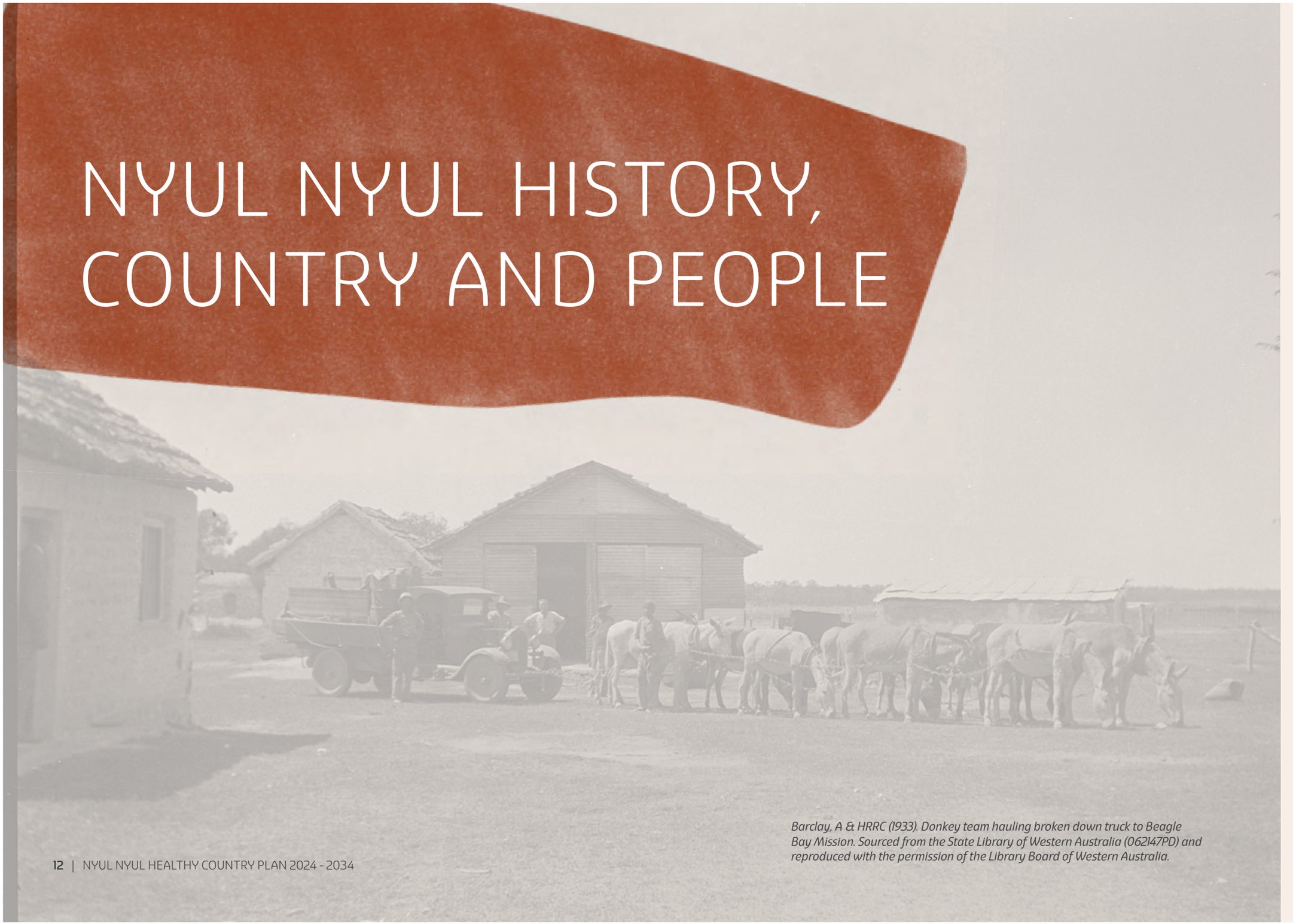
Vision
What we are trying to achieve over time.

Targets
The values of greatest importance that we will manage.

Goals
How we aim to improve the health of our targets over the life of this plan.

Projects
Strategies and actions to achieve our goals, improve the health of our targets and manage threats.

NYUL NYUL HISTORY, COUNTRY AND PEOPLE



Barclay, A & HRRC (1933). Donkey team hauling broken down truck to Beagle Bay Mission. Sourced from the State Library of Western Australia (062147PD) and reproduced with the permission of the Library Board of Western Australia.

NYUL NYUL WOMBARINJ YARRARD (WE ARE NYUL NYUL PEOPLE)

Nyul Nyul people's occupation of Country dates back to time immemorial. Traditionally, Nyul Nyul ancestral Country was defined by several small clans or 'bands', some living along the coast, others along the freshwater Country.

"In the bush they hunted for their food…catch their meat of kangaroo, wallaby, lizard, possum, wild turkey, ducks and small birds…in the freshwater swamps of the bush, the people would catch fish and freshwater eels and along the marshes the women would dig for bulbs and roots, especially lily roots, as they were a favourite. The tall rushes in the swamps were also collected for food.…It was the same with the coastal people, only they had their stone fish traps and fishing tools to catch their foods."

Magdalene Williams (1999) in Torres P ed, Ngay janijirr ngank; this is my word, pp 18-19, 38.

"Narlan is my main country. Narlanbur includes places like Billard, and Nirrumbuk. Narlan includes the whole of area of the Beagle Bay Community. It's part of all Nyul Nyul country. Our dreaming, the rainbow snake passes right through Narlanbur as it travels through the spring country from Wanmungur out into the ocean near Winawal. Narlan is only part of the spring country. To the east of Narlanbur is Yamaranbur. Our dreaming starts in Yamaranbur. There is no landmark that tells you exactly where any boundary is between Narlanbur and Yamaranbur.

To the west of Narlanbur, there is a creek going up to Bobieding and from there on the country is in the Rounds Well area. Going south, Narlan area goes to around Gundaragan gully. To the north, Narlan country runs as far as Billard.

Billard burr means 'spring country'. It is the borderland between the sea and the bush. You've got the tide and the sea coming right in to our country as well.

When you are coming home to Beagle Bay from Broome, you cross Gundaragun, the gully before Beagle Bay. When you cross that gully you can feel the air change - you smell the springs. You can say "Smell 'em billard burr, spring country" and you know that you are close up to Narlan country."

Affidavit of Mr Stephen Victor sworn 27 September 2015, quoted in Bindunbur Judgement 23 November 2017.



Mr Stephen Victor

Language

Bill McGregor (1988), a linguist who worked language in the Kimberley, wrote that Nyul Nyul language is one of ten named languages within the "Nyulnyulan" family, distinct from our neighbours' languages - Jabirr Jabirr and Nimanburr.

In mission times, speaking Nyul Nyul was discouraged so today our language is not strong. We are working to revive our language as it is a key part of our identity and linkage to our Country and Culture.

This plan is not consistent regarding orthographies as it draws on multiple sources and advisors.

History – post colonisation

Nyul Nyul people first interacted with Europeans in the mid-1800s, a development which brought considerable dislocation and cultural disruption, changing Nyul Nyul peoples' lives completely.

Nyul Nyul people and Country were first exploited for the mining of seabird guano on the Lacepede Islands in the 1870s. The resource was exhausted in 1879 (Willing in Marshall 2022) and the islands used for blackbirding, as a place to maroon and imprison kidnapped Aboriginal people before forcing them to work in industries including pearling (Marshall 2022).

Other agents of change were: the arrival of settlers, initially for pastoral expansion in the 1880s; the establishment of the Beagle Bay mission in 1890; the relocation of children from other Kimberley missions; removal of children from their families and the relocation of people into Beagle Bay during the Second World War.

Beagle Bay Mission and influence of the Catholic Church

Beagle Bay, now the most populated centre of Nyul Nyul Country, was first named in 1838, after the HMS Beagle, the survey ship captained by John Clements Wickham..

The Beagle Bay mission was established in 1890, by the Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance (Trappists), the site chosen in part due to the abundance of fresh water (Pyke et al 2018). The Trappist Mission was named Notre Dame du Sacre Coeur (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) and initially staffed by two Trappist Monks.

German Pallottines took over the mission in 1901 and introduced stricter rules and mechanisms for enforcing compliance, preventing Nyul Nyul people from engaging in cultural activities or interacting with pearlers. Women and children within the mission were also fenced in to restrict cultural activities and interaction with their families. Children could only leave to visit their families on some weekends.

The West Australian government, under the Aborigines Act 1905 (WA) assumed formal authority to manage Aboriginal children under the age of 16.) Strict enforcement of this power led to the relocation of large numbers of Aboriginal children of mixed heritage, to Beagle Bay. They came from across the Kimberley, including Drysdale River Mission (1908) and Moola Bulla Station (1910).

The St John of God Sisters from Ireland joined the Pallottine fathers and brothers and began to run a mission school. In 1918 the Sacred Heart Church was consecrated.

In the 1940s Nyul Nyul people went to school and were trained for menial jobs to provide cheap labour for the Europeans. The girls were usually trained as domestics and the boys as station hands.

On 3 March 1942 Broome was attacked by nine Japanese fighter planes and Aboriginal people from Broome were evacuated to Beagle Bay. Students and staff from St Mary's School temporarily relocated there until after the threat of further bombing had passed (St Mary's College 2024).

Pallottine Fathers continued to run the mission school and hospital and look after the boys in the dormitory until 1976 when it became a self-governing Aboriginal community. Children from across the region continued to be placed with foster parents at Beagle Bay after institutionalised child 'care' ended (Find & Connect 2017).

Our People Today

Nyul Nyul people's connection to Country was formally recognised in 2018 with the determination of native title; see Manado (on behalf of the Bindunbur Native Title Claim Group) v State of Western Australia (2018) FCA 854.

The determination recognised Nyul Nyul people as holding native title over some areas, and sharing native title with Jabirr Jabirr or Nimanburr people 'for their respective rights and customs' in accordance with traditional laws and customs over other areas. These 'shared' areas are reflected on the maps within this plan.

Today, Nyul Nyul people are represented by the Nyul Nyul PBC, our registered native title body corporate that holds native title rights and interests in trust for Nyul Nyul native title holders. The PBC has oversight and is ultimately responsible for managing Nyul Nyul Country and Culture.

Standing alongside our PBC is the Nyul Nyul Ranger team, who have managed Nyul Nyul Country since 2009. The ranger team has grown to a team of 12, both men and women who work closely with our community to deliver on-Country programs drawing on both traditional and western knowledge.

Beagle Bay remains the main community for Nyul Nyul people. Many Nyul Nyul people have made homes in Broome or further afield and our Country is dotted with outstations and family blocks.

Nyul Nyul Country is also home to many Aboriginal people of various backgrounds, including those who were brought to Beagle Bay in mission times and their descendants. Many are part of the stolen generation.



Greg Francis, Justice North, Henry Augustine and David Francis at the Bindunbur Native Title Determination



Nyul Nyul women's ranger team

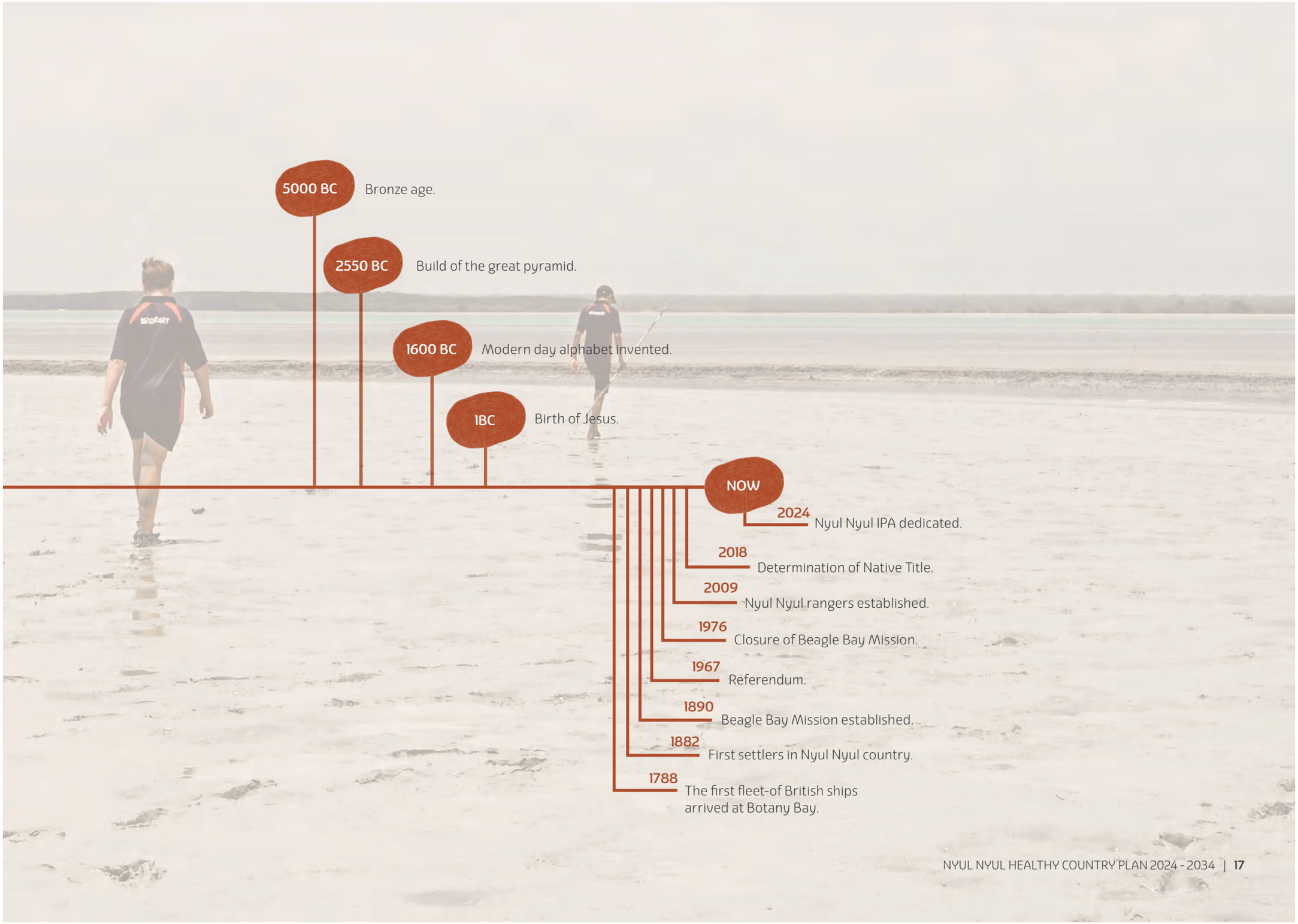


TIMELINE

First evidence of human occupation in Australia.

63000 BC

Time immemorial.


5000 BC
Bronze age.
2550 BC
Build of the great pyramid.
1600 BC
Modern day alphabet invented.
1BC
Birth of Jesus.
NOW
2024
Nyul Nyul IPA dedicated.
2018
Determination of Native Title.
2009
Nyul Nyul rangers established.
1976
Closure of Beagle Bay Mission.
1967
Referendum.
1890
Beagle Bay Mission established.
1882
First settlers in Nyul Nyul country.
1788
The first fleet-of British ships
arrived at Botany Bay.

OUR COUNTRY

Located on the middle Dampier Peninsula, Nyul Nyul Country is rich in freshwater and saltwater resources. Our Country reaches from the Lacepede Islands to Jilargoon (Lake Louisa), north to Pender Bay and south into Country Downs station. Our Country is home to a number of communities and outstations including Beagle Bay, smaller family blocks and tourist camps particularly along the coastline.

Nyul Nyul Country comprises three protected areas:

- The Kimberley Marine Park protects Commonwealth waters from shared Nyul Nyul / Jabirr Jabirr Country to the Northern Territory border and is managed by Parks Australia.
- The Lacepede Islands Nature Reserve is managed by the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions with some input from Nyul Nyul and Jabirr Jabirr people.
- The Nyul Nyul IPA, including some overlap with the Kimberley Marine Park.

For around 100 years much of the Country surrounding Beagle Bay was run as a pastoral station, including by the mission itself (West Australian 1929). Today just the South East of Nyul Nyul Country is covered by the pastoral leases Country Downs and Mt Jowlaenga and the remainder of Country is largely Aboriginal Lands Trust Reserve. See Appendix 2 for a complete tenure map.

Natural and cultural significance

Our landscape as a whole is culturally significant to Nyul Nyul people, and while some places have been formally registered as cultural heritage sites such as the Bobby Creek system (also 'Bobby's Creek'), this does not reflect the true extent of the value of our Country to our people. Our Country also tells the story of European settlement and many places such as the Sacred Heart Church hold special meaning to members of our community.

Our most ecologically and culturally important areas along the coastline and spring system are now protected within the Nyul Nyul IPA or within the State Government's Lacepede Islands Nature Reserve, or noted for potential inclusion in future IPA expansion.

West Kimberley National Heritage Listing

The West Kimberley was inscribed on the National Heritage List in 2011, with a number of elements of Nyul Nyul Country and culture noted as having outstanding heritage value to the nation:

- The coastline for its "potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Indonesian-Aboriginal interaction in Australia's cultural history"
- "Dinosaur tracks and associated ichnofossils, plant macrofossils and Cretaceous depositional environments of the Broome Sandstone exposed in the intertidal zone of the Dampier Coast…for preserving snapshots of the ecology of the Mesozoic."
- The Sacred Heart Church for "the high degree of creative and technical achievement in the use of pearl shell and other locally sourced media to decorate the interior, combining western religious and Aboriginal motifs."



Ecological Values

Nyul Nyul Country provides essential habitat to a range of threatened species. The Lacepede Islands feature one of the country's most important breeding grounds for green turtles, and the monsoon vine thickets (MVT) of the Dampier Peninsula are listed under both the WA Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) as an endangered ecological community. Our freshwater system is a lifeline for habitat and important species but is not listed.

Nyul Nyul Country is known or likely to provide habitat to the following mammal, reptile and turtle species listed as endangered or vulnerable under the BC Act or EPBC Act:

- Blue whale *(Balaenoptera musculus)*
- Greater bilby *(Macrotis lagotis)*
- Green turtle *(Chelonia mydas)*
- Hawksbill turtle *(Eretmochelys imbricate)*
- Loggerhead turtle *(Caretta caretta)*
- Leatherback turtle *(Dermochelys coricea)*
- Flatback turtle *(Natator depressus)*
- Short-nosed sea snake *(Aipysurus apraefrontalis)*
- Northern blue-tongued skink *(Tiliqua scincoides intermedia)*
- Northern brushtail possum *(Anoxypristis cuspidata)**

Thirteen bird species that are listed under either or both Acts as endangered, critically endangered or specially protected are known, or likely to be present:

- Australian painted-snipe *(Rostratula australis)*
- Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)*
- Black-tailed godwit *(Limosa limosa)**
- Common greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)*
- Curlew sandpiper *(Calidris (Erolia) ferruginea)*
- Duck hawk/ Peregrine falcon *(Falco (Hierofalco) peregrinus)*
- Far eastern curlew *(Numenius madagascariensis)*
- Gouldian finch *(Chloebia gouldiae)*
- Great knot *(Calidris tenuirostris)*
- Hutton's shearwater *(Puffinus huttoni)*
- Lesser sand plover / Mongolian plover *(Charadrius mongolus)*
- Red knot *(Calidris canutus)*
- Red-tailed tropicbird *(Phaethon rubricauda westralis)*

Three sawfish species are likely or known on Country and listed as vulnerable; the dwarf sawfish *(pristis clavata)*, freshwater sawfish *(Pristis pristis)* and green sawfish *(Pristis zijsron)*.

A number of threatened species used to occur on Nyul Nyul country but are thought to have gone locally extinct (e.g. the vulnerable golden-backed tree-rat, *Mesembriomys macrurus*). However as few ecological surveys have occurred, there is still the possibility that they still occur.

A complete record of listed species is available at Appendix 4.

*Available records show likely presence on broader area of Nyul Nyul Country, but not the IPA area



Credit: Scott Whiting, DBCA





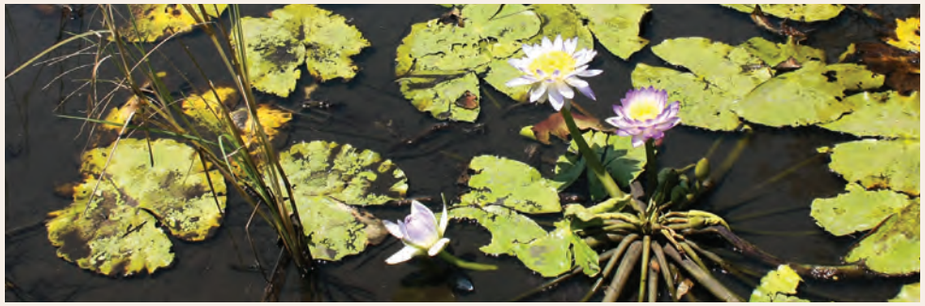
THE NYUL NYUL INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA

The Nyul Nyul IPA has been dedicated to protect Nyul Nyul Country's biodiverse and culturally significant landscape. The IPA is 144,493 ha in size, comprising 114,786 ha of land to contribute to the National Reserve System and 29,707 ha of sea Country.

The Nyul Nyul IPA takes in Country where Nyul Nyul people have sole, not shared title, coupled with the responsibility of some degree of management. A small portion overlaps the Commonwealth's Kimberley Marine Park. The land area within the IPA is almost entirely Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) reserve. See appendix 2 for complete tenure details.

The IPA is located within the Dampierland bioregion and is adjacent to the Bardi Jawi IPA. Connectivity with the Bardi Jawi IPA will enhance regional and migratory species protection and provide consistent national reserve system management. The Nyul Nyul and Bardi Jawi IPAs are managed to the same IUCN categories.

South of the IPA there is a gap in the network of protected areas through to Yawuru Country surrounding Broome, with the exception of the Lacepede Islands Nature Reserve and Coulomb Point Nature Reserve.



IUCN Categories

Consistent with the neighbouring Bardi Jawi IPA, the Nyul Nyul IPA is managed according to two protected area management categories defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

Category IV: Habitat/species management area (40,627 ha)

Our coastline including monsoon vine thickets (an endangered ecological community) and spring system ise managed according to category IV. Category IV protected areas aim to protect particular species or habitats and our management reflects this priority. Category IV areas often need "regular, active interventions to maintain habitats" which is the case for both our vine thickets and spring country. MVTs require active intrinsic fine scale fire management to maintain buffers and prevent habitat loss, as well as minimise invasive weed species. The harvesting of bush fruits and seed collection for future propagation of MVT species enable us to maintain species abundance and create larger MVT patch sizes for the future. Spring Country requires regular maintenance by clearing weeds to maintain connectivity in between springs. The management of feral animals around springs is also necessary to maintain system integrity. These strategies are outlined in the final chapter of this plan. As our vine thicket communities are dotted across the coastline we have ensured appropriate buffers by including the coastline within this category.



Category VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources (103,866 ha)

The remainder of Country, including our sea and inland areas are managed according to category VI. These are the areas we primarily rely on for food resources and increasingly tourism enterprise.

Category VI aims to protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial. Projects and management strategies are outlined in the final chapter of this plan, and include a focus on managing visitation, increasing the presence of rangers, sustainable hunting and fishing and maintaining cultural knowledge and connection to improve Country management.

A portion of the IPA overlaps a multiple use zone within the Kimberley Marine Park which is managed to category VI under the North-West Network Management Plan available at https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north-west/plans/

Parks Australia and Nyul Nyul collaborate on management for this area through the Healthy Country Committee.





STRONG COUNTRY, MANAGE IT AND KEEP IT THAT WAY

MANAGING COUNTRY – OUR TARGETS

We have identified our key priority areas for looking after Country ('targets') to guide our management approach and focus. For each target we have identified goals to set our direction over the life of this plan, and identified key management strategies required to achieve the goals.

Culture and knowledge



Cultural places



Spring places



Bush tucker & medicine



Sea Country



Lacepede Islands



*Excluded from the IPA.

Saltwater coast



Next generations



1.

CULTURE & KNOWLEDGE

Goals

- By 2028 our people are learning on Country about traditional resources including spring places, bush tucker and medicine.
- By 2034, more Nyul Nyul people are speaking Nyul Nyul Language and using it at home.

Culture and knowledge make us strong Nyul Nyul people and good Country managers. Maintaining our culture is the most important aspect of this plan – without strong cultural connections we will not be able to look after Country.

This means knowing lore, teaching our young people about our culture and our Country – language, right ways to hunt and fish, where to find bush medicines and foods and how to use them, where to find fresh water, sharing stories and building identity under the guidance and wisdom of our Nyul Nyul elders.

Much of our culture was fractured in mission days and knowledge has been lost, but changes are being made and we see opportunities to come together to talk, record and hold on to our knowledge.

A number of programs completed by the Nyul Nyul PBC and community members over the years have been successful in building on our cultural foundations. These include women's camps, language programs and the two-way science program with the Sacred Heart School that brought community together to learn and connect. These initiatives have supported a generation of Nyul Nyul people to know their language and Country.

What we will protect and manage under this target

- Language
- Cultural knowledge
- Cultural practices
- Connection to Country

Health and Management Approach

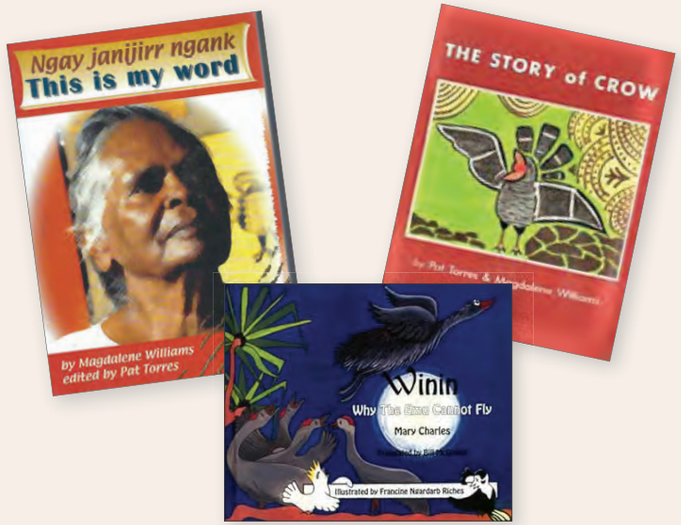
Current health indicator	Key threats	Priority management strategies
Fair "A bit broken but improving"	¤ Loss of knowledge ¤ Loss of connection to Country	¤ Support our cultural leaders to revive lore and culture ¤ Develop a language speaking program for youth and adults ¤ Develop opportunities to get out on Country for knowledge sharing and learning e.g. setting up permanent camps ¤ Improve community access to resources and cultural education e.g. database ¤ Embed cultural knowledge and language into all project work, including with partners

Further reading

- Magdalene Williams (1999) in Torres P ed, Ngay janijirr ngank; this is my word

Language books:

- Pat Torres & Magdalene Williams (1987), the Story of Crow
- Mary Charles (1995) Winin; Why the Emu Cannot Fly




Justice North and Greg Francis



2.

CULTURAL PLACES

Goals

- By 2028, resources about cultural places, including locations, values, history and visiting protocols will be more easily accessible to Nyul Nyul people.
- By 2034, cultural sites (across all land tenures) are managed and protected from disturbances.

This target considers aspects of our culture that are tangible; they can be seen or visited. Looking after cultural places requires strong knowledge passed through generations. The whole of Country has cultural value and damage or harm caused to a single element can have far-reaching effects. Cultural places include meeting places, historical sites, burial sites and other places of significance to lore and culture. Some such as middens and fish traps show how our people gathered food for thousands of years.

A number of heritage places have been registered including Beagle Bay, Bobby Creek and sites dotted along the coastline including burial sites and fish traps. Not all sites of cultural significance to Nyul Nyul have been registered with the WA Government but all cultural heritage sites are protected by law – it doesn't matter if they are registered or not. According to Nyul Nyul culture, certain senior people or families will talk for some sites of cultural significance and it is important that they are involved in conversations and decisions about managing those sites.

The rangers have an existing program of looking after key sites and recent partnerships have delivered signage to keep visitors away from sensitive places. We need to build on this work. We need guidance from our advisors to build our knowledge and design management practices to make sure vulnerable places are not harmed.

We have not outlined plans to manage western or church-related heritage places as while they do hold value for many in our community, support for this work can be found elsewhere. We want to focus on protecting and enhancing Nyul Nyul cultural heritage.

What we will protect and manage under this target

- Burial sites
- Fish traps
- Middens
- Bush wells
- Knowledge and cultural connections
- Other sites of significance

Health and Management Approach

Current health indicator	Key threats	Priority management strategies
Good Rangers are looking after cultural places	¤ Loss of knowledge ¤ Loss of connection to Country ¤ Unmanaged / increasing visitation	¤ Visit and look after our cultural places ¤ Map cultural places, use and protocols ¤ Develop a cultural heritage management plan including access/visitation protocols ¤ Develop a visitor management strategy in collaboration with outstations

Further reading

¤ Marshall M. (2022) Living Heritage - *Protecting the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage of the Dampier Peninsula*





3.

SPRING PLACES

Goals

- By 2028, Springs places are healthy and nigilbardiny is continuing to bring freshwater.
- By 2028, donkeys are very low in number and don't impact on spring places.
- By 2034 system connectivity is restored allowing fresh water to flow freely throughout Country so nigilbardiny and other creatures can migrate between spring places and the sea.

Nyul Nyul Country is dominated by our freshwater spring places – wetlands, lakes, springs, waterholes, creeks and rivers. Spring places connect our Country, bringing freshwater to soaks and wells along the coast. They have allowed us to survive for thousands of years. They are where our old people camped and found food just as we do now when we go for holidays and fishing.

Spring Country is home to at least 11 species of native fish, including habitat for juvenile migratory species such as gajarr (barramundi) and marran (mangrove jack), and estuarine species garnamerr (bull shark), EPBC listed jinup (freshwater whipray) and jubinyank (freshwater sawfish).

Spring Country is also home to the nigilbardiny (Anguilla bicolor, Indian shortfinned eel) which is an important totem for many Nyul Nyul people and an indicator of healthy wetlands. The nigilbardiny are responsible for creating new springs as they migrate to the sea to spawn. To maintain healthy populations and support the broader ecosystem we must avoid overfishing and ensure connectivity of the wetland system.

Some spring places are powerful and we know where we can and can't visit and how to respect this Country. Going the wrong place can be dangerous. The entirety of the Bobby Creek reserve is a registered heritage site.

Spring Country needs active management to stay healthy:

> *"The old people used to look after water places), used to clean it out, so the water would be running out. Would pull out the grass and reeds, keep the waterholes clean. Old people used to keep it real clean in those days. Every waterhole was alright to swim in. Used to do burning – they'd know how to burn."*
>
> *Paul Cox (quoted in Nyul Nyul Freshwater Stories)*

The Nyul Nyul Rangers, in partnership with UWA and Environs Kimberley, have an extensive freshwater monitoring and management program in place. Through this program rangers have recorded 90 native riparian and aquatic plant species including the Beagle Bay marshwort (Nymphoides beaglensis) (Dobbs et al 2015).

The causeway immediately to the north of the Beagle Bay community is of concern as it disconnects the spring system from the estuary, reducing the ability for nigilbardiny and other species to migrate.

What we will protect and manage under this target

- Community wellbeing – wetlands are sources of water and food, are places to visit with family
- Nigilbardiny (Indonesian shortfin eel)
- System connectivity
- Plants including the Beagle Bay Marshwort
- Fish, freshwater rays, freshwater sawfish
- Fresh water for overall ecosystem health

Health and Management Approach

Current health indicator	Key threats	Priority management strategies
Fair Spring places are not being cleaned up like they used to and have suffered from overpopulation of donkeys.	▪ Introduced species (including donkeys, cane toads and mosquito fish) ▪ Loss of connection to Country ▪ Infrastructure and resource development	▪ Develop and implement an feral animal and weed management plan, specifically for donkey management ▪ Visit and clean out our spring Country with community members ▪ Lobby for redesign of the causeway to restore system connectivity ▪ Revise and adapt the Nyul Nyul Freshwater Management and Monitoring Plan ▪ Continue the fire management program with a focus on protective burns around priority springs

Further reading

- Dobbs et al. 2015, *Nyul Nyul Freshwater Management and Monitoring Plan*
- Pyke M. 2017, *Nyul Nyul Freshwater Stories*
- Dobbs, R. J. et al (2016). *Collaborative research partnerships inform monitoring and management of aquatic ecosystems by Indigenous rangers. Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries, 26, 711-725*





4.

BUSH TUCKER & MEDICINE

Goals

- By 2028, more people are collecting, harvesting and cultivating bushtucker and medicine resources and they are more abundant.
- By 2034, Nyul Nyul people have created sustainable enterprise around bush tucker and medicine products that improve human health.
- By 2034 the areas of MVT patches has been maintained or increased.

Nyul Nyul Country is rich in bush tucker and medicine resources. Fruiting plants include munbung (pandanus), marool (blackberry tree), goolm (blackcurrant), gubinge (kakadu plum) and mungarrd (sandpaper fig). Knowledge for bush medicines is held by women and long-used for treating sickness. We aim to use this knowledge to develop enterprises and contribute to improved health for people beyond our own community.

A key source of resources for Nyul Nyul people are monsoon vine thickets (MVT). They have long been places for gathering food, medicines and resources for tools. MVTs are plant communities near sand dunes where there is good underground water supply. MVTs have a high density of flora and fauna species found only in limited areas. They are naturally fragmented but support over 25% of the Dampier Peninsula's plant species, providing habitat and refuge for birds, bats and other animals dependent on patches. MVTs of the Dampier Peninsula are recognised as a 'Threatened Ecological Community' and provided protections under the EPBC Act 1999 and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

Some bush foods and medicines are also found in woodland and savanna Country.

Our Country can keep us nourished and healthy, however knowledge is slowly being lost and the proportion of our community harvesting and enjoying these resources is reducing.

Our main management tools to protect MVTs and bush foods and medicines more broadly are knowledge transfer and early season fire management. We aim to keep wildfire out of MVT patches completely and reduce impacts on other vegetation types.

Nyul Nyul rangers are members of the Dampier Peninsula Fire Working Group and Dampier Peninsula Monsoon Vine Thicket Working Group enabling a co-ordinated regional approach and access to western science and expertise to complement local knowledge.

What we will protect and manage under this target

- Community food and medicine resources
- Traditional ecological knowledge and intellectual property
- Plants and habitats including monsoon vine thickets and mangroves

Health and Management Approach

Current health indicator	Key threats	Priority management strategies
Fair Resources are not being managed or harvested sufficiently and knowledge is not as strong as it used to be.	▪ Loss of connection to Country ▪ Loss of knowledge ▪ Wrong way fire ▪ Introduced species ▪ Infrastructure and resource development	▪ Map our bushtucker and medicine resources, locations and usage ▪ On Country trips for harvesting and knowledge sharing ▪ Continued, targeted fire management practices

Further reading

- *Nyul Nyul Mayi; Nyul Nyul Rangers bush foods plant identification guide (2024)*
- Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water (2024) *Threatened Ecological Communities*





5.

SEA COUNTRY

Goals

- By 2034, sea Country is continuing to provide adequate resources for community needs.
- By 2034, seasonal hunting practices are undertaken by everyone (TOs, locals and visitors) for all saltwater species.
- By 2034, Nyul Nyul PBC has partnerships and agreements in place with government agencies to protect sea Country.

Our sea Country is defined here as the habitats and species supported sea-ward of our coastal reefs. This includes humpback whales, dugong, sharks, dolphins, whiprays, stingrays and fish. Nyul Nyul Country includes migratory pathways for green, leatherback, loggerhead, flatback and hawksbill turtles and has extensive seagrass meadows which provide important foraging grounds and habitat for turtles, dugong and sea life.

Nyul Nyul people have, for thousands of years, relied on the sea for food, and that continues today. Turtle, dugong and fish are hunted or fished by our people and sustaining healthy habitats and populations is essential to our continued ability to rely on these resources. While sea Country is believed to be in good health as it is still providing, we are concerned that climate change, increasing visitation and wrong-way hunting may affect its health and will work with our partners and community to protect this valuable resource.

What we will protect and manage under this target

- Dugong, turtles
- Fish, stingray and shellfish
- Whales and dolphins
- Habitats including seagrass, reefs and ocean



Health and Management Approach

Current health indicator	Key threats	Priority management strategies
Good "still providing".	¤ Wrong way fishing and hunting ¤ Unmanaged / increasing visitation ¤ Rubbish and pollution	¤ Develop seasonal hunting and fishing protocols ¤ Develop sustainable fishing guides for recreational fishers ¤ Seek creation of a jointly-managed marine park ¤ Work with western science partners to determine green turtle, dugong and fish population health ¤ Increase the presence of rangers on Sea Country, to engage with visitors, monitor system health and identify emerging issues

Further reading

¤ Director of National Parks (2018), *North-west Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018,* Director of National Parks, Canberra





6.

LACEPEDE ISLANDS

Goals

- By 2028, customary harvest of turtle and dugong on and around the Lacepede Islands is done according to cultural protocols.
- By 2034, Nyul Nyul and Jabirr Jabirr together are guiding management and protection of the heritage of the Lacepede Islands and surrounding waters.
- By 2034, the Lacepedes continue to be a sanctuary for healthy populations of turtle, dugong, fish and birds.

The Lacepede Islands are a group of four islands 28 km from the mainland recognised through the Bindunbur native title determination as Country for both Nyul Nyul and Jabirr Jabirr people. The Lacepede Islands were declared a Nature Reserve in 1970 and today are managed by the WA Government's Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

The islands are one of Western Australia's most important breeding grounds for green turtles (Chelonia mydas) and the protection of this rookery is a regional priority for Indigenous Saltwater groups (as agreed by members of the Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Group, "ISWAG") and partner agencies (see Lincoln et al 2021) .

The islands support significant populations of migratory shorebirds with over 50 bird species recorded. The islands are the largest single seabird nesting colony of the Brown Booby (Sula leeucogaster) in the world.

Europeans used the Lacepedes for the mining of seabird guano for fertiliser in the 1870s with the government recording exports of 25,000 metric tonnes until the supply was exhausted in 1879 (Willing in Marshall 2022). From the mid-1870s to 1890s Aboriginal people were held captive by blackbirders before being forcibly signed to work in industries including pearling and guano harvesting.

While today the Lacepedes are recognised for their environmental values, their importance to Nyul Nyul and other Aboriginal people goes far beyond this and we hope to see management reflect our cultural connections, values and painful history in the future through joint management arrangements with government and Jabirr Jabirr people.

Proposed management strategies detailed within this plan will be conducted in discussion with Jabirr Jabirr people.

Note that the Lacepede Islands do not fall within the Nyul Nyul IPA.

> *"Nyul Nyul people used to go fishing in the water all around the coast. From the stories I heard from my old people, old people used to go out in their barawal, rafts, hunting turtles and dugong, right up to the Lacepedes."*
>
> *Stephen Victor, in FCA1367 para 595*

What we will protect and manage under this target

- Cultural knowledge and history
- Burial sites
- Green turtles & their nesting places
- Birds & their nesting places
- Other marine and island species including crabs & dugong

Health and Management Approach

Current health indicator	Key threats	Priority management strategies
Unknown Nyul Nyul people have not recent-ly been actively involved in the management of the Lacepede Islands	▪ Wrong-way hunting of nesting green turtles ▪ Loss of connection to Country	▪ Seek joint management of the Lacepede Islands ▪ Seek creation of a jointly-managed marine park surrounding the Lacepede Islands ▪ Manage the hunting of green turtles at the Lacepede Islands ▪ Work with western science partners to determine green turtle & dugong population health

Further reading

- Lincoln G, Mathews D, Oades D, with the Balanggarra, Bardi Jawi, Dambimangari, Karajarri, Mayala, Nyangumarta, Nyul Nyul, Wunambal Gaambera & Yawuru ISWAG members (2021), *The Kimberley Indigenous Turtle & Dugong Initiative 2021-2031.* Magdalene Williams (1999) in Torres P ed, *Ngay janijirr ngank; this is my word*
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2023), *Lacepede Islands Nature Reserve Visitor Guide*
- Marshall (2022) Living Heritage - Protecting the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage of the Dampier Peninsula



Credit: Neil Hamaguchi



Credit: Scott Whiting DBCA

7.

SALTWATER COAST

Goals

- By 2028, visitors to Country and local users understand and observe Nyul Nyul protocols for visiting and respecting Country.
- By 2034, there is continued abundance and ability to harvest and gather saltwater resources.

Our coastal Country is defined here as the habitats from dunes to intertidal reefs. In the past our people who lived on the coast relied on fish traps and harvesting from reefs and intertidal creek systems for their food, and this relationship and reliance on the coast for food continues today.

Many of our heritage places are also found here – fish traps, burial sites and middens and these are particularly vulnerable to increased visitation along our coastline, pollution and climate change.

Coastal reefs support unique and independent populations of marine species. Any change in aerial exposure times, high temperatures and other extreme environmental conditions indicate significant challenges in the face of climate change.

Improving the health and abundance of species on our saltwater coast will require collaboration and support from all users of Country, both residents and visitors.

What we will protect and manage under this target

- Cultural places including burial sites, fish traps and middens
- Crabs, liji liji
- Intertidal reefs
- Beaches and dunes
- Mangroves
- Intertidal creek systems



Health and Management Approach

Current health indicator	Key threats	Priority management strategies
Good Largely intact system but increased visitation has affected species abundance and habitat quality	¤ Unmanaged and increasing visitation ¤ Climate change ¤ Waste and pollution ¤ Wrong way fishing / harvesting	¤ Develop right way hunting, fishing and gathering protocols ¤ Map cultural places, resources, locations and usage ¤ Develop a visitor management strategy including visitor protocols and education ¤ Leadership and education in the community about sustainable use and harvesting

Further reading

¤ *Marshall M. (2022) Living Heritage - Protecting the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage of the Dampier Peninsula*





8.

NEXT GENERATIONS

Goals

- By 2028, young people are in leadership positions within Nyul Nyul governance structures and are strong role models and mentors.
- By 2034, young people are strong in their culture, identity, language and spirit.

Our young people are our greatest asset and those who have access to programs, learning through family and access to Country are growing up as strong, knowledgeable leaders. We will work to grow up strong leaders who know Country and Culture, celebrate our culture and share it with our stakeholders.

Members of our community are working to develop great programs with the Beagle Bay Community School, and the Two Way Science Program is engaging kids in on Country activities.

Nyul Nyul youth who aren't in the school system, and children who live away from Beagle Bay may not have these same opportunities and we want to develop programs and support our community so all young people have access to resources and mentors to build their cultural identity.



What we will protect and manage under this target

- Cultural knowledge and identity
- Connection to Country
- Effective knowledge transfer to next generations
- Growth of young people's understanding of the roles and skills required for strong cultural governance

Health and Management Approach

Current health indicator	Key threats	Priority management strategies
Fair Loss of cultural connection, our young people are not engaged in cultural decision making	• Loss of connection to Country • Loss of knowledge	• Establish a young leaders program to engage young people in Nyul Nyul governance structures and decision making • Build opportunities for young people to visit and learn on Country • Establish a cultural mentor program





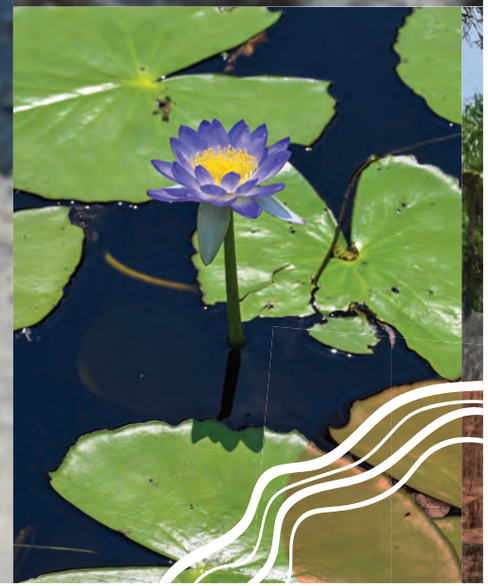
















Willi bin Kali and Jacob Smith



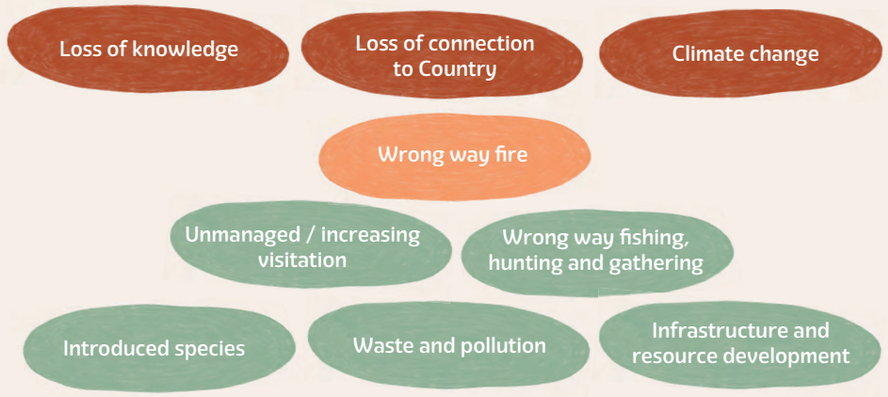






THREATS TO OUR TARGETS

A range of threats affect the values of Nyul Nyul Country and Culture. This plan focuses on addressing the following most significant threats:



RATING KEY (see appendix 5):

Very High | High | Medium | Low

Loss of knowledge

Over the past 250 years Nyul Nyul people have been influenced, educated and in many instances, forced to adopt western or church-based learning and cultural practices including language. As the older generations pass on the knowledge that is held is passing with them. This has led to a reduction in community understanding and practice of lore and language, and has contributed to a reduction in active community management of Country as further detailed below. Loss of knowledge affects the health of all our targets.

Key management strategies that will be implemented to maintain our cultural knowledge include:

- Support our cultural leaders to revive lore and culture
- Establish a cultural mapping project to record and document cultural knowledge for preservation and sharing
- Develop opportunities to get out on Country for knowledge sharing and learning, including for young people
- Develop a language speaking program for youth and adults

Loss of connection to Country

The establishment of the mission in Beagle Bay disconnected people from Country and prevented some Nyul Nyul people from visiting and living on Country as they had done for millennia. They were actively discouraged from continuing their traditional lifestyles and practices. Today, our people living on Nyul Nyul Country have maintained and continued a strong connection to Country, despite obstacles, while those living away are seeking opportunities to learn, visit and re-connect.

The loss of connection has contributed to a reduction in active community management of Country such as maintaining cultural places or clearing of waterholes impacting overall cultural and Country health and is closely linked with loss of knowledge. The loss of connection to Country affects all our targets.

Key management strategies that will be implemented to increase connection to Country include:

- Visit and look after our cultural places and spring places
- Conduct on Country trips for bush tucker and medicine harvesting and knowledge sharing

Climate change

Climate change has the potential to impact all of Country, both land and sea. Altered seasonality and an increased risk of wildfires may reduce monsoon vine thicket health and patch size and affect the productivity of bush food and medicine resources. There is also an increased risk from saltwater intrusion that could see impacts on the spring system and freshwater drinking water quality. Mangrove systems at the low-lying Lacepede Islands and its green turtle rookery are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, as well as increased water temperatures leading to a higher number of male hatchlings creating a gender imbalance in populations.

The Beagle Bay community is transitioning to renewable energy and we are looking to other strategies to understand and mitigate the risk of climate change on our local and regional environment:

- Work with regional partners and neighbours to manage emerging and complex issues and cross-boundary values on Country such as climate change
- Explore nature repair market and fire burning carbon project feasibility as methods are developed



Wrong way fire

Frequent hot wildfires damage plant and animal habitats, shrink monsoon vine thicket patches leaving them vulnerable to weed and encroaching woodland. They also threaten sensitive riparian and spring vegetation, altering their structure and species distribution.

Increased human activity is likely to lead to more fire, threatening fire-sensitive plants and animals such as the Bilby and Gouldian finch. The Nyul Nyul rangers, both men and women, are highly skilled in fire management and the team has engaged in a very active early dry season burning program for over 10 years to mitigate this threat. Good results have been seen with an improvement in fire frequency and dispersion and extent of long-unburnt habitat compared to baseline years. The rangers work closely with neighbours, outstation managers, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and are an active contributor to the Dampier Peninsula Fire Working Group to ensure connectivity and alignment of actions across the peninsula. The rangers also conduct education programs with the school and conduct mitigation activities where wildfire does occur. Continued efforts are essential to managing fire and protecting the health of vulnerable ecosystems.

Our primary management strategies will be to:

- Continue the fire management program with a focus on protective burns around priority springs and MVT sites
- Work with pastoralists, outstations and other lease holders to enhance community awareness and education of right way fire protocols

Unmanaged / increasing visitation

An increase in visitor traffic, off-road driving and camping has affected all of our place-based targets such as saltwater coast and spring places. We have seen an increase in damaged vegetation and habitats, dune and cliff erosion and the accumulation of rubbish.

Beach driving damages cultural sites, turtle nesting sites and migratory shorebird nesting habitats. Sea Country visitation has the potential to cause turtle boat strikes, overfishing, trampling of reefs and an increase in marine debris such as plastics, fishing lines and nets.

Tourist camps have been established on family blocks and outstations, primarily along the coastline. While largely well managed they have potential to contribute to further impacts if visitors ignore, or are not aware of culturally appropriate and sustainable visitation practices so we aim to work closely with camp managers to improve education and compliance.

Strategies to reduce impacts from visitation include:

- Develop a visitor management strategy including visitation protocols, communications and education strategy in collaboration with outstations
- Develop a cultural heritage management plan including access/visitation protocols

Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering

Resource use that is inconsistent with seasonal practices and custom is damaging Country leading to observed declines in some species, including fish, lijiliji and crab, over the past decades. Right-way practices are expected of Nyul Nyul people and our neighbouring Traditional Owners, and also of visitors to the area such as recreational fishers and tourists.

We seek to improve the western science-based understanding of species health to collaborate our observations of species decline, and improve practices. Management strategies will include:

- Develop and implement right way hunting, fishing and collection protocols
- Develop sustainable fishing guides for recreational fishers

Infrastructure and resource development

Nyul Nyul Country is currently impacted directly by pastoral activities, road development, gravel mining, community and outstation expansion and tourism activities.

The connectivity of the freshwater system across Country is critical to the health of all Nyul Nyul Country and is particularly at risk from developments such as the Beagle Bay causeway. This structure limits flow into the zone where the fresh and saltwater mix, process which is essential for ecosystem functioning including fish migration for breeding.

There is also potential for direct impacts from any future developments on land such as groundwater or wetland contamination from mining and water extraction as well as those on our sea Country and marine life, through off -shore oil drilling.

Our primary strategy for managing impacts of development is collaboration and engagement. By working closely with regional partners, stakeholders and proponents to advocate for the protection of Country and increase awareness of potential risks we can be well placed to respond to proposals or issues as they arise. We will also seek to improve legal protections.

Key strategies for reducing threats from infrastructure and resource development include:

- Work with regional partners and neighbours to manage emerging and complex issues and cross-boundary values on Country
- Lobby for redesign of the causeway to restore system connectivity
- Seek creation of a jointly-managed marine park on Nyul Nyul sea Country, and surrounding the Lacepede Islands



Beagle Bay causeway

Introduced species

On land, impacts are being seen from donkeys, cats and weeds, while cane toads are anticipated to arrive on Nyul Nyul Country in the next two years. Donkeys number in the thousands, and damage the freshwater system, with smaller springs highly susceptible as donkeys trample vegetation, contribute to bank erosion, increase turbidity and add nutrients to the system. High levels of e. coli have been found in the system, likely from donkey poo (Dobbs et al. 2015). Cats are a threat to a variety of threatened and endangered species including the Bilby and Gouldian finch.

Invasive mosquito fish (Gambusia holbrooki) are widespread in the Bobby Creek drainage system.

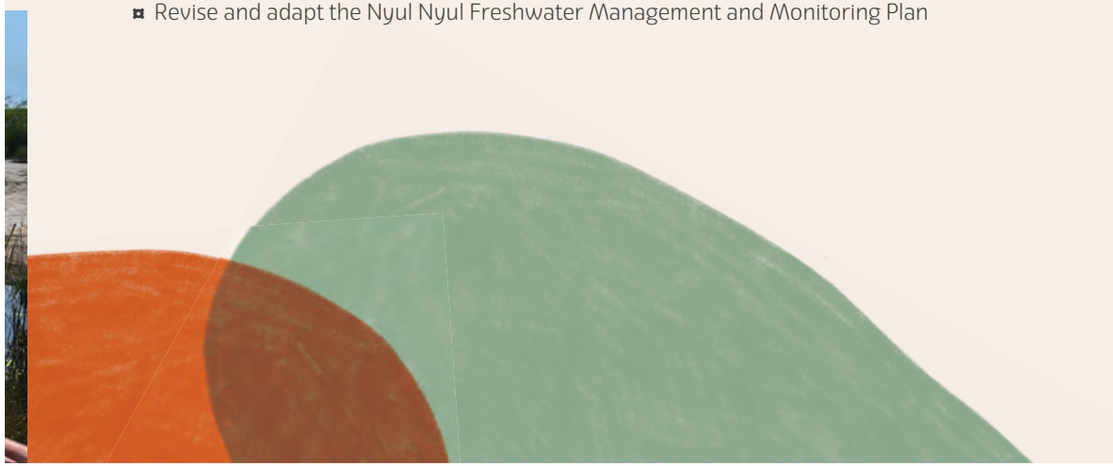
Cane toads are expected to have a dramatic impact on our freshwater network, with key concerns shown for the nigilbardiny. Invasive weed species include neem, coffee bush and buffel grass.

Current introduced species management focuses on donkey management through culling with partner organisation and fencing of priority spring places and weeding. Expansion of the program is required.

Little is known about introduced species in Nyul Nyul sea Country. Working alongside marine research institutions and government agencies will increase our awareness of any threatening processes occurring to sea Country and mitigation opportunities.

Key management strategies that will be undertaken include:

- Develop and implement a feral animal and weed management plan
- Revise and adapt the Nyul Nyul Freshwater Management and Monitoring Plan



Waste and pollution

Lack of respect for Country by individuals and a lack of regional infrastructure contributes to waste challenges on land. Harm from spills or accidents present additional and more serious risks to the environment, particularly the spring system.

Concerns on Sea Country mimic those on land – poor user behaviour and the potential for serious harm from spills or accidents are of concern.

Management strategies that will be undertaken to manage this threat include:

- Lobby for the improvement of waste management services to remote communities and outstations
- Implement a communication and education strategy for visitors







MOVING FORWARD



Our plan for managing Country starts with strong governance, building on the foundational work the Nyul Nyul Rangers and PBC have achieved.

The dedication of much of our Country as an IPA is just the start; our aspiration is to lead the management of all of our own Country, working with partners where appropriate.

We will work with government agencies to improve our role in managing Country where existing government-led arrangements are in place, such as on the Lacepede Islands and explore alternative tenure or management arrangements where it will provide additional protections to Country in line with the vision of this plan.

Implementation Principles

To ensure effective implementation of this plan the team will follow the following principles:

Respect

All our work is guided by Nyul Nyul membership and we will work with agencies to improve recognition of Nyul Nyul people's roles and responsibilities for Country management.

Lead with culture

Respect for culture and knowledge, including language, will be embedded in all our programs.

Clear communication

We will maintain open communication between the Nyul Nyul PBC, members, the Healthy Country Committee and partners to ensure the program continues to deliver on community and partner expectations, and to build broader capacity for Country management.

Regional collaboration

We work with regional partners and neighbours to manage shared challenges such as fire, and to develop an understanding of the likely impacts and options for mitigation of emerging and complex issues such as climate change.

Continuous improvement

We will continuously review and improve our approach.

IPA GOVERNANCE

The key bodies for management of the IPA are:

Nyul Nyul PBC Aboriginal Corporation

Nyul Nyul native title holders hold exclusive possession native title rights over land and non-exclusive rights over sea. As the representative body for Nyul Nyul people, the PBC is ultimately responsible for management of the IPA, in collaboration with partners where applicable. The PBC is also responsible for guiding implementation of some projects such as governance and economic development.

Nyul Nyul Healthy Country Committee

The Nyul Nyul Healthy Country Committee comprises Nyul Nyul members endorsed by the PBC. The HCC has delegated authority to guide IPA and broader Country management and work with partners according to the goals and strategies of this Plan. The HCC also provides day-to-day oversight and guidance to the Nyul Nyul rangers and IPA co-ordinator. Cultural advisors are called on as required.

The HCC will communicate openly with members, including providing reports at Nyul Nyul Annual General Meetings.

Partner Advisors to the Healthy Country Committee

Partner organisations and stakeholders with interests or responsibilities for the IPA will engage through the Healthy Country Committee at least once annually. Partner advisors will provide strategic advice and support and will initially comprise representatives from Parks Australia, the Australian government's IPA program and outstations, though membership may change over time and other partners will be invited to collaborate on specific projects. On occasion partners may engage directly with the PBC where more appropriate.

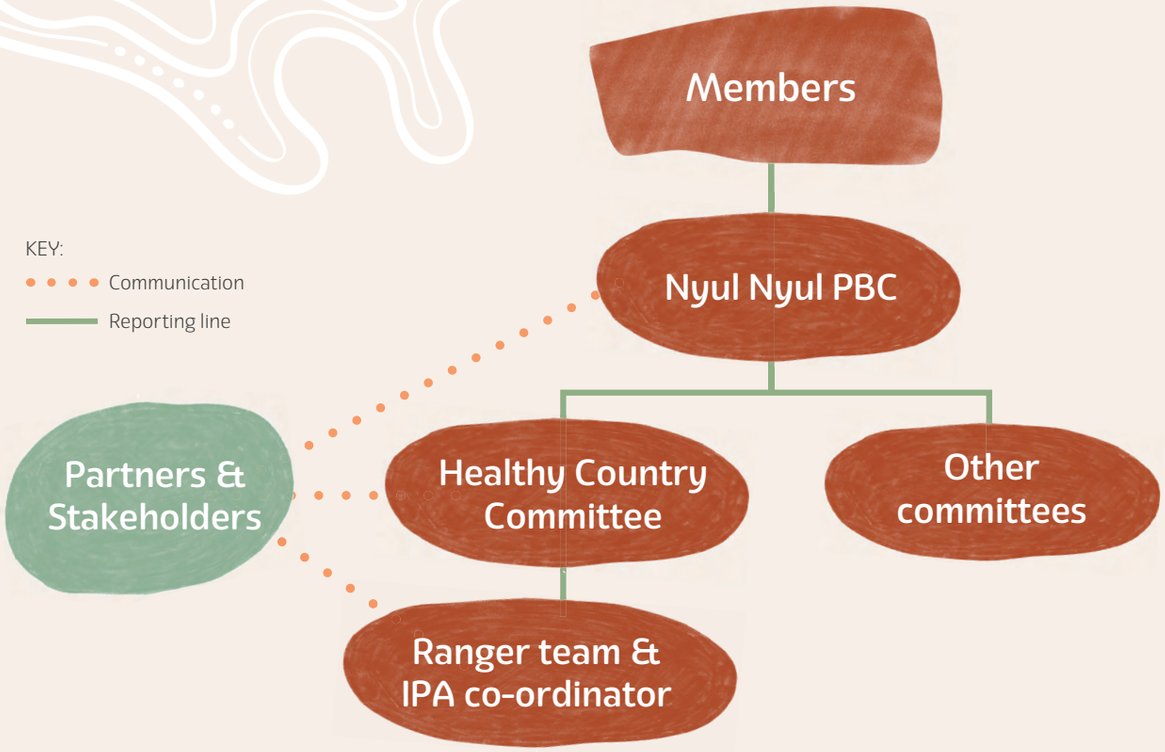
Nyul Nyul will continue to engage with Jabirr Jabirr and Bindunburr PBCs regarding management of shared Country for consideration for future IPA expansion.

Nyul Nyul Rangers & IPA Co-ordinator

The Nyul Nyul Rangers are a team of 12 including an Administration Officer based at the Nyul Nyul Ranger Base in Beagle Bay under the direction of a Men's Co-ordinator and Women's Co-ordinator, enabling separate or collaborative work as appropriate. They will be joined by an IPA Co-ordinator to lead the implementation of the IPA. The KLC manages the team through its Land and Sea unit and also provides technical and training support to the rangers including fire management, ecology and two-way science coordination. The team is also supported through KLC's Corporate Services team with asset management, vehicle maintenance, finance and legal support. The team is primarily funded by the Australian Government through the Indigenous Ranger Program, as well as through the State Aboriginal Ranger Program and is currently hosted by the KLC with aspirations to transition the Nyul Nyul PBC with further capacity and governance building. The Nyul Nyul rangers report to the above committees on a regular basis and report to the Nyul Nyul members annually at the Nyul Nyul AGM.



First healthy country committee meeting March 2024: (back row) Catriona Webster, Neil Hamaguchi, Preston Cox, Rodney Kelly, Kimberley Smith, Greg Francis, Justin King. (front row) Cynthia Clarke, Helena Williams, Hayati Jaffrey, Marcella Augustine, Jacinta Augustine



PROJECTS

To organise our work we have developed a series of projects to improve the health of our targets and manage threats over the next 10 years. These are:

1. Foundations
2. Strong Governance & Partnerships
3. Mapping our Cultural Knowledge
4. Knowledge Transfer and Community Education (including language)
5. Visitor Management
6. Planning, Research and Monitoring
7. Customary Hunting, Fishing & Harvesting
8. Looking After Country
9. Fire Management
10. Economic Development

For each project area we have developed a series of strategies. The following pages detail the key elements of each strategy – timeline, relevant targets and threats it seeks to manage or mitigate. Further detail including responsibilities and actions is outlined in the Operational Plan which guides annual workplans and on-ground activities. Note that strategies marked with * are outside the scope of the IPA. Strategies are noted as short term (to 2027), longer term (to 2034) or ongoing, though priorities may change through the term of this plan.

	Strategies	Targets	Key Threats	Strategy Timeline
FOUNDATIONS	Maintain and build capacity of Healthy Country Committee to manage the IPA	All	-	Ongoing
	Continuous improvement including MERI	All	-	Ongoing
	Establish, maintain or develop personnel, assets and infrastructure as required to ensure effective IPA operations	All	-	Short term
STRONG GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIPS	Support our cultural leaders to revive lore and culture	Culture and knowledge	Loss of knowledge Loss of connection to Country	Ongoing
	Embed cultural knowledge and language into all project work, including with partners	Culture and knowledge	Loss of knowledge Loss of connection to Country	Ongoing
	Seek creation of a jointly-managed marine park on Nyul Nyul Sea Country, and surrounding the Lacepede Islands	Lacepede Islands Sea Country	-	Ongoing
	Seek joint management of the Lacepede Islands	Lacepede Islands	-	Ongoing
	Work with regional partners and neighbours to manage emerging and complex issues and cross-boundary values on Country such as climate change, fire and MVT protection	-	Climate change Wildfire Bush tucker and medicine	Ongoing
	Work with government agencies to improve Nyul Nyul's role in managing Country where existing government-led arrangements are in place, such as on the Lacepede Islands & Kimberley Marine Park	All	-	Ongoing
	Establish a young leaders program to engage young people in Nyul Nyul governance structures and decision making	Next generations	-	Short term
	Establish a communications strategy to improve engagement with Nyul Nyul membership	All	-	Short term
	Work with Jabirr Jabirr and Nimanburr to establish land management arrangements over shared country/stage 2 IPA areas*	All	-	Longer term
	Explore options for a junior rangers / cadets program	Next generation	-	Longer term
MAPPING OUR CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE	Establish a cultural mapping project to record and document cultural knowledge for preservation and sharing • cultural places, use and protocols • bush tucker and medicine resources and usage • other resources and usage e.g. freshwater management needs e.g. how to look after cultural places	All	Loss of knowledge Loss of connection to Country	

	Strategies	Targets	Key Threats	Strategy Timeline
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION (INCL LANGUAGE)	Develop opportunities to get out on Country for knowledge sharing and learning, including for young people e.g. setting up permanent camps, engaging with ranger activities	Culture and knowledge	Loss of knowledge Loss of connection to Country	Ongoing
	Continue engaging with the Two Way Science Program to build youth understanding and interest in looking after Country	Next generations	-	Ongoing
	Develop a language speaking program for youth and adults	Culture and knowledge	Loss of knowledge	Short term
	Establish a cultural mentor program to guide knowledge sharing (and recording)	Next generations	Loss of knowledge	Longer term
	Improve community access to resources and cultural education through development of a database	Culture and knowledge	Loss of knowledge	Longer term
PLANNING, RESEARCH AND MONITORING	Work with western science partners and ISWAG to determine green turtle population health	Lacepede Islands Sea Country	Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering Climate change	Short term
	Develop a feral animal and weed management plan (donkeys, cane toads etc)	Spring places	Introduced species	Short term
	Revise and adapt the Nyul Nyul Freshwater Management and Monitoring Plan	Spring places	Introduced species Waste and pollution Infrastructure and resource development Climate change	Short term
	Map the physical extent of MVT and health	Bush tucker and medicine	Wildfire	Short term
	Develop a cultural heritage management plan including access/visitation protocols	Cultural places	Unmanaged / increasing visitation	Short term
	Continue the reef monitoring program	Saltwater Coast	Unmanaged / increasing visitation	Ongoing
	Work with western science partners to determine dugong population health	Sea Country	Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering Climate change	Longer term
	Work with western science partners to determine fish, crab and other indicator species population health	Sea Country Saltwater Coast	Unmanaged / increasing visitation Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering Climate change	Longer term
	Develop a formal mangrove monitoring program	Saltwater Coast	Unmanaged / increasing visitation Climate change	Longer term
VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS	Develop a visitor management plan including visitation protocols, communications and education strategy in collaboration with outstations	Cultural places Saltwater coast	Unmanaged / increasing visitation	Short term
	Implement the communication and education strategy for visitors	All	Unmanaged / increasing visitation	Longer term
	Develop sustainable fishing guides for recreational fishers	Sea Country	Unmanaged / increasing visitation Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering	Longer term

	Strategies	Targets	Key Threats	Strategy Timeline
CUSTOMARY HUNTING, FISHING & HARVESTING	Develop right way green turtle hunting protocols and management plan	Lacepede Islands Sea Country Saltwater coast	Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering	Longer term
	Manage the hunting of green turtles at the Lacepede Islands through implementation of the management plan and education	Lacepede Islands	Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering	Longer term
	Develop right way dugong hunting, fishing and collection protocols and management plan (all saltwater species incl crabs)	Sea Country Saltwater coast	Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering	Longer term
	Manage hunting, fishing and collection through implementation of the management plans and education	Sea Country Saltwater coast	Wrong way fishing, hunting and gathering	Longer term
LOOKING AFTER COUNTRY	Visit and look after our cultural places / implement the cultural heritage management plan	Cultural places	Unmanaged / increasing visitation	Ongoing
	Visit and clean out our spring Country with community members / implement the freshwater monitoring plan	Spring places	Loss of connection to Country	Ongoing
	Manage introduced species / implement the feral animal and weed management plan (including donkey management)	Spring places	Introduced species	Ongoing
	Conduct on Country trips for bush tucker and medicine harvesting and knowledge sharing	Spring places	Loss of connection to Country Loss of knowledge	Ongoing
	Increase the presence of rangers on Sea Country, to engage with visitors, monitor system health and identify emerging issues	Sea country	Unmanaged / increasing visitation	Short term
	Lobby for redesign of the causeway to restore system connectivity	Spring places	Infrastructure and resource development	Short term
	In partnership with DBCA and Jabirr Jabirr, manage the Lacepede Islands Reserve*	Lacepede Islands	Loss of connection to Country	Short term
	Lobby for the improvement of waste management services to remote communities and outstations	Spring places	Waste and pollution	Longer term
FIRE MANAGEMENT	Continue the fire management program with a focus on protective burns around priority springs and MVT sites	Spring places Bush tucker and medicine	Wildfire	Ongoing
	Work with pastoralists, outstations and other lease holders to enhance community awareness and education of right way fire protocols	All	Wildfire	Ongoing
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Explore fee for service opportunities for the Nyul Nyul rangers	-	-	Ongoing
	Develop a bush tucker and medicine sustainable enterprise development plan	Bush tucker and medicine	-	Longer term
	Explore nature repair market and fire burning carbon project feasibility as methods are developed	-	-	Longer term

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI)

We have designed a comprehensive, stand-alone MERI plan to ensure continued review and improvement building on an adaptive management cycle approach.

By implementing the MERI plan, we will seek to determine whether:

1. We are working in line with our principles;

2. We are carrying out the work we said we would (output monitoring); and

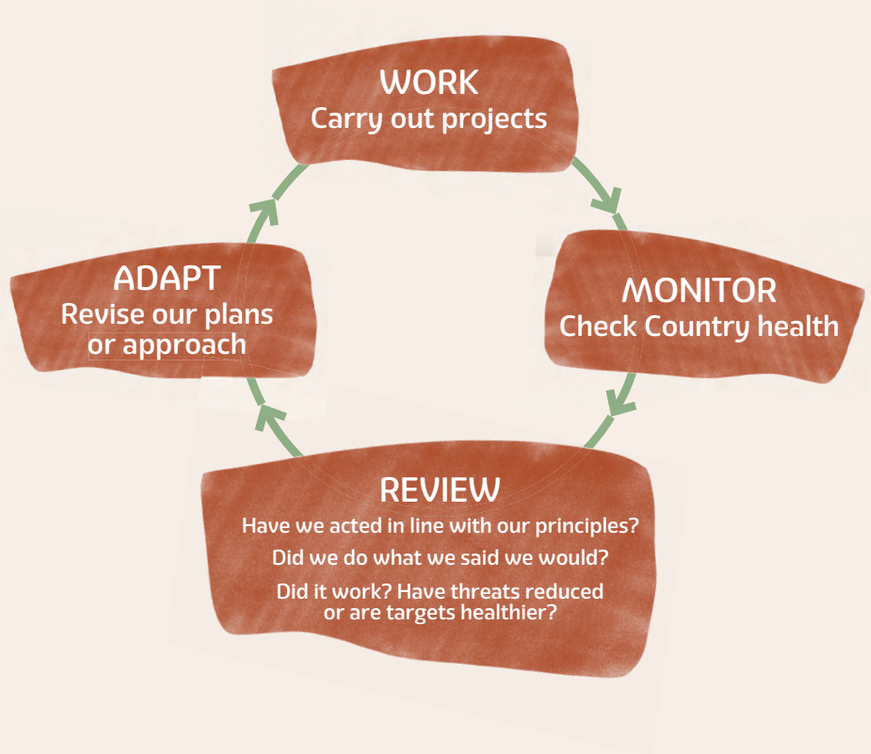
3. Our strategies are working and Country is getting healthier (outcome/impact monitoring)

The program will include:

- ongoing Country health monitoring as part of the rangers' workplan;
- an annual program of review by the HCC with advice from partners; and
- a five-year mid-term review.

The operations will be amended to respond to the findings of each review and this plan amended if required after the mid-term review.

The Nyul Nyul IPA Co-ordinator and Healthy Country Committee will be responsible for implementing the MERI Plan, with support from our partner advisors. Wherever possible we will involve our members in evaluating the success of our programs.



Partnerships

Partnerships are vital to Country management and the rangers' work and we really value these relationships. We welcome further support from current and new partners, particularly regarding western science, capacity building and regional initiatives, to achieve the vision we have outlined in this plan.

While some partners have formal role to play through their responsibilities for Country management, others are involved in projects. We would like to recognise all our partners:

Existing partners supporting the Nyul Nyul IPA and work across whole of Country include:

- Environs Kimberley
- Kimberley Land Council (KLC)
- University of Western Australia (UWA)
- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA, Commonwealth)
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - North Australian Quarantine Strategy (Commonwealth)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA, WA)
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD, WA)
- Rangelands NRM

Our neighbours who we work closely with:

- Gogolanyngor Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Jabirr Jabirr)
- Nimanburr Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
- Bardi Jawi Niimidiman Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
- Country Downs Station

Nyul Nyul PBC or rangers are members of the following regional bodies:

- Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Body (ISWAG)
- Dampier Peninsula Fire Working Group
- Dampier Peninsula Monsoon Vine Thickets Working Group
- Kimberley Ranger Network



ISWAG forum 2022



Credit: Scott Whiting



Kimberley Ranger Forum, Gnylmarung 2024

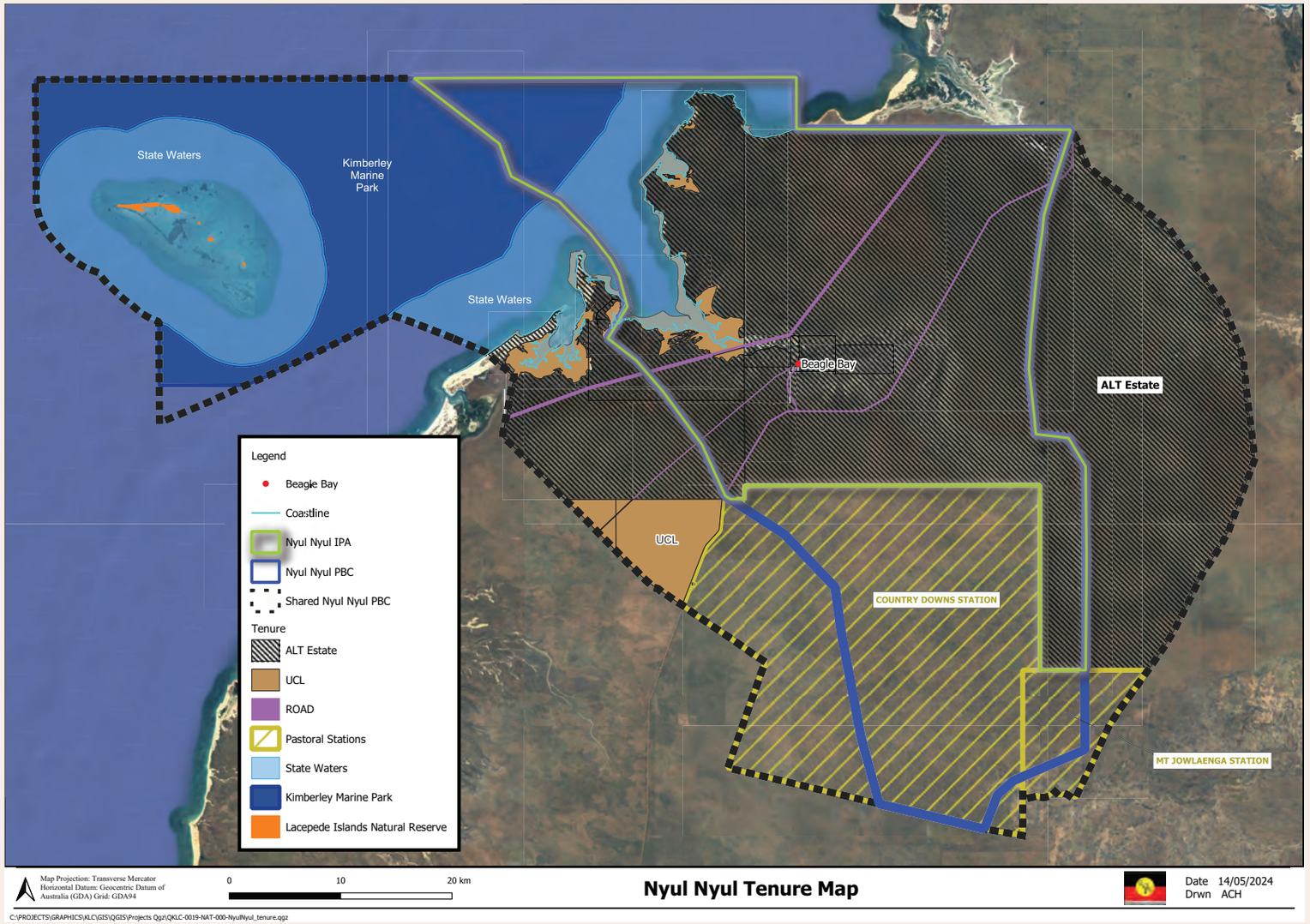
APPENDICES

Appendix 1: References and Resources

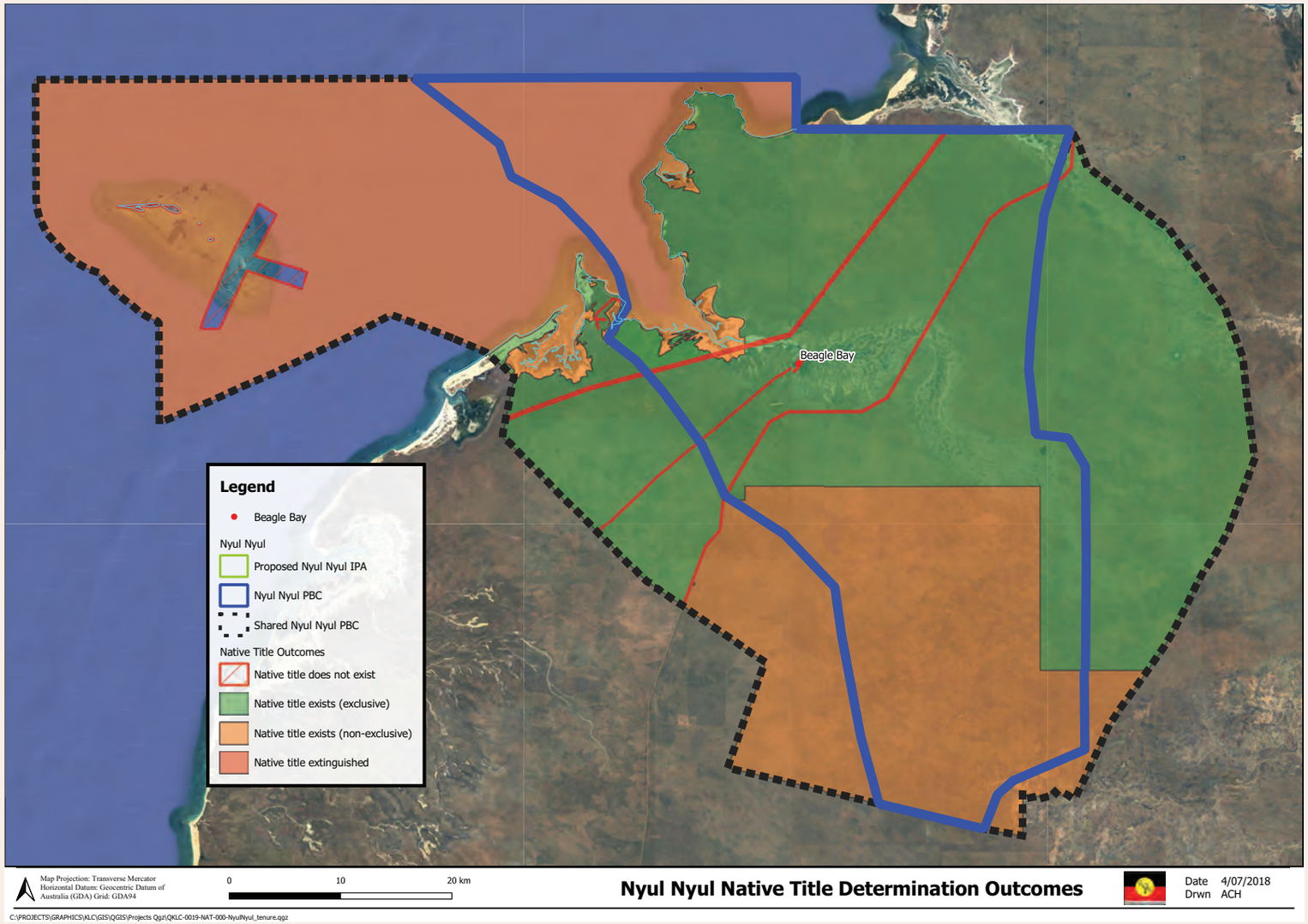
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Note that full details of the Bindunbur native title determination including maps can be sourced from the National Native Title Tribunal at http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleRegisters/Pages/NNTR_details.aspx?NNTT_Fileno=WCD2018/005

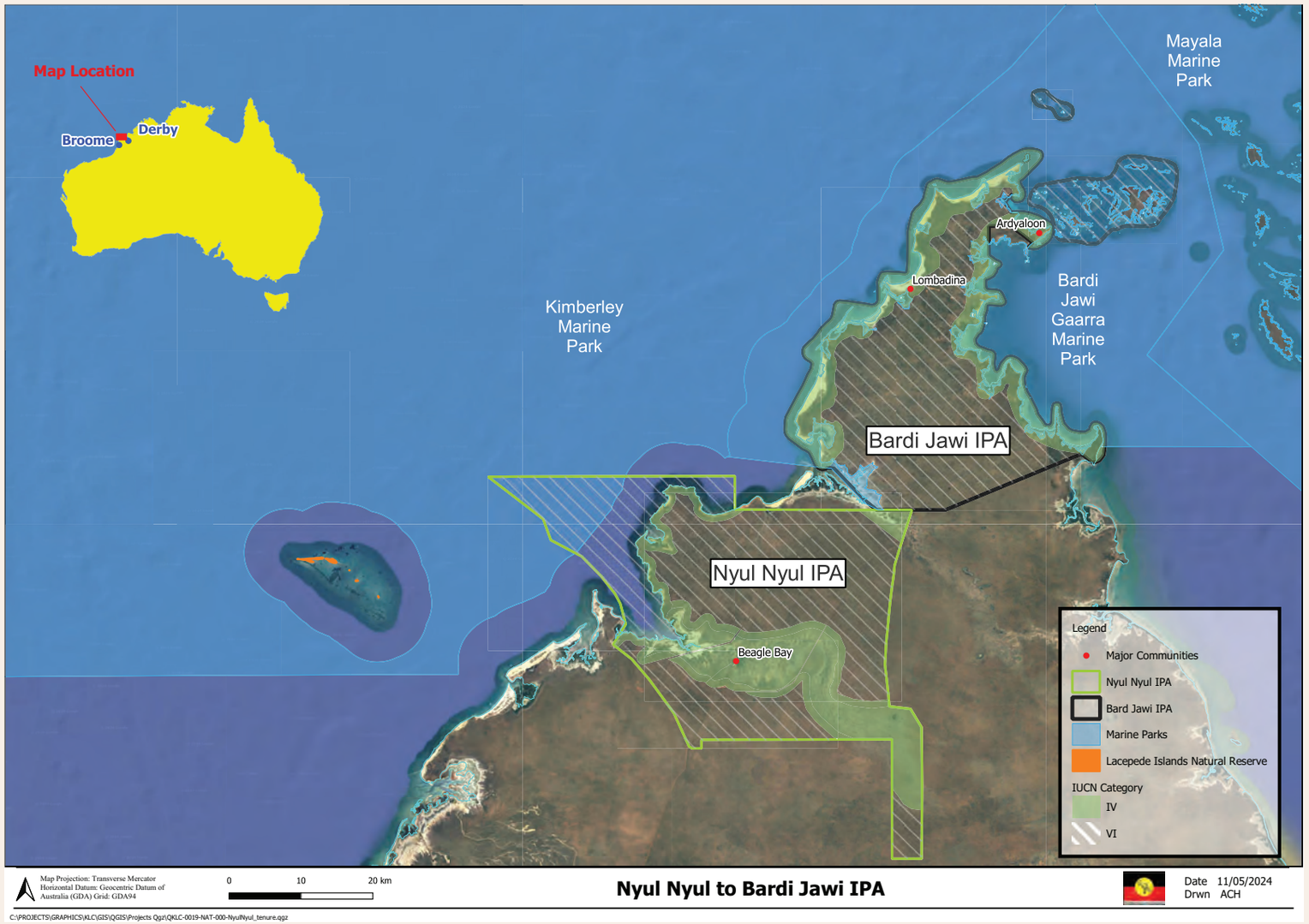
Appendix 2: Tenure map



Appendix 2: Native Title map



Appendix 3: Regional map



Appendix 4: Threatened and Migratory Species

IPA - Species Known, or Likely to be Present

	Scientific Name	Common Name	WA Status	National Status
MAMMALS	Balaenoptera musculus	Blue Whale	Endangered	Endangered & Migratory
	Dugong dugon	Dugong	Migratory	Migratory
	Leggadina lakedownensis	Kerakenga	Priority 4	
	Macrotis lagotis	Greater Bilby	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
	Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback Whale	Conservation dependent & Migratory	Migratory
	Orcaella heinsohni	Australian Snubfin Dolphin	Priority 4 & Migratory	Migratory
	Rhinonicteris aurantia	Orange Leaf-nosed Bat	Priority 4	
	Sousa sahulensis	Australian Humpback Dolphin	Priority 4 & Migratory	Migratory (as Sousa chinensis)
	Tursiops aduncus (Arafura/Timor Sea populations)	Spotted Bottlenose Dolphin (Arafura/Timor Sea populations)	Migratory	Migratory
	Vespadelus douglasorum	Yellow-lipped Cave Bat	Priority 2	
REPTILES & TURTLES	Aipysurus apraefrontalis	Short-nosed Sea Snake, Short-nosed Seasnake	Critically endangered	Critically Endangered
	Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Turtle	Endangered	Endangered & Migratory
	Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Crocodylus porosus	Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile	Migratory	Migratory
	Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth	Vulnerable	Endangered & Migratory
	Eretmochelys imbricata	Hawksbill Turtle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Natator depressus	Flatback Turtle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Tiliqua scincoides intermedia	Northern Blue-tongued Skink	-	Critically Endangered
	Varanus sparnus	Dampier Peninsula Goanna	Priority 1	
BIRDS	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper	Vulnerable	Migratory
	Anous stolidus	Common Noddy	Migratory	Migratory
	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift	Migratory	Migratory
	Calidris (Calidris) canutus	Red Knot	Endangered	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Calidris tenuirostris	Great Knot	Critically endangered	Critically endangered & Migratory
	Calidris (Erolia) ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper	Critically endangered	Critically endangered & Migratory
	Calonectris leucomelas	Streaked Shearwater	Migratory	Migratory
	Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover	Vulnerable	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Charadrius mongolus	Lesser Sand Plover, Mongolian Plover	Endangered	Endangered & Migratory
	Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover	Vulnerable	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Erythrura gouldiae / Chloebia gouldiae	Gouldian Finch	Priority 4	Endangered
	Falco (Hierofalco) peregrinus	Duck Hawk/ Peregrine falcon	Specially protected	
	Fregata ariel	Lesser Frigatebird, Least Frigatebird	Migratory	Migratory
	Fregata minor	Great Frigatebird, Greater Frigatebird	Migratory	Migratory
	Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	Migratory	Migratory
	Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit	Migratory	Endangered & Migratory
	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	Migratory	Migratory
	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew	Critically endangered	Critically endangered & Migratory

	Scientific Name	Common Name	WA Status	National Status
BIRDS	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew	Critically endangered	Critically endangered & Migratory
	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	Migratory	Migratory
	Phaethon lepturus	White-tailed Tropicbird	Migratory	Migratory
	Phaethon rubricauda westralis	Red-tailed Tropicbird (Indian Ocean), Indian Ocean Red-tailed Tropicbird		Endangered & Migratory
	Puffinus (Puffinus) huttoni	Hutton's Shearwater	Endangered	
	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted-snipe	Endangered	Endangered
	Sterna dougallii	Roseate Tern	Migratory	Migratory
	Sternula albifrons	Little Tern	Migratory	Migratory
	Sula leucogaster	Brown Booby	Migratory	Migratory
	Tringa (Heteroscelus) brevipes	Grey-tailed Tattler	Migratory & Priority 4	Migratory
	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank	Migratory	Endangered & Migratory
FLORA	Aphyllodium glossocarpum		Priority 3	
	Blumea pungens		Priority 2	
	Byblis guehoi		Priority 1	
	Colocasia esculenta	Taro	Priority 3	
	Cyperus haspan		Priority 1	
	Dendrophthoe odontocalyx		Priority 3	
	Glycine pindanica	Pindan Glycine	Priority 3	
	Haemodorum capitatum		Priority 1	
	Ipomoea tolmerana		Priority 1	
	Lophostemon grandiflorus		Priority 3	
	Nymphoides beaglensis	Beagle Bay Marshwort	Priority 3	
	Pandanus spiralis	Spring Pandanus	Endangered	Endangered
	Stylidium costulatum		Priority 3	
	Stylidium pindanicum	Pindan Triggerplant	Priority 3	
	Terminalia kumpaja		Priority 3	
	Thespidium basiflorum		Priority 1	
	Utricularia bidentata		Priority 3	
	Utricularia byrneana		Priority 1	
	Utricularia stellaris		Priority 1	
	Utricularia tubulata		Priority 1	
SHARKS & FISH	Anoxypristis cuspidata	Narrow Sawfish, Knifetooth Sawfish	Migratory	Migratory
	Pristis clavata	Dwarf Sawfish, Queensland Sawfish	Priority 1 & Migratory	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Pristis pristis	Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish	Priority 3 & Migratory	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Pristis zijsron	Green Sawfish, Dindagubba, Narrowsnout Sawfish	Vulnerable	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped Hammerhead		Conservation Dependent
	Thunnus maccoyii	Southern Bluefin Tuna		Conservation Dependent

Rest of Country (additions)

	Scientific Name	Common Name	WA Status	National Status
MAMMALS	Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis	Northern Brushtail Possum	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
BIRDS	Calidris alba	Sanderling	Migratory	Migratory
	Calidris ruficollis	Red-necked Stint	Migratory	Migratory
	Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian Tern	Migratory	Migratory
	Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel	Migratory	Migratory
	Onychoprion anaethetus	Bridled Tern	Migratory	Migratory
	Pluvialis fulva	Pacific Golden Plover	Migratory	Migratory
	Thalasseus bergii	Greater Crested Tern	Migratory	Migratory
	Tringa totanus	Common Redshank, Redshank	Migratory	Migratory
	Arenaria interpres	Ruddy Turnstone	Migratory	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Migratory	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Limnodromus semipalmatus	Asian Dowitcher	Migratory	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit	Migratory	Endangered & Migratory
	Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover	Migratory	Vulnerable & Migratory
	Xenus cinereus	Terek Sandpiper	Migratory	Vulnerable & Migratory

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Appendix 5: Health and threat ratings

The ratings used to describe the health of targets and impact of threats were determined as follows:

Health

Health status	Description
Very Good	The target is in its most desirable state and requires little intervention
Good	The target is within an acceptable state and needs some management intervention
Fair	The target is outside of the acceptable state and requires considerable intervention in order to maintain it
Poor	The target is outside of the acceptable state and may become extinct if restoration proves difficult and requires significant attention and investment

Threat

A three-step assessment was undertaken for each threat to determine for each threat:

- The amount of Country damaged if things don't change
- How badly Country will be damaged if things don't change
- Whether the issue will be fixable if left unaddressed in the short term

The results were combined to give an overall score for each threat which can be described as follows.
Please note that the rating descriptions are not to be applied precisely.

Threat rating	Description
Very high	The threat that will affect all or most of Country or culture, cause significant damage or eliminate a target, and be challenging or not possible to fix
High	The threat will affect much or most of Country or culture, cause significant damage and be challenging to fix
Medium	The threat will affect a medium to high proportion of Country or culture, cause medium to serious damage and is possible or challenging to fix
Low	The threat will affect a small to medium proportion of Country or culture, cause low to medium damage and will be possible to fix















Plan development activities, clockwise from top left:

Two way science trip: Aaron Cox and Zynal Cox

Beagle Bay planning: Doris Victor, Gary Jaffrey, Divina Cox and Zynal Cox and Fiona Smith

Healthy Country Training: Quentin Turner, Fiona Smith, Catriona Webster, Greg Francis and Neil Hamaguchi

Nyul Nyul AGM

Ranger workshop: Emma Sibosado, Lilian Lawford, Helena Williams, Preston Cox, Aaron Cox

Beagle Bay community meeting: Willie Smith

Healthy Country Training: Jackie Wemyss, Portia Wright, David Francis, Lelia Nunju, Willie Smith, Doris Victor, Rosemary Nunju, Greg Francis, Carlene Cox, Justin King, Marcella Augustine, Catriona Webster, Damon Pyke, Patrick Goulding







