

Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham

this is what we are going to do



P O R M P U R A A W L A N D & S E A C O U N T R Y C U L T U R A L & N A T U R A L R E S O U R C E M A N A G E M E N T P L A N 2 0 1 0 - 2 0 1 5

August 2010



*Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management
in collaboration with Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council*

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared by Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management in collaboration with Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council on behalf of Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan Traditional Owners of Pormpuraaw land, seas and waters, with the assistance of Ellie Bock (Regional Advisory & Innovation Network (RAIN) Pty Ltd).

Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumphan - Pormpuraaw Land and Sea Country Cultural / Natural Resource Management Plan 2010 - 2015 reflects the general land and sea management, cultural and natural resource management intentions of Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan Traditional Owners as these apply to that area of land and sea country extending from the Holroyd River in the north and the Coleman River in the south, now variously described as the Pormpuraaw Deed of Grant in Trust (Lot 5 on CP LK2) or the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire.

WARNING: This publication may contain images of and references to deceased persons. Readers are reminded that explicit cultural protocols govern use and release of images and names of the deceased.

Copyright

© Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management and Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council on behalf of Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan Traditional Owners of Pormpuraaw land, seas and waters, 2010. The descendants of Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan peoples hold the intellectual property of their languages and cultural practices. All Photographs used in this Plan remain © to individual photographers as noted.

All Artwork used in this Plan remains © to the individual Artists as noted.

For information on artworks in this plan contact Pormpuraaw Arts Centre: arts_centre@pormpuraaw.qld.gov.au

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED: This work is copyright under the *Copyright Act 1968*. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be address to the Senior Ranger, Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management, c/- Post Office, Pormpuraaw QLD 4871, Australia or ranger@pormpuraaw.qld.gov.au

Published by: Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management and Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council on behalf of Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan Traditional Owners of Pormpuraaw land, seas and waters, Pormpuraaw, August 2010.



Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham

Pormpuraaw Land and Sea Country

Cultural / Natural Resource Management Plan 2010 – 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN**
 - 1.1 PORMPURAAW'S PLANNING PROCESS 2010 – 2015
 - 1.2 PAST PLANNING PROCESSES
 - 1.3 OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND RELATED LEGISLATION
- 2. PEOPLE, COUNTRY AND CULTURE**
 - 2.1 KUKU THAYORRE AND WIK MUNGKAN TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF PORMPURAAW ABORIGINAL LANDS, SEAS AND WATERS
 - 2.2 PORMPURAAW ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
 - 2.3 PORMPURAAW LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT
 - 2.4 PORMPURAAW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
 - 2.5 NEIGHBOURS OF PORMPURAAW ABORIGINAL SHIRE
- 3. PORMPURAAW LAND AND SEA, CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
 - 3.1 IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS (LISTED NATIVE OR ENDEMIC PLANTS AND ANIMALS)S
 - 3.2 NATIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH (IMPORTANT INDICATOR SPECIES)
 - 3.3 INTRODUCED PLANTS AND ANIMALS (PEST SPECIES: WEEDS AND FERAL ANIMALS)
- 4. REGIONAL CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CNRM) INTERESTS**
 - 4.1 WESTERN CAPE YORK PENINSULA CNRM
 - 4.2 CAPE YORK PENINSULA – REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 - 4.3 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADITIONAL OWNER CNRM, LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT
- 5. OUR MANAGEMENT CONCERNS**
 - 5.1 CULTURAL SITES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, PROTECTION OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE
 - 5.2 FIRE MANAGEMENT
 - 5.3 PEST SPECIES – DECLARED WEEDS AND FERAL ANIMALS
 - 5.4 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
 - 5.5 PROTECTING IMPORTANT PLANTS AND ANIMALS - PORMPURAAW'S BIODIVERSITY
 - 5.6 EXTRACTIVE RESOURCE USE: MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINING DEVELOPMENT
 - 5.7 TOURISM AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT
- 6. OUR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**
 - 6.1 PL&SM TRADITIONAL OWNER RANGERS
 - 6.2 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
 - 6.3 FIRE MANAGEMENT
 - 6.4 FERAL SPECIES CONTROL AND PREDATION MONITORING
 - 6.5 WATER QUALITY MONITORING
 - 6.6 DEBRIS REMOVAL
 - 6.7 VISITOR MANAGEMENT
 - 6.8 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
- 7. DATA COLLECTION**
- 8. ACTION PLAN 2010 – 2015**

APPENDIXES

- | | |
|------------|--|
| APPENDIX 1 | LAND & SEA MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING AT PORMPURAAW |
| APPENDIX 2 | CNRM GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING AT PORMPURAAW |
| APPENDIX 3 | <i>NATURE CONSERVATION ACT 1992 (QLD): LISTED PLANT (FLORA) AND ANIMAL (FAUNA) SPECIES</i> |
| APPENDIX 4 | <i>ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999 (C'WEALTH): LISTED MATTERS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE</i> |

GLOSSARY

REFERENCES

Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham

Pormpuraaw Land and Sea Country

Cultural / Natural Resource Management Plan 2010 – 2015

1. PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

Our *Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham - Pormpuraaw Land and Sea Country Cultural / Natural Resource Management Plan 2010 - 2015* (“*Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham*”) has been prepared by Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan Traditional Owners and the Pormpuraaw Community to guide and inform Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management on-ground work programmes over the next five (5) years.

Thaayorre and Mungkan concepts of land and sea management extend from the earliest creation times (the Dreamtime) celebrated in our traditional cultures through our on-going connections to Country, including the many rivers in the Pormpuraaw region, and the greatly diverse plants (flora) and animals (fauna) found here.

Our Peoples, over thousands of generations, have up-held the strongest of personal connections to marine and land-based life and environments here, deeply founded in and directed by our Traditional Law. These relationships, and the responsibilities which accompany them, continue today. We pass these connections on to our Young People.

We take our obligations for our Country, our Culture and our on-going connections to both very seriously. We see very clearly the grave treats to our traditional lands, seas and waters posed by modern human activities. We must consider – and deal with – these threats every day.

Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management (PL&SM) is the primary agency responsible for land and sea, cultural and natural resource management at Pormpuraaw. PL&SM is an agency of the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council (the “Council” or “PASC”). The Council holds title to Pormpuraaw Aboriginal lands and waters, on behalf of our region’s Traditional Owners, Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan peoples.

A limited 5 year timeframe has been adopted to reflect today’s realities of government funding, policy development and decision making cycles. Effective, sustained implementation of the Pormpuraaw CNRM Plan over this period will be heavily dependent on strategic public investments made by Queensland and Australian governments in the region, in addition to the sourcing of corporate and philanthropic investments where possible.

Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham is intended to be a useful tool for PL&SM and Council, our cultural and natural resource, land and sea management partners and supporters – clearly setting out the importance of taking good care of Pormpuraaw lands, seas and waters for all future generations and the long term.

We will only achieve *Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham* by –

- Respecting our many Creation Spirits, their Stories and the Dreamings of our Ancestors
- Heeding our Old People’s knowledge of Country and wisdom in Culture
- Building our Young People’s energy and willingness to learn and apply new skills
- Gaining the full commitment of the whole Pormpuraaw Community

For *Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham* to have real meaning, we must be able to secure –

- Full support from Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council as Trustee for Pormpuraaw Aboriginal lands and waters
- Long-term operational resources for Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management
- Long-term (permanent) employment for local Traditional Owner Rangers
- Correct equipment to undertake Land and Sea Management safely in all seasons
- Knowledge and skills through technical experts and helpers from outside our Community where required

1.1 PORMPURAAW'S PLANNING PROCESS 2010 – 2015

Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumphan is a community-based planning document to guide the activities of:

- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council (the “Council” or “PASC”) – as Trustee on behalf of Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners, for the Pormpuraaw Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) – an area covering 4,661 km² or 466,198 hectares of Pormpuraaw lands, seas and waters, and legally described as Lots 2 and 3 on Crown Plan KO8 and Lot 5 on Crown Plan LK2 (and including various easements, encumbrances and interests¹);
- Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management (PL&SM) – as the Council's principal delivery agent for land and sea management, cultural and natural resource management on the Pormpuraaw DOGIT; and
- Registered Lessees / Leaseholders of certain parts of Pormpuraaw lands, seas and waters located within the Pormpuraaw DOGIT (see also footnote 1 below).

The review process for the development of *Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumphan* commenced in early 2010, to end by mid 2010. It attempts to provide a fresh interpretation of the diverse cultural / natural resources found in the Pormpuraaw region, and to identify important current land and sea management issues of concern. The process commenced as a desk-top analysis and review task complemented by on-ground consultation with senior Traditional Owners and Community members with the benefit of opportunities for public comment and input. Over coming years it will become a useful tool for making meaningful Traditional Owner driven land and sea management happen at Pormpuraaw, and reviewed regularly during its life.

Generally speaking, planning in isolated, remote communities is restricted internally (capacity and resource constraints) and externally (by development pressures, policy changes, program and funding uncertainty). It often occurs on an ad hoc reactionary basis without the benefit of strategic, prioritised direction setting. Proper planning takes time. It should not be rushed. It must be owned by the whole of the community of people the planning process is supposed to benefit. A need for good planning comes first from within. Planning imposed from outside rarely achieves equitable shared outcomes, owned by everyone affected.

In practice, decision-making in Aboriginal communities usually requires that those with rights to speak for the country are consulted and reach a consensus. This process is time-consuming... Meetings with external bodies can assist, but are frequently not a suitable forum for internal Aboriginal decision-making and discussion... Von Sturmer suggests that the real question is one of participation in the decisions that create choice... This point is emphasised by Dale (1992) in his call for community-based planning models based on optimised community participation, competent technical planning and effective bargaining and negotiation.
[extract from Johnson and others:1999]

Proper planning for Country requires interested people, a sound process (method), solid information 2 ways (traditional knowledge and science), the agreement of the Traditional Owners, ownership by everyone in the Community, and dedicated Traditional Owner Rangers and their helpers to work to implement our Plan.

The development of *Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumphan* was greatly guided by Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management and PL&SM Ranger staff. Sincere thanks are extended to all who participated in the current planning process.

1.2 PAST PLANNING PROCESSES

LOCAL NRM PLANNING AT PORMPURAAW

Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners and the Pormpuraaw Community first identified the need for a local Land and Sea Centre, and the development of a cultural and natural resource management (CNRM) plan for the Pormpuraaw region in the 1997 *Pormpuraaw Community Plan*. The *Pormpuraaw Natural and Cultural Resources Plan* was produced for the Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Management Centre in 2004, after some two (2) years of consultations and discussions. Since that time, the local situation (both community-

¹ These easements, encumbrances and interests include: a lease to the Council; a term lease (Special Lease held by Eddie Holroyd) issued under the *Land Act (Aboriginal and Islander Land Grants) Amendment Act 1982*; 2 leases (one each to Joseph Peters and Myrtle Nancy Foote) issued under the *Land Act 1962 - 1988* and the *Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (Land Holding) Act 1984* and 3 other leases (one each issued to the Commonwealth of Australia, the Queensland Government's Department of Justice & Attorney General and Ergon for electricity infrastructure).

related and environmental) has seen many changes, with the external situation having also gone through changes (in particular, various government policies and programmes). This means that the usefulness of the older plans has fallen away. Now the Pormpuraaw Community recognises the need for a new planning strategy to guide local land and sea, cultural and natural resource management at Pormpuraaw to 2015.

STATUTORY PEST MANAGEMENT PLANNING AT PORMPURAAW

In 2004, Pormpuraaw Community Council commissioned the preparation of a statutory Pest Management Plan (PMP) for the Pormpuraaw DOGIT area, with the assistance of the Cape York Weed and Feral Animal Program (CYWFAP) and Cook Shire Council. This earlier PMP (approved April 2006) was recently revised. The *2010 Pormpuraaw Pest Management Plan* identifies priority pest weeds and feral animals of concern to Traditional Owners, the local community and the Council; and related control and eradication strategies.

As a local government authority, the Council is required to regularly review and up-date this PMP over time, and to obtain Ministerial approval of any new PMPs developed for Pormpuraaw. Sincere thanks are extended to all who assisted in the development of these important pest management planning documents.

1.3 OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND RELATED LEGISLATION

MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINING DEVELOPMENT

In late 2009, the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council requested the assistance of Cape York Land Council and others in considering the potential implications of sand mining proposed for certain areas within the Pormpuraaw DOGIT area. Several private mineral exploration companies are presently seeking to secure exploration permits for minerals (EPMs) from the Queensland Government under the *Mineral Resources Act 1994 (Qld)*, to explore for mineral sand deposits associated with coastal dune formations in the region.

Consultations held over recent years by both the Council and PL&SM with the Traditional Owners and the general Pormpuraaw Community, have fully, unambiguously confirmed that all forms of mineral exploration and mining development - from initial exploration through to actual mining of found deposits, proposed for the Pormpuraaw DOGIT area, now and into the future - are and will continue to be unanimously opposed by Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners, and the Pormpuraaw Community as a whole.

In February 2010, the Council lodged a submission with the Queensland Minister for Mines with reference to section 391(1)(a) of the *Mineral Resources Act 1994*. This section of the Act provides the relevant Minister with powers to declare a Restricted Area with respect to mineral exploration and/or mining development. The Queensland Government at this time has declined to act to ensure greater safeguarding of Pormpuraaw's custodial homelands, seas and waters from this type of unwanted, landscape-scale environmentally and culturally destructive development. However, on the basis of Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners' consistently and unanimously expressed objections, one of the several mineral exploration companies concerned voluntarily withdrew their pending EPM applications in late 2009.

Alternative approaches continue to remain under consideration by Traditional Owners, Council and PL&SM.

NORTH MARINE BIOREGIONAL PLANNING

The Australian Government recently released a proposal to undertake bioregional level planning for marine conservation and biodiversity protection across northern Australia, including the Gulf of Carpentaria region².

Pormpuraaw lands, seas and waters directly abut and extend into this planning region. The Northern Shelf Province (556 763 km² in area with a maximum depth of 160m) includes south eastern Gulf of Carpentaria coastal and marine waters. The Pormpuraaw area is located within the Karumba-Nassau section of the Northern Shelf Province, an area characterised by shallow seas and unique, relatively unknown marine ecosystems and communities. Internal currents drive a net clockwise movement of the nutrient-rich coastal water mass, contributing to the high biological diversity of the coastal islands. Important breeding, nesting and foraging sites for a number of marine turtles and seabirds are located in the Gulf of Carpentaria and along the Arnhem Land coast³.

² Source: *The North Marine Bioregional Plan: Bioregional Profile*, Commonwealth of Australia, 2008

³ Executive Summary, *The North Marine Bioregional Plan: Bioregional Profile*, Commonwealth of Australia, 2008

The Commonwealth has identified that the effects of a number of threatening processes are causing declines in marine habitats, changes in marine ecosystems and loss of marine species. A range of pressures currently impact (or are likely to impact) on marine biodiversity conservation values in this region.

Development of the Draft Bioregional Plan is to consider, in detail, the threats to such values. Identified pressures on marine biodiversity include climate change, resource use, land-based impacts (including mining), marine bio-security, and marine pollution.

There is potential for the Plan to proscribe inshore marine zoning and related restrictive use regulations under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

As custodians and trustees of land and sea country intimately connected to the planning region, Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners clearly hold an important role in the proper investigation, development and implementation of this major bioregional planning initiative, as does the Council on behalf of the Pormpuraaw Community.

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA PLANNING (COMMONWEALTH)

An Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is generally declared over an area of Indigenous held land managed for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use⁴. Declared IPAs become part of the National Reserve System (NRS) with use and management defined by the application of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categories⁵ for protected areas. IPA development proposals are funded by the Commonwealth where the subject area is seen as a bio-regional priority.

At present, Cape York Peninsula is not identified as a priority area for addition to the NRS. However, there is one (1) declared IPA on Cape York Peninsula: the Kaanju Ngaachi Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers IPA (located within Kaanju homelands to the north east of Coen, central Cape York Peninsula).

If this approach is to be considered in the future, Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners, the Council, and the Pormpuraaw Community would need to plan land use and management outcomes to a high level of detail before lodgment, as an IPA proposal requires development of a dedicated Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management.

BIOSPHERE RESERVE PLANNING (INTERNATIONAL)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) *Man and the Biosphere Program* (MAB) facilitates the establishment of internationally recognised Biosphere Reserves. Some 14 biosphere reserves have been designated by UNESCO since 1971 across Australia⁶. A Biosphere Reserve is an international conservation listing awarded to an area with innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development.

Biosphere reserves can be land-based and/or marine ecosystems and promote a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere.

A biosphere has three very different but equal aims:

- conservation – genetic resources, species and ecosystems
- sustainable – development: economic, nature, society / human and culturally adapted
- logistic support – including research, monitoring, environmental education and training.

If this approach is to be considered in the future, Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners, the Council, and the Pormpuraaw Community would need to plan land use and land management outcomes to a high level of detail.

A Biosphere Reserve proposal will also require the endorsement of the Australian Government before the declaration of such a reserve.

⁴ For more information about Indigenous Protected Areas see <http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/index.html>

⁵ For more information about related IUCN criteria see http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/rowa/iucnname_ourwork/iucnname_paprogramme/

⁶ For more information about Biosphere Reserves see <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/biosphere/>

WILD RIVERS ACT 2005 (QLD)

The State Government enacted the *Wild Rivers Act 2005 (Qld)*⁷ to (in its view) protect environmental flows, catchments and watercourses associated with mostly unmodified, undeveloped rivers across Queensland. The majority of larger river systems on Cape York Peninsula are to be considered in related processes over time, including the Coleman and Holroyd rivers (respectively the southern and northern Shire boundaries).

Both rivers and their catchments were initially nominated for consideration under the *Wild Rivers Act*. In light of concerns raised about related Traditional Owner consultation processes and potential impacts on their interests, the State Government introduced a moratorium in 2007 which applies to the progressive declaration of Wild Rivers on Cape York Peninsula.

It is not presently clear when the Coleman or Holroyd rivers may be nominated under this Act, however the Queensland Government has commenced community awareness raising around Wild Rivers at Pormpuraaw. A legal writ challenging the validity of a number of recently declared Wild Rivers was lodged in the High Court of Australia by the Cape York Land Council and others in June 2010. This legal action remains unresolved at the time of writing.

CAPE YORK PENINSULA HERITAGE ACT (QLD)

The Pormpuraaw area contains lands, seas and waters which may potentially hold world heritage (natural and/or cultural) values under the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 (Qld)*⁸.

International criteria applying to the declaration of world heritage areas has been established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and can be accessed via the World Heritage Commission's website (<http://www.whc.unesco.org/en/criteria>).

Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners, the Council and the Pormpuraaw Community will be considering what the possibility of identifying areas of Pormpuraaw lands, seas and waters might mean in the light of this new legislation over coming years.

⁷ The *Wild Rivers Act 2005*, related policy documents and information may be accessed via DERM - www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildrivers/

⁸ For information on the listing of areas on Cape York Peninsula as World Heritage see the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 (Qld)* and for more general information see www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/world_heritage_areas/index.html.

2. PEOPLE, COUNTRY AND CULTURE

2.1. KUUK THAAYORRE AND WIK MUNGKAN TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF PORMPURAAW ABORIGINAL LANDS, SEAS AND WATERS

The place where the present-day community of Pormpuraaw is located lies within the traditional homelands of Kuuk Thaayorre (Thaayorre) peoples of western Cape York Peninsula. Pormpuraaw Aboriginal lands, seas and waters are in part Kuuk Thaayorre Country (generally the southern and south-eastern areas) and in part Wik Mungkan Country (generally the northern and north-eastern areas).

Thaayorre and Mungkan Peoples connection to their Country extends back to time immemorial, the time of the Dreaming, or Dreamtime. These connections continue, expressed in moral codes and cultural protocols transmitted via our Ancestors' and Elders' unbroken spiritual and physical connections to these lands, seas and waters; and to our many cultural / natural resources. As Traditional Owners, our Peoples have used and managed these resources, directed by our Law and our Custom, for many tens of thousands of years.

Our moral codes and cultural protocols govern individual or clan access to resources and places on Country; related use rights and management obligations. Current archaeological evidence traces Aboriginal occupation of south-central Cape York Peninsula back to at least 37,000 years before present (BP)⁹.

Recorded European contact in the region extends back to 1606 when Dutchman Willem Janszoon on the *Dyfken* arrived in eastern Gulf of Carpentaria waters, before pointing his ship homeward via the Dutch East Indies at Cape Keerweer (north of the presently named Holroyd River) in Wik Mungkan country. This, the briefest of visits, was to be only the first of many thereafter.

Matthew Flinders sailed south along the Gulf of Carpentaria's eastern coastline in 1802 during his circumnavigation of Australia. Frank and William Jardine drove cattle to the tip of Cape York in 1864, travelling across both Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan lands and waters, with disastrous results for the Ancestors and Elders of today's Traditional Owners¹⁰. Cattle station development gained pace across Cape York Peninsula in the early 20th century, supplying the bully beef market during both world wars. Many Aboriginal people worked for station owners as stockmen, labour or domestic workers.

Pormpuraaw was established as an Anglican mission in 1938. Many of the previously dispersed Aboriginal peoples from surrounding areas came to live in the new mission settlement. It remained known as the Edward River Mission until 1967 when the Anglican Church handed the administration of the Community to the Queensland Government. At about this time equal wages for Aboriginal people became mandatory following the 1967 Referendum, resulting in the dismissal of many station workers and their movement back to small, remote and isolated Indigenous communities.

In 1987 the Community changed its name to Pormpuraaw, taken from the local Dreamtime story about a burnt hut or *Pormpur* in the Kuuk Thaayorre language of the location's Traditional Owners. At this time the Queensland Government formalised an Aboriginal community land title, creating the Pormpuraaw Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT). The Council holds legal title in the form of Aboriginal Shire lands (see 2.2. below).

The population of the Community comprises predominantly people of Aboriginal descent who retain strong attachment to their history and cultures (89.3% of the Shire population identified as being of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander descent: ABS census 2006).

In the present day, the Pormpuraaw Community is made up of three (3) groups of Aboriginal people:

- the *Thaayorre* people who are traditionally from the area around the present day locality of Pormpuraaw and areas to the east and south towards Kowanyama including the Coleman River;
- the *Mungkan* people (also known as *Wik Mungkan* people) who are traditionally from the north including areas along the Edward and Holroyd Rivers; and

⁹ See http://austhrutime.com/nurrabullgin_cave.htm. The date of ~37,000BP refers to a dated site at Nurrabullgin (Mt Mulligan), located in south central Cape York Peninsula.

¹⁰ The journal of this journey describes numerous clashes between the Jardine Brothers' party and Aboriginal residents of the western CYP region. In particular an account is given of the "Battle of the Mitchell" (18/12/1864), reprisals and other armed conflict with local Aboriginal people across the coastal floodplains between the Mitchell and Kendall rivers (ref: Frank & Alexander Jardine (1867) *Narrative of the overland expedition of the Messrs Jardine from Rockhampton to Cape York, north Queensland*).

- people from other groups from neighbouring areas or from other parts of Cape York Peninsula who have an association with Pormpuraaw or have moved there from other communities (eg: Kowanyama).

Traditional people's connection to Country now located within the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire is intimately connected to their spiritual and cultural inheritances as Thaayorre and Mungkan Peoples.

These inheritances centre around individual and clan totemic identities, and the connections between these totemic identities and particular locations on Country (eg: places associated with birthing, dreaming, ceremony, camps or burials). People retain and maintain these connections into the present through their on-going relationships with Country, their Ancestors and their own identity.

Many families have homeland outstations on their familial traditional lands which are occupied during the northern Dry Season (usually May-October). Homelands include Piam, Jimmy Kendal, Christmas Creek, Ngakayangka, Yaawathin, Muuthant, Maachank (Bull Lake), Warpanth, Penkelthan and Chillago Pocket.

During the Wet Season most people move back into Pormpuraaw Community to be close to services as the region is subject to regular and extensive inundation, making it generally inaccessible and isolated from November to April. Severe inundation occurs on an annual basis, and can be frequently exacerbated by cyclonic or other extreme weather events.

A 2006 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HRECO) survey¹¹ of Traditional Owner experiences and views regarding economic development on their land identified that:

- ⊙ the majority of Traditional Owners feel that the importance of living on land and having access, affiliation and ownership of land and sea has priority above all other activity;
- ⊙ less than 13% of Traditional Owners identified economic development as a first priority for land; and
- ⊙ Traditional Owners believe economic development is an important tool by which to gain self determination and independence, but it should not come at the expense of the collective identity and responsibilities to traditions or the health of Country.

As the 2006 HREOC Native Title Report states: "*If a group's traditional country is not in a mining area they escape the injury to country that mining represents but have little opportunity to really develop industry and commerce that could support their communities*" (HREOC: 2006b). The Community as a whole – and Traditional Owners in particular – hold grave concerns about the specific and cumulative impacts of economic and land development related activities which do harm (or potential harm) to Country.

Harmful Activities on Country include:

- ⊙ Activities which degrade, disturb or destroy significant cultural sites (incl. unauthorised entry / trespass);
- ⊙ Activities which degrade, disturb or destroy significant natural places;
- ⊙ Activities which degrade, disturb or destroy habitat for animals or plants;
- ⊙ Disruption of surface or underground water flows (hydrology);
- ⊙ Pollution of waterways including estuaries, rivers and creeks;
- ⊙ Inappropriate land uses which degrade water quality and water supply;
- ⊙ Mineral exploration and mining developments on traditional lands, seas or waters;
- ⊙ Building dams or impoundments in major (large) and minor (small) waterways;
- ⊙ Introduction and spread of noxious pest weeds including new weed species; and
- ⊙ Introduction and spread of noxious feral animals including new pest animal species.

Important places and inter-linkages (Storylines and Dreamings) across Thaayorre and Mungkan cultural estates may be adversely affected by these types of activities, regardless of environmental controls placed on land uses by government. Place determines the activity. Activities do not determine the use/s of a place.

¹¹ HREOC National Survey on Land, Sea and Economic Development 2006. See also 2006 HREOC Native Title and 2006 HREOC A&TSI Social Justice reports: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/nt_report/ntreport06/index.html accessed June 2010

AREAS OF TRADITIONAL CONNECTION: PORMPURAAW'S MAJOR RIVERS

Relationship between the land, water and the sea in our region is of primary importance to ourselves as Traditional Owners and to our Community - we rely on these each day for subsistence and supplementary food; for a range of resource materials; for our economic livelihoods, physical health and spiritual wellbeing.

Negative impacts of concern to the Community and Traditional Owners range from the spiritually specific to more general environmental impacts, of which water-related concerns are of particular local importance. Places and stories with a focus on water-related phenomena have been raised as issues of primary concern: such as changes in hydrologies and water flows arising from past and potential future mineral exploration and mining development related activities - specifically borehole drilling, track-clearing and re-direction of watercourses across coastal plains and along dune ridges. Water quality and its availability are increasingly vulnerable to escalating climate change impacts resulting from unsustainable human activities.

The massive seasonally swollen but intermittent river systems of our region have sustained our Peoples over millennia - over many thousands of years. Our rivers carry freshwater from highlands far to the east, traversing across the vast grasslands and open woodlands of northern and eastern Cape York Peninsula. Each year during the northern Wet Season the rivers flood out onto huge floodplains; swamping their many braided channels for half the year; meandering between dunes; isolating islands of scrub; merging into salt pans. Estuaries loop along the longest of Cape coastlines - mangrove lined, intact, recharging and resilient.

Rivers, their courses and their flows braid life into our distinctly different cultures, languages and identities: Yir Yiront Country and Thaayorre lands meet in the co-mingled waters of the Mitchell and Coleman deltas; Olkolo land embraces the Crosbie, adjoining Thaayorre Country along the Coleman; Thaayorre lands pass over into Bakanh Country along the Edward; Wikianji Country emerges along the Holroyd; with Mimungkum lands lying to the north alongside the Kendall.

AREAS OF TRADITIONAL CONNECTION: PORMPURAAW ABORIGINAL LANDS & SEAS

At Pormpuraaw, past NRM planning work has identified certain broad categories relating to Place:

Story Place, Sacred Place, Sickness Place, Funeral Place and Multiplication Place

The Traditional Owners and their trustees (the Council) hold more detailed information in this respect. Considerations and inquiries as to who speaks for certain areas on country, on any particular issue or matter, must be made on an individual, case by case basis. Further advice should be sought directly from PL&SM or the Council.

Anthropological work undertaken by Traditional Owners at Pormpuraaw with John Taylor (1970s, 1980s-90s) and John von Sturmer (1970s) over several decades has defined a number of clan estates (clan codes) and mapped areas of traditional connection. These are generally represented below, including Apical Ancestors and surviving Elders (as at mid 2010). Note that in this part of Australia certain cultural restrictions apply to the naming and depiction (images) of deceased and/or recently deceased individuals of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

WATER SNAKE (KUUK YAK)

Homeland Location: Along the Chapman River and Station Creek with patches of country at Bull Lake and near Breakfast and Christmas Creek.
Language Affiliation: *Kuuk Yak* a dialect (or clanlect) of the *Thaayorre* group.
Apical Ancestor(s): Mickie Edward's father, Benjamin Wartomen's father, Joe Edwards
Totemic Affiliations: Water snake (the olive python)
Family Names: Benjamin, Wartoman, Walker, Foote, Jacob

GROPER / BARRAMUNDI

Homeland Location: Between Munkan Creek and Edward River as far as Pig Yard
Language Affiliation: *(Kugu Mangk, now Kuuk Thaayorre)*
Apical Ancestor(s): The sibling set comprising *Nga'a Pundha, Yunmen* (Old Man Moses), Alexander, Douglas, Mary Moses
Totemic Affiliations: Groper, Barramundi
Family Names: Edwards, Moses, Conrad (from mother's side)

POSSUM

Homeland Location: At the coast above Balurga Ck and stretching along Balurga Ck.
Language Affiliation: *Kugu Mu'inh*
Apical Ancestor(s): Moonlite, Joe Coleman, Norman Holroyd's father, King Johnny, Stingaree's father.
Totemic Affiliations: Possum, "squeaker", possum track (among others)
Family Names: Moonlite, Arkwookeram, Coleman, Holroyd, Lowdown

FRESHWATER CROCODILE, GHOST ETC.

Homeland Location: Most of Strathgordon Station and part of the eastern DOGIT
Language Affiliation: *Bakanh*
Apical Ancestor(s): Old Ned (*Pungkuw*)
Totemic Affiliations: Flying fox, freshwater crocodile, ghost (dead body)
Family Names: Ned, Upton

DUCK, SPEAR MOB

Homeland Location: Includes Pormpuraaw and extends east as far as Jack Yard
Language Affiliation: *Kuuk Boro* (a clanlect of *Kuuk Thaayorre*)
Apical Ancestor(s): King Charlie, Norman, Rodger
Totemic Affiliations: White eyed Duck, Spear
Family Names: William, Coleman, Norman, Peter, Charlie, Jack, Rodger, Conrad, Dick

BROLGA

Homeland Location: Mostly inland on Fish Hole Creek together with a small suite of tracts near the coast on the Melaman Plain.
Language Affiliation: *Kuuk Punthil* (a clanlect of *Kuuk Thaayorre*)
Apical Ancestor(s): Joe Killarney, Jimmy Foote, Mosquito
Totemic Affiliations: Brolga
Family Names: Foote, Joe

DOG, GOANNA MOB

Homeland Location: Melaman
Language Affiliation: *Kuuk Thaayorre*
Apical Ancestor(s): King Melaman
Totemic Affiliations: Dog / Goanna
Family Names: Barney, Ephraim, Bendigo (on mother's side), Peter, Victor

RAINBOW, CYCLONE

Homeland Location: Centred on Chillago Pocket and up the Melaman as far as *Minh Thutjiwarr*
Language Affiliation: *Yir Yoront / Thaayorre*
Apical Ancestor(s): Horace I, Parry Coleman's father, King Chillago
Totemic Affiliations: Rainbow/Cyclone (*Yukngat*)
Family Names: Ephraim, Chillagoe, Josiah, Kitchener, Horace, Aidan, Parry, descendants of Parry Coleman, Mission, Barney, Reynold

SAVANNAH GRASS

Homeland Location: In the general area of Blazeaway
Language Affiliation: *Olkol (Yi Mayn)*
Apical Ancestor(s): Philip
Totemic Affiliations: Savannah Grass, ?Brown Crane (Note: no sites belonging to this group have been mapped. Sharp provides an indication of this clan estate, which appears to straddle Pormpuraaw DOGIT, Strathgordon, Kowanyama DOGIT: ref. Sharp 1937)
Family Names: Coleman, William, Wartoman

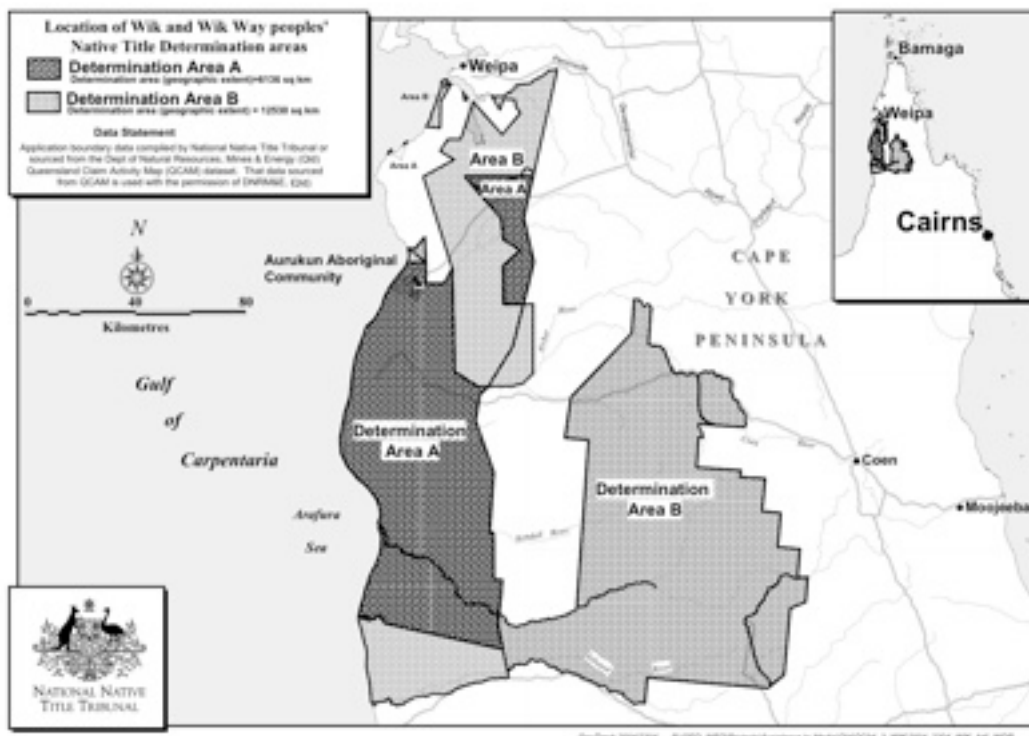
AREAS OF TRADITIONAL CONNECTION: NATIVE TITLE DETERMINED LANDS AT PORMPURAAW

The northern extent of Pormpuraaw lands and waters (that part of the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire extending north of the Edward River to the northernmost Shire boundary along the Holroyd River) are native title determined lands and waters held in the exclusive possession of Wik and Wik Way peoples (*Wik Peoples v State of Queensland [2004] FCA 1306*). An earlier determination of native title in 2000 encompassed lands and waters within the Aurukun Aboriginal Shire (*Wik Peoples v Queensland [2000] FCA 1443*). The prescribed body corporate established to hold determined native title rights and interests on behalf of Wik and Wik Way peoples is the Ngan Aak Kunch Aboriginal Corporation.

Earlier, in mid 1993 and prior to enactment of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), Wik Peoples lodged a claim for determination of their native title rights and interests in the Federal Court of Australia. Thaayorre People joined this action as they had also claimed their native title rights and interests over an area of land partly overlapping the Wik claim. This combined claim area included two pastoral leases: the Mitchelton Pastoral Holding Lease granted under the *Land Act 1910* (Qld) and the Holroyd River Pastoral Lease granted under the *Land Act 1962* (Qld). Wik and Thaayorre Peoples argued that their native title rights and interests were not extinguished by the grant of leases, but rather coexisted with the interests of the lessees.

On 23 December 1996, the High Court handed down its decision in *Wik Peoples v State of Queensland and Others*. This decision confirmed that native title rights and interests may exist over land which is or has been subject to a pastoral lease, and possibly some other forms of leasehold tenure. The Court held that existing pastoral leases issued prior to 1 January 1994 and the rights granted under them are valid. It also held that the rights of the pastoralist prevail over native title rights and interests to the extent of any inconsistency. Considered strictly on its facts, the Wik case is confined to a decision on two specific pastoral leases granted under the *Land Act 1910* (Qld) and the *Land Act 1962* (Qld) - both of these pieces of legislation have now been superseded by the *Land Act 1994* (Qld). The High Court found in its decision that these particular pastoral leases did not automatically extinguish any surviving native title rights and interests simply by their grant because they did not grant exclusive possession¹².

Figure 1: Map depicting Wik and Wik Way native title determinations over northern areas of Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire (source: National Native Title Tribunal)



¹² Indigenous Studies Program, The University of Melbourne 2007: web reference <http://www.atns.net.au/agreement.asp?EntityID=775>

2.2 PORMPURAAW ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL (PASC)

The Queensland Government enacted the *Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984* to provide a legislative basis for community governance of Aboriginal-held community lands across the State. In July 1987, the elected Pormpuraaw Community Council assumed municipal responsibilities and acquired title over the Trust area which encompasses 4,661 km² (466,198 hectares) by way of Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT). Council holds this title on behalf of those Aboriginal People most concerned with the land: i.e.: Kuuk Thaayorre and Wik Mungkan Traditional Owners.

In January 2005, Aboriginal councils that were formerly established under the *Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984* started a transition to full shire council status under the *Local Government (Community Government Areas) Act 2004*, which provides formal recognition of local government status for Aboriginal communities across the state. The present Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council comprises five (5) elected representatives including a Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Pormpuraaw local government area (the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire) currently consists of four (4) electoral (representative) divisions.

The Community has established a number of local economic enterprises including a fully operational crocodile farm (Edward River Crocodile Farm) and a cattle grazing business (Ngokal Weendi Aboriginal Corporation). The Council manages and maintains roads; water, sewerage and electricity infrastructure on Pormpuraaw Aboriginal lands and key community infrastructure including transport infrastructure (including the barge landing site and the Pormpuraaw air strip).

The Council is a key employer within the Pormpuraaw region (57.8% of the Shire population indicated they were employed by local government in the 2006 census: ABS). Some 45% of Pormpuraaw Shire residents are employed full time, with 36.4% employed on a part-time basis, and there is an attributed unemployment rate of 5.5% (2006 census: ABS). A 2006 census derived demographic profile of the Shire indicates 68.8% of the population is aged 15 to 64 years, 27% aged 0 - 14 and 3.8% aged 65 years and over.

Figure 2: Lot on Plan (composite image) depicting boundaries and community areas within the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire (source: DERM, Queensland Land Titles Registry)



2.3 PORMPURAAW LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT

Pormpuraaw has a dedicated Land and Sea Management operation, re-established in May 2006 after a period of dormancy due in large part to a distinct lack of external investment. Pormpuraaw Land and Sea Management (PL&SM) and its Traditional Owner Ranger programme is a community priority, however without a stand-alone Land & Sea Management operational base. Office space and equipment for GIS mapping of declared (noxious) weeds and marine debris recovery data are the main Council contributions.

The community is highly supportive of the Land and Sea Management programme; PL&SM Rangers have good working relationship with the Traditional Owners (Rangers are Traditional Owners themselves); and formal and informal lines of communication with stakeholders function well.

In 2007 the Council received long term commitment for Ranger funding from the State Government via the Wild River Rangers programme, enabling Council to appoint full time PL&SM Traditional Owner Rangers.

Despite a historical lack of continuity, considerable local knowledge has been maintained regarding land and sea management issues, cultural and natural resource management (including monitoring and surveying), management of budgets and staff and remote area operational logistics.

Key PL&SM projects undertaken to date include:

- ⊙ Declared pest weed mapping and weed control (focus on Parkinsonia and Rubber Vine);
- ⊙ Feral animal control (feral pig predation of marine turtle rookeries; wild dogs, feral horses, cattle);
- ⊙ Involvement in marine debris removal (Ghost Nets Australia programme);
- ⊙ Tourism and visitor management; and
- ⊙ Ranger related accredited training.

The PL&SM Ranger Coordinator is responsible for coordination, administration and liaison with government departments, with skills in GPS and GIS mapping and data storage, weed survey and control, feral animal survey and control, possesses an open Coxswain ticket, senior first aid certificate, chemical handling and storage certificates and manages tourism and tourist infrastructure.

The PL&SM Senior Ranger is responsible for cultural heritage information recording and cultural site identification and mapping, with skills in work plan coordination, GPS operation, senior first aid, weed and animal control, and fisheries surveillance.

PL&SM Ranger staff have skills in GPS operation, weed survey and control, feral animal control, and senior first aid.

Ranger Skills Validation 2008: PL&SM ranger staff (Wild River Rangers) underwent an exercise aimed at validating skills and identification of suitable candidates for a Ranger in Charge position to plan and manage future works. Skills sets tested included orders and planning, leadership, self-esteem, team work, ranger responsibilities, safety, vehicle operation, all terrain vehicles, boating, crocodile survey techniques, weed control, pig autopsy, survival. An external training provider with expertise in the above skill sets assessed PL&SM Ranger competency and found that the Rangers' skill level was "at a very workable level and would allow a competent level of safety and ability to achieve tasks unsupervised" (Snell, 2008). There is a recognised need to ensure existing PL&SM staff are retained to continue the CNRM work that is now well established and to ensure that this skills' base is not lost from the region.

Local young people have expressed a keen interest in becoming Rangers and have engaged with PL&SM through the CDEP program or as volunteers. The Council recognises that Traditional Owner Ranger jobs provide meaningful employment and be a realistic career path for young people.

The Council and PL&SM are seeking to expand Traditional Owner Ranger employment opportunities at Pormpuraaw to achieve environmental and cultural resource management outcomes on an on-going, permanent basis, and to build on the current successful Land and Sea Management program, capitalising on the growing interest within the community in cultural and natural resource management (CNRM) and an increasing level of cross-government support and investment.

Four (4) Traditional Owner Rangers are employed through the Queensland Government's Wild River Ranger initiative with funds secured to 2014. PL&SM recently sought targeted triennial investment in local

land and sea management through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative (for the 2010/11 – 2013/14 financial years) although unfortunately at the time of writing without success.

Longer-term sustained Ranger employment via PL&SM can potentially be secured (with the support of partner agencies and other stakeholders) through a comprehensive negotiated joint investment package with the Australian and Queensland governments to secure efficient, value for money cultural and natural resource management at Pormpuraaw for the longer term. Additional investment to complement such an arrangement would include fee for service arrangements, research collaboration and philanthropic funding.

2.4. PORMPURAAW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Pormpuraaw Community, in partnership with PL&SM and the Council have identified a number of additional, sustainable community based enterprises, aimed at generating longer term employment and income opportunities for the Pormpuraaw Community. PL&SM actively engages the Community in its activities across the Pormpuraaw region.

Edward River Crocodile Farm:

The Council and PL&SM lodged a formal submission to the Queensland Government in the lead up to the release of the *Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007* and the related *Management Program for Crocodylus porosus in Queensland 2007-2017*. Associated regional and local issues include permit applications for the harvest of wild crocodile eggs. Existing Crocodile Farm infrastructure has capacity to handle 10,000 hatchlings. Related negotiations are continuing.

Given expanding crocodile populations in the rivers at Pormpuraaw effective local management is necessary, also reducing reliance on the import of hatchlings from Northern Territory wild egg harvests.

Pormpuraaw Crocodile Monitoring:

In recent years, PL&SM Rangers and volunteers have undertaken a crocodile survey project in collaboration with Fisheries Queensland and a private consulting company. The results of this work provided data on crocodile populations and was used in a feasibility study supporting an application for a wild crocodile ranching permit for Pormpuraaw. Issuing of this permit is currently pending.

Relocation of Problem Crocodiles:

Cultural beliefs passed onto PL&SM Rangers express extreme displeasure at the practice of outside involvement in trapping and removal of problem animals, especially when these animals are given to commercial tourist operators who profit from the traditional resources of Thaayorre and Mungkan Traditional Owners.

The Council has obtained a permit to relocate problem crocodiles to the Edward River Crocodile Farm to improve genetic diversity and breeding numbers. This is an acceptable outcome for Traditional Owners as many local people have the Crocodile as their totem. Crocodile Farm staff and PL&SM Rangers have the technical and practical expertise to safely carry out these operations. PL&SM collaborate with Queensland Government partner agencies including QPWS in associated activities.

Aquarium Fish Harvesting:

PL&SM Rangers have obtained a permit to capture aquarium fish from the wild as a further measure to generate sustainable employment and income for the Pormpuraaw Community.

Ngokal Wendi Aboriginal Corporation:

The existing cattle grazing enterprise at Barr's Yard extends over some 240 ha of Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire lands, which are presently leased to Ngokal Wendi Aboriginal Corporation (representing Traditional Owner interests) by the Council as Trustee for these leased lands. Ngokal Wendi Aboriginal Corporation was incorporated in January 1998. The lease between the Council and the Corporation for use of the Barr's Yard area was registered on the Pormpuraaw Deed of Grant in Trust title in 2000. The Corporation operates a Community Justice Centre (detox) facility at Barr's Yard.

Previous to Severe Tropical Cyclone Monica (late April 2006) this enterprise grazed over 5000 head, with significant loss of stock resulting from serious flooding caused by this large tropical storm system.

PL&SM Community Events:

In 2008, PL&SM Rangers ran a field camp for local youths and their parents to observe marine turtle hatching and discuss related NRM issues such as predation by pigs and goannas. Local children participated in helicopter rides as part of a feral pig control education session.

Deputations of PL&SM Rangers have travelled to Brisbane to brief senior Queensland Government Ministers and staff about the Pormpuraaw Land and Sea Management program and related NRM activities.

2.5. NEIGHBOURS OF PORMPURAAW ABORIGINAL SHIRE

Strathgordon / Old Strathgordon

Traditional Owners hold title to the 1108 km² Strathgordon Station pastoral holding, maintaining an outstation at Old Strathgordon and the Strathgordon homestead. In April 2008, the Strathgordon Mob obtained exclusive native title rights to this property¹³ located some 56 kms west of Pormpuraaw and adjoining the eastern boundary of the Pormpuraaw DOGIT. The consent determination includes two (2) Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) negotiated between the Strathgordon Mob as native title holders, the Poonko Strathgordon Aboriginal Corporation (as landholders), the Cook Shire Council and the Queensland Government.

Spiritual identities and cultural connections to Strathgordon extend into the eastern part of the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire. These lands and waters are generally associated with Bakanh languages speakers.

Kowanyama Aboriginal lands, seas and waters (Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire)

Traditional Owners hold title to the 2520 km² Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire (Kowanyama Deed of Grant in Trust), in addition to two (2) pastoral leases purchased by the Community to the east - Oriners and Sefton.

Kowanyama peoples have further negotiated permanent ownership and management rights to Errk Oykangand National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)¹⁴ granted to Kunjen and Oykangand speaking peoples in October 2009. This National Park was initially successfully claimed on 31 May 1996 under the provisions of the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (Qld) and is the first National Park to be converted to NP(CYPAL) under amendments pursuant to the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*.

The Kowanyama Aboriginal Land and Natural Resources Management Office (KALNRMO) coordinates and undertakes land and sea management initiatives and activities on Kowanyama Aboriginal lands, seas and waters, including the employment of permanent Aboriginal Ranger staff. KALNRMO has over 20 years of demonstrated land and natural resource management experience to its credit. It is a key partner of PL&SM.

Spiritual identities and cultural connections to the Kowanyama area extend over into southern and south-eastern parts of the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire. Lands and waters in this boundary area are generally associated with Yir Yiront language and Thaayorre language speakers, and with their respective dialects.

Aurukun Aboriginal lands, seas and waters (Aurukun Aboriginal Shire)

Traditional Owners hold title to the 4294 km² Aurukun Aboriginal Shire (Aurukun Aboriginal Shire lands). The Wik and Wik Way native title determinations include the whole of Aurukun Aboriginal lands and waters, and in part areas within neighbouring pastoral properties, as outlined above.

Spiritual identities and cultural connections to the Aurukun area extend into northern and north-eastern parts of the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire. These lands and waters are generally associated with Wik and Olkolo language speakers and their related dialects in the north and north-east, Olkola language speakers to the east and Bakanh language speakers to the east south-east.

¹³ Strathgordon was divested to Poonko Strathgordon Aboriginal Corporation by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)

¹⁴ *National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)* tenure arises from grant of National Park tenure to a Corporation representing those Aboriginal people most concerned with the land, the land's Traditional Owners, provided the grantees agree to the land being designated National Park in perpetuity. The State Government presently contributes certain resources towards Traditional Owner joint management of such parks. This type of tenure is restricted to Cape York Peninsula, and is often shortened to NP(CYPAL).

Balurga

The Price family (Doug and Marietta Price) hold title to the 1160 km² Balurga Pastoral Holding, legally described as Lot 4695 PH 1656, which is used mainly for grazing beef cattle. The Price family currently also sub-lease the adjoining Strathgordon property held by Poonko Strathgordon Aboriginal Corporation.

Spiritual identities and cultural connections to the Balurga area extend into eastern and south-eastern parts of the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire. These lands and waters are generally associated with Olkolo language speakers to the north east, Bakanh speakers to the east and Yir Yiront speakers to the south.

Southwell

Richard 'Nookie' Price holds title to the 1460 km² Southwell Pastoral Holding, legally described as Lot 1 LK4, which is used mainly for grazing beef cattle.

Spiritual identities and cultural connections to the Southwell area extend into north eastern parts of the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire. These lands and waters are generally associated with Wik Mungkan and Olkolo language speakers (and their respective related dialects).

2.6. PL&SM PARTNERS IN CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Australian Government (Commonwealth) agencies

Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS)

- ⊙ Training in monitoring techniques including alien ant species
- ⊙ Fee for service arrangements for surveillance and destruction of foreign infrastructure

Australian Defence Force (ADF)

- ⊙ Provision of specialist training in marine radio
- ⊙ Agreement for Wild River Rangers program staff to use Army field facilities
- ⊙ Sharing of information and advice on improvements to community engagement patrols

Customs

- ⊙ Fee for service arrangements for surveillance

Queensland Government (State) agencies

Dept of Environment & Resource Management (DERM) Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS)

- ⊙ Provision of expert accredited training in crocodile handling

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)

- ⊙ Crocodile egg monitoring training
- ⊙ Participation in crocodile survey project
- ⊙ Facilitation of private sector collaboration

Local Government

Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

- ⊙ Involvement in the LGAQ's *Aboriginal Shire Council Land and Sea Forum*

Cook Shire Regional Council

- ⊙ Partnership with the Cape York Weeds and Feral Animal Project (CYWFAP) hosted by Cook Shire, including employment of a CYWFAP officer as a Land and Sea Management program mentor, use of equipment and resources to control weeds and feral animals

Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups

Northern Gulf NRM Group (NGNRMG)

- ⊙ Involvement in Ghost Nets Australia Project (administered by NGNRMG) which monitors and removes abandoned commercial fishing nets, foreign drift nets and other marine debris

Cape York Sustainable Futures

- ⊙ Involvement in the Turtle Nest Predation Monitoring Project

Cape York Peninsula NRM Board

- ⊙ New regional NRM Body for the Cape York Peninsula NRM region, which includes Pormpuraaw. Will be responsible for developing a regional NRM Plan for the region and a Regional Investment Strategy to direct NRM investment, strategic priority setting and on-ground delivery in the region. In this sense NRM also includes management of Aboriginal and other Indigenous cultural and heritage values (see also section 4 of this Plan below).

Indigenous NRM groups

Northern Australia Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA)

- ⊙ Involvement in the NAISMA I-Tracker project, equipment use mentoring and related training provision
- ⊙ Involvement in the Carbon Abatement Fire project (in conjunction with Tropical Savannah CRC)

Research Institutions

Birds Australia & Wetlands International

- ⊙ Provision of advice, training and data management for bird surveys and wetlands assessment

CSIRO

- ⊙ Collaboration on flora and fauna surveys
- ⊙ Collaborative identification of new, undocumented ecological communities

3. PORMPURA AW LAND AND SEA, CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

3.1 IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS (LISTED NATIVE OR ENDEMIC PLANTS AND ANIMALS)

TRADITIONAL NAME/S	ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY OR SPECIES		PROTECTED SPECIES LISTING		THREATS
LANGUAGE NAME/S INCLUDED OVER TIME	NATIVE PLANT OR ANIMAL SPECIES	COMMON NAME	COMMONWEALTH	QUEENSLAND	MANAGEMENT ISSUES
Vegetation Community					
	Native species dependent on natural groundwater discharge from the Great Artesian Basin		Endangered	Endangered remnant vegetation (in part only)	Threatened by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extractive and intensive land uses (mining, grazing, horticulture) • Changed fire management regimes • Changes to the groundwater table • Irrigated agriculture
Animal Species					
Birds					
contact QPWS + report if found	<i>Psephotus chrysopterygius</i>	Golden-shouldered Parrot	Endangered	Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early wet season spelling of open country if grazed • Burn after 1st storms • Eradicate / control feral pigs
	<i>Erythroriorchis radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk	Vulnerable	Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, illegal egg collecting • Important indicator of healthy creeks and rivers • Fire breaks, storm burn at end of each spell year • Reduced grazing, spell grazing areas every few years • Control Rubber Vine + Sickle Pod
contact QPWS + report if found	<i>Neochmia phaeton evangelinae</i>	Crimson Finch (white-bellied)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important indicator of healthy swamps • Fence off wetlands • Burn early dry season
	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of wetland habitat
	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little Tern	Migratory	Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human impacts, vehicles and dogs • Nest predation
	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	Beach Stone-curlew	(not listed)	Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human impacts and vehicles • Loss of eggs, nest destruction
	<i>Coracina tenuirostris melvillensis</i>	Melville Cicadabird	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) • No other major threats known
	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human impacts, vehicles on beaches
	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human impacts, vehicle strike
	<i>Heteromunia pectoralis</i>	Pictorella Mannikin	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) • No other major threats known
	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human impacts, vehicle strike
	<i>Cisticola juncidis normani</i>	Zitting Cisticola	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) • No other major threats known
	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Black-necked Stork (Jabiru)	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) • No other major threats known

PORMPURAAW LAND & SEA MANAGEMENT
Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpham - Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Country CNRM Plan 2010 - 2015

TRADITIONAL NAME/S	ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY OR SPECIES		PROTECTED SPECIES LISTING		THREATS
	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Tadorna radjah</i>	Radjah Shelduck	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	Migratory	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Rainbow Bee-eater	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	Rufous Fantail	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great / White Egret	Migratory	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal predation (cats, pigs) No other major threats known
	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or degradation of habitat (especially wetlands) Habitat change resulting from changed fire management - esp. <i>Melaleuca viridifolia</i> encroachment into previous grassland areas CYP
	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	Oriental Pratincole	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss or degradation Vehicle / aircraft strike
	<i>Grus antigone</i>	Sarus Crane	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss and degradation Predation by wild dogs Inbreeding (small Aust. population)
	<i>Rostratula benghalensis s. lat.</i>	Painted Snipe	Migratory	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss or degradation (weeds, changed fire regimes, intensive grazing) Predation by feral cats and pigs
	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss or degradation Feral species predation (cats, pigs)
	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>	Magpie Goose	Migratory	Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss or degradation Feral species predation (cats, pigs) Potential for excessive hunting
Land Animals					
	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Northern Quoll	Endangered	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional fire management: wildfire mitigation, mosaic burning, eradicate feral cats
	<i>Notomys aquilo</i>	Northern Hopping-mouse	Vulnerable	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predation by feral cats (this mouse is a social animal, active at night) Broad-scale strip mining (such as bauxite or mineral sands mining) Changed fire regimes Feral stock impacts
	<i>Xeromys myoides</i>	Water Mouse, False Water Rat	Vulnerable	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal development and pollution Coastal mining Predation by feral cats Vehicles on beaches Habitat loss and degradation Clearing or damage to mangroves
	<i>Simonselapas warro</i>	Robust burrowing snake	(not listed)	Near Threatened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss and degradation No other major threats known

PORMPURAAW LAND & SEA MANAGEMENT
 Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumphan - Pormpuraaw Land & Sea Country CNRM Plan 2010 - 2015

TRADITIONAL NAME/S	ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY OR SPECIES	PROTECTED SPECIES LISTING			THREATS
Marine Animals					
	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale	Endangered		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of marine biodiversity (krill) Over hunting Marine pollution and debris Climate change (sea temperature)
	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>	Bryde's Whale	Marine / Migratory		
	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Killer Whale, Orca	Marine / Migratory		
	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Turtle	Endangered		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine debris including ghost nets Other marine rubbish (plastic bags) Over hunting in some areas Predation by feral animals (pigs) Nest predation by feral pigs Boast trike Coastal development (lights at night) impact on nesting habits
	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback Turtle	Endangered		
	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	Olive / Pacific Ridley Turtle	Endangered		
	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill Turtle	Vulnerable		
	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle	Vulnerable		
	<i>Natator depressus</i>	Flatback Turtle	Vulnerable		
	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback Whale	Vulnerable		
	<i>Dugong dugon</i>	Dugong	Marine / Migratory	Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine debris including ghost nets Loss of seagrass meadows Over hunting in some areas Boat strike
	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	Salt-water / Estuarine Crocodile	Marine / Migratory	Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over collecting of eggs Illegal shooting
	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin	Marine / Migratory		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incidental capture by fisheries (bycatch) Illegal hunting / killing Live capture Competition with fisheries Pollution Wildlife Tourism Vessel traffic - boat strike Climate change impacts
	<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>	Irrawaddy Dolphin	Marine / Migratory		
	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Short-beaked / Common Dolphin	Marine		
	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's Dolphin / Grampus	Marine		
	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Spotted Dolphin	Marine		
	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	Spotted Bottlenose Dolphin	Marine		
	<i>Tursiops truncatus s. str.</i>	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	Marine		
	15 listed species (types)	Pipefish	Marine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss and degradation Marine pollution Loss of mangrove habitat Over collection for aquarium trade Illegal or over harvesting in SE Asia
	4 listed species (types)	Seahorse	Marine		
	1 listed species (type)	Pipehorse	Marine		
	19 listed species (types)	Sea Snake	Marine		
Plants					
	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>	Cooktown Orchid	Vulnerable	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal collecting Land clearing, habitat destruction
	<i>Dendrobium johannis</i>	Brown Antelope Orchid	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	

Note: The above listing is restricted to:

- 1) *Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened* species protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland); and
- 2) *Endangered, Vulnerable* and other listed species protected under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth).

A full list of all plant (flora) and animal (fauna) species found in the Pormpuraaw region and listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) is provided at Appendix 3. A search querying Australian Government databases listing *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (C'wealth) protected species provided at Appendix 4.

3.2 NATIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH (IMPORTANT INDICATOR SPECIES)

OTHER IMPORTANT INDICATOR SPECIES			Is It Listed?	THREATS	
LANGUAGE NAME INCLUDED OVER TIME	NATIVE PLANT OR ANIMAL SPECIES	COMMON NAME		PROBLEM	MANAGEMENT
Birds					
	<i>Ardeotis australis</i>	Australian Bustard	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> over hunting, habitat loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet season spelling of grazed paddocks Storm season burns
	<i>Artamus cinereus</i>	Black-faced Woodswallow	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> habitat loss, changes in vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important indicator of healthy woodlands Wet season spelling of open country if grazed Burn after 1st storms
	<i>Poephila cincta atrpygialis</i>	Black-throated Finch	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> habitat loss, changes in vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet season spelling of open country if grazed Storm season burns
	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Brown Treecreeper	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fire regime change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous fire management: early dry through to storm season
contact QPWS + report if found	<i>Turnix olivii</i>	Buff breasted Button Quail	Vulnerable (Queensland) Endangered (Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> very rare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional fire management: mosaics
	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> habitat change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fence off wetlands Burn in early dry
contact QPWS + report if found	<i>Erthrura gouldiae</i>	Gouldian Finch	Endangered (Queensland & Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> very rare, feral cat predation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous fire management: early & storm season mosaic burns Eradicate / control feral pigs
Animals					
contact QPWS + report if found	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	Sugar Glider	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> feral cat predation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator of good fire regime Professional fire management: mosaics
Plants					
	<i>Alloteroopsis semialata</i>	Cockatoo Grass	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> feral pig damage changed fire regimes over grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradicate / control feral pigs Reduce grazing in early wet Burn small patches after 1st storms
if found, report to Queensland Herbarium ph: (07) 3896 9326	<i>Coix gasteenii</i>	Coix Cane Grass	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> feral pig damage changed fire regimes over grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire management: low intensity, infrequent fires Eradicate / control feral pigs Reduce grazing pressure
	<i>Heteropogon triticeus</i>	Giant Spear grass	not listed (Aust) Common (Qld)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> changed fire regimes over grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early wet season spelling of grassland country if grazed Light / moderate grazing
	<i>Oryza meridionalis</i>	Wild Rice	not listed (Aust) Common (Qld)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> feral pig damage invasive weeds changed fire regimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important indicator of healthy waterways and Bulkuru Eradicate / control Para grass Eradicate / control feral pigs Continuous mosaic burns
	<i>Sarga plumosum</i>	Plume Sorghum	(not listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> changed fire regimes over grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important indicator of healthy country Reduce heavy grazing in wet Continuous fire management: storm season mosaic burns, spell paddocks for 2 years after fires to allow plant recovery and seed set

3.3 INTRODUCED PLANTS AND ANIMALS (PEST SPECIES: WEEDS AND FERAL ANIMALS)

INTRODUCED PLANTS AND ANIMALS			IS THIS SPECIES DECLARED?	MANAGEMENT OPTIONS	MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS
LOCAL NAME/S	PLANT OR ANIMAL SPECIES	COMMON NAME	DECLARED WEED OR FERAL ANIMAL	HOW TO BEST MANAGE THIS PROBLEM	PEST MANAGEMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
Pest Animals (Ferals)					
	<i>Bufo marinus</i>	Cane Toad	not declared	Local eradication by trapping, euthanasia	2010 draft Cane Toad Threat Abatement Plan (DEWHA)
Feral horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>	Horse	not declared	Eradicate feral horses Maintain fences	2006 Oxley Wild Rivers NP (NSW) Feral Horse Management Plan
Feral pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Pig	Declared Class 2 (Qld) Pest Animal	Eradication by trapping, aerial and on-ground shooting, baiting (if acceptable)	2005 Threat Abatement Plan for Feral Pigs (DEWHA)
Wild dogs	<i>Canus familiaris</i> <i>Canus lupis dingo</i>	Dog (domestic) Dingo	Declared Class 2 (Qld) Pest Animal	Trapping, shooting, baiting (if acceptable)	2001 Managing Impacts of Dingoes and other Wild Dogs (DAFF)
	<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove	not declared	Monitor for presence	Management or threat abatement plans not available at this time
	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	not declared	Monitor for presence	
	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	not declared	Monitor for presence	
Pest Plants (Weeds)					
	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Elephant Grass, Giant Reed	not declared	Monitor for presence Map any weed areas	Weed Risk Assessment for Giant Reed (<i>Arundo donax</i>)
	<i>Chloris inflata</i>	Purpletop Chloris	not declared	Control if invading native habitat including wetlands, moist coastal and disturbed areas	Weed Management guidelines not available at this time
	<i>Cucumis anguria</i> var. <i>anguria</i>	West Indian Gherkin	not declared		
	<i>Cyperus compressus</i>	Summer / Flat sedge	not declared	Use appropriate control measures (fire, spray, biological, hand pulling)	
	<i>Echinochloa colona</i>	Awnless Barnyard grass	not declared	Revisit weed areas after control to check for new seedlings	
	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i>	Emilia	not declared		
	<i>Ipomoea nil</i>	Japanese Morning Glory	not declared	Emilia and Japanese Morning Glory control with fire achieves 70% mortality from 100% leaf scorch (Tropical Savannah CRC)	Biosecurity Queensland Pest fact sheet and Weed Risk Assessment
	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> var. <i>utilis</i>	Cow Itch, Velvet Bean	not declared, but an alert is current		call 1800 084 881 to report this weed
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Parkinsonia Jerusalem Thorn	Declared Weed (of National Significance) Declared Class 2 Weed Queensland	Chemical control, biological control Controlled burning	Parkinsonia Weed Management Guide Parkinsonia Best Management Manual
Rubber Vine	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	Rubber Vine	Declared Weed (of National Significance) Declared Class 2 Weed Queensland	Chemical control (foliar, basal bark, aerial) Controlled burning	Rubber Vine Management Manual
Castor Oil plant	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Bush	not declared toxic to humans, stock and other animals	Chemical control (basal, foliar)	Castor Oil Pest Facts

4. REGIONAL CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Threats and management activities impacting on Country (and also on the associated spiritual connections and cultural obligations Traditional Owners hold for their respective Country) require the active, informed involvement of the respective Traditional Owners in developing and implementing professional cultural / natural resource management (CNRM). Locally based Traditional Owner priorities for CNRM on Country may vary significantly to the often more generic natural resource management (NRM) targets set at the regional level through regional NRM Plans and associated regional investment strategies.

Research undertaken by various agencies including the Department of Climate Change (2010), the Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts, the Queensland Department of Environment & Resource Management, the CSIRO, and Land & Water Australia's Social and Institutional Research Program (2009) indicate clear positive linkages and emergent trends associated with pro-active, more equitable approaches to supporting and resourcing Aboriginal land and sea management, cultural / natural resource management on Country. In particular, the recent report *Risks from Climate Change to Indigenous Communities in the Tropical North of Australia* (Green and others:2009)¹⁵ provides the following major recommendations with respect to the northern Australian region more generally:

Biodiversity – Sustainable Landscapes

Dispossession and loss of access to traditional lands, waters and natural resources as well as a loss of ancestral, spiritual, totemic and language connections to lands are a major documented concern which have made Indigenous people more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

- Encouraging restitution of environmentally beneficial relationships with the land may contribute to reducing the vast differences in social outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, and in greatly enhancing the adaptive capacity of Indigenous Australians.
- Climate change adaptation planning must take the negative historical experience of relocation of Indigenous people from their country into account.

Livelihoods

Climate change will affect the 'natural' environment, with major flow-on implications for remote communities dependent on natural resources.

- The role of people in the landscape helping to manage climate impacts will be crucial and presents a significant opportunity for Indigenous livelihoods.
- Economic opportunities arising from climate change for Indigenous people living on land may include the need to better manage and restore ecosystems, and the pursuit of carbon mitigation and sequestration activities.

Indigenous people ... are actively managing vast tracts of both terrestrial and marine environments using ... knowledge systems in northern Australia.

- Limited engagement has occurred in the past between natural resource managers and these traditional owners.
- There is a lack of action-based research and analysis relating to Indigenous knowledge transmission to expected environmental degradation and other effects due to climatic changes. Research and development should give priority to Indigenous institutions that can act as a means of facilitating the research, whilst maintaining strong direction and input from the community. The benefits of greater Indigenous engagement extend beyond increasing employment opportunities – they can lead to increased connection to country, improve health outcomes and strengthened cultural practice.

4.1 WESTERN CAPE YORK CNRM

Western Cape York Peninsula Traditional Owners have a history in developing independent, locally based approaches to land and sea management and cultural and natural resource management. There is some degree of collaboration between Aboriginal communities on the western Cape coast who face similar challenges including large scale mining, increasing tourist numbers, escalating invasive weed spread and significant feral animal management issues. The remoteness of the region, and its extensive seasonal inundation each year pose further logistical and on-ground management constraints.

¹⁵ <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/publications/adaptation/risks-from-climate-change-to-indigenous-communities.aspx>

To the south, collaboration between Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw communities on CNRM related business has always been a feature of regional relations, and continues to be strengthened further. KALNRMO provides a high level of technical support and on-ground management collaboration for CNRM implementation on areas of Pormpuraaw Aboriginal lands, waters and seas. In particular - due to its greatly interwoven nature and its immediate proximity to the shared boundary between these two communities - the Mitchell-Coleman delta is a focus of collaborative CNRM efforts.

To the north, with Wik and Wik Way lands and waters extending across large areas of the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire, collaboration occurs directly with Traditional Owners, some of whom live at Pormpuraaw. PL&SM also has a developing relationship with Aurukun Shire Council and Ngan Aak Kunch Aboriginal Corporation¹⁶. PL&SM is strengthening its relations with other Indigenous Land and Sea Management Centres across Cape York Peninsula, including collaborative work and training programs with Traditional Owner Ranger groups in the region.

REGIONAL LEVEL THREATENING PROCESSES

Key threatening processes include large scale mineral exploration and associated mining activities, and escalating climate change impacts arising from human activity at extra-regional (national and global) scale.

MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINING DEVELOPMENT - HEAVY MINERAL SANDS

In the past, limited exploration has occurred in the region to identify potential offshore petroleum and gas deposits in coastal Gulf of Carpentaria waters. Mineral exploration activities and mining sector interest to date in the Pormpuraaw region have mostly revolved around exploration for potential mining of heavy mineral sands and associated rare earths. Mudd (2009)¹⁷ states:

Heavy mineral sands are named due to the dense and heavier nature of the principal minerals sought, rutile-zircon-ilmenite-monzite, compared to the sand matrix within which they are most commonly found in economic deposits.

The Australian heavy mineral sands industry had somewhat humble beginnings in the 1930's and is presently a major world producer of mineral sands products, namely rutile (TiO₂), ilmenite (FeTiO₂), zircon (ZrO₂) and monazite (a phosphate mineral rich in rare earths and thorium). The principal elements being sought are titanium (Ti, from rutile and ilmenite), zirconium (Zr) from zircon and rare earths from monazite. The industry grew out of the emergence of large scale dredging technology in the early 1900's, initially developed for alluvial gold and tin mining, and has adapted and expanded to its present position. An important factor that helped Australia developed a leading world position in the mineral sands market was its development of technology in the 1960's for processing the large quantities of ilmenite-dominant mineral sands resources, especially in Western Australia. By removing the iron present in ilmenite, a 'synthetic' rutile product can be produced of marketable quality.

The coastal regions of Australia continue to provide the dominant regions for mineral sands mining.

There is only quite sparse data available for the mineral sands industry with regards to ore mined and milled and its associated heavy mineral grade and overburden/waste. Good data sets are available for the total state production of rutile, ilmenite, zircon and monazite, principally from ABARE ... , as well as state annual reports and publications though gaps for some years remain. It was stated by Lee (2001) that ore grades are declining gradually and that the mineralogy is becoming more complex over time, requiring more vigilant attention in mine planning and operations.

As can be seen, Australian economic resources continued to increase significantly over the past decade, mainly related to recent exploration success in the Murray Basin... Of the economic ilmenite, rutile and zircon resources, 21.0, 24.7 and 21.0%, respectively, are classified as inaccessible to mining (eg. due to policy, conservation, military or other land use restrictions). The 2007 production rates of ilmenite, rutile and zircon [ensure] sufficient resources at present rates for at least 75 years.

[note: 600 kt/year = 600 x 1000 tonnes / year = 600,000 tonnes / year]

At present EPM application Nos. 15550, 15556 and 15559 (Corvette Resources) and and EPM application Nos. 15551, 15552 and 15561 (Niplats Australia Pty Ltd affecting in part the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire) remain current. These EPM applications cause significant on-going concerns for Traditional Owners.

¹⁶ This Corporation holds the successfully, and in part exclusively, determined native title rights and interests of Wik and Wik Way Peoples: refer to page X above.

¹⁷ Mudd, G M, 2009, *The Sustainability of Mining in Australia : Key Production Trends and Their Environmental Implications for the Future*. Research Report No RR5, Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University & Mineral Policy Institute, Revised April 2009.

CLIMATE CHANGE - PROJECTIONS FOR NORTHERN QUEENSLAND

Across the world, national, state and local governments are increasingly recognising the urgent need to prepare for (and to assist their various communities in preparing for) serious climate change impacts arising from rising global fossil fuel and energy use. The use of fossil fuels (coal, petrol, diesel and natural gas) for heating, cooking and general electricity generation in our communities is likely to change only slowly. In Australia, carbon market regulation is still some way into the future, and political progress towards real change and ecologically sustainable energy solutions (solar, wave, wind and geo-thermal) is lagging.

Traditional Owners and the Pormpuraaw Community are increasingly concerned about the emerging climate change impacts we all, our children and our children's children will face into the future across Pormpuraaw lands, seas and waters. We are gravely concerned about what these changes will mean for the many cultural / natural resources and biodiversity we presently see here throughout the year.

The Queensland Government's Office of Climate Change has recently released a document which outlines projected climate change impacts across Cape York Peninsula¹⁸. The Australian Government prepared a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy¹⁹ (2010) and CSIRO has produced climate change assessments²⁰.

Key human created climate change impacts we anticipate are likely to occur in our region by 2050 include:

- More pest weeds
- Increasing mosquito borne diseases (like dengue fever or malaria)
- Saltwater contaminating freshwater supplies in coastal areas
- Higher day time and night time temperatures
- More hot days during the year
- More severe rainfall, cyclone and storm surge events
- Rising sea levels
- Increasing coastal and riverbank erosion

Here at Pormpuraaw we are already seeing changes to our seasonal calendars which we base on the many thousands of years of knowledge gained from our Elders and Ancestors. We know these changes are largely out of our control - this worries us greatly and causes grave concern to our whole Community.

We observe these changes on a daily basis as they show us impacts on our subsistence resources and our culturally important indicator species - the changing seasonal movements and behaviours of our local animals, the changing flowering and growth patterns of our local plants.

We notice the changing rainfall patterns; increasingly severe weather events during the wet; the way in which brackish and salt waters are starting to change the sweetness of our freshwater wells throughout our traditional lands. We see the increasing amount of erosion impacting on coastal trees, and on the many sand-banks we use for our beach-side and river-side camps. This erosion is no longer happening at normal rates. In recent years, following severe wet season storms we have seen large areas of coastal open forest standing in salt water for much longer than usual, with important plant communities dying off as a result.

We, as Traditional Owners, are committed to ensuring our ancestral lands, seas and waters can provide for our Peoples and our Community, for our children's children and for their children in turn. We know that climate change is a key emerging threat to this vision and to our commitment to best manage our Country.

4.2 CAPE YORK PENINSULA – REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Management activities and threatening processes impacting on Country (and on the associated cultural obligations Traditional Owners have to their respective Country) require the active, informed involvement of the respective Traditional Owners in developing and implementing professional CNRM management. Traditional Owner priorities for cultural and natural resource management may vary significantly to the often more generic NRM targets set at the regional (Cape York Peninsula) level.

¹⁸ Qld Government, 2009: Office of Climate Change - <http://www.climatechange.qld.gov.au/pdf/regionsummary-capeyork.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/publications/adaptation/risks-from-climate-change-to-indigenous-communities.aspx>

²⁰ CSIRO climate research - <http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/>

Historically the formalisation of regional NRM arrangements on Cape York Peninsula has progressed only slowly. Until very recently, there was no formally established regional NRM body for the Cape region, with region-wide projects and NRM investment channelled through a number of interim organisations and forums. Lack of a community based regional NRM body for the region was seen as hindering substantial private sector investment into NRM in the region - Cape York Peninsula was until May 2010 the only such region in Australia without a community based regional NRM Board.

The inaugural Board of the Cape York Peninsula Natural Resource Management (NRM) Board, appointed for an initial term of three (3) years in May 2010 presently comprises:

Indigenous Sector zone 1:	Richard Tamwoy and Reginald Williams
Indigenous Sector zone 2:	Abraham Walter Omeenyo
Indigenous Sector zone 3:	Donald Edmond De Busch
Indigenous Sector zone 4:	Desmond Tayley
Local Government Sector:	Joseph Elu (elected Interim Chair by the Board)
Community Sector:	John Michael Giese
Conservation Sector:	Barry John Lyon
Primary Industry Sector:	Peter Josef Inderbitzin
Tourism, Small Business & Other Industries Sector:	Richard William Foster

The inaugural Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the CYP NRM Board is Bob Frazer, formerly CEO of NQ Dry Tropics NRM. The CEO has also been appointed for an initial term of three (3) years.

4.3 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADITIONAL OWNER LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT

Longer-term, viable and sustained Traditional Owner Ranger employment via PL&SM is an important priority for the Pormpuraaw Community. Growing pressures and threats to the region's terrestrial (land-based) and marine environments threaten the spiritual and cultural fabric of Country. Traditional Owners are concerned to manage Country for the benefit of present-day and future generations, and to meet our respective obligations to clan Dreamings and Spirits, our respective Ancestors and the legacy of our Elders.

The following research paper²¹ extract identifies the challenges for agencies, and for Traditional Owners, in developing relationships around natural resource management (NRM):

Traditional owners' aspirations for the management of their country is usually holistic. They do not separate land from sea, or natural resource management from cultural heritage management. Frequently, they see economic and social development goals as intertwined with 'looking after country'. Their challenges can be summarised broadly as achieving recognition of a right to be involved in natural resource management, achieving respect for their knowledge and skills, achieving understanding for their aspirations, building trust and communication with government agencies and other stakeholders, negotiating roles and perhaps shared management regimes, gaining resources for their management, and capacity building.

Where Indigenous communities seek to engage holistically in natural resource management, government agencies are formed and authorised to act along functional lines...

... They are at least organised to operate at large scales: where traditional owner groups are challenged by having to build and maintain relationships with several agencies relevant to their sea country, agencies are challenged by having to work with many different traditional owner groups, since each is sovereign over its own country, at a relatively small scale. Traditional owners are stable, with the key figures changing only with deaths. Agencies are subject to staff turnover, necessitating the building of new relationships, though some staff remain in posts for long periods.

Our advice to agencies in engaging with Indigenous communities over natural resource management includes:

- **Seek a mutually beneficial relationship**, whether or not this leads to identifiable initiatives and arrangements. A mutual relationship will be equitable, and have shared goals (George et al. 2004) while respecting any goals that a single party holds (Robinson et al. in press). Traditional owners have their own interests, as legitimate as those of agencies.
- **Build, work through and maintain relationships**. Process is as important as outcomes, and since relationships are highly important to Indigenous people, outcomes are difficult without good relationships.

²¹ *Engaging with Indigenous Communities in Natural Resource Management: Advice for Agencies* (2005), H. Ross (University of Queensland) and M. Nursey-Bray (James Cook University)

- **Try to understand each Indigenous group's context:** culture, values, histories, geography, community composition, leadership and poverty can all affect aspirations, issues and relationships
- **Compare 'interests' and seek common interest.** What are each party's aspirations, and what underlying needs do these represent? For instance, traditional owners are strongly focussed on meeting customary responsibilities to look after their 'country' well, but may seek to do so in ways that also alleviate poverty and provide meaningful activity for their younger members (Robinson et al. in press). Recognise one another's responsibilities, such as looking after country versus meeting legislation. Are there areas in which these interests coincide, for instance in keeping country 'healthy, conservation of species and their habitat.
- **Recognise that governance systems and associated issues differ for each party, and that this can create logistical challenges.** The parties have different spokespeople (with different systems of authorisation and accountability), and different decision-making structures, processes and protocols. They are responsible for different topics, and at different scales. While Indigenous organisations can play a valuable coordinating and advisory role at large geographical scales, traditional owners can speak only for their own country and feel compromised by expectations that they work through representatives. The processes of engagement and decision-making adopted must suit Indigenous decision-making structures and timeframes, not be forced into those of agencies.
- **Be aware that internal community structures and politics play a role, just as they do within agencies.**
- **Develop interest and trust in one another's forms of knowledge.** Consider protocols for the appropriate use of knowledge
- **Start modestly.** Ross et al. (in press) and some of the Aboriginal groups contributing to Ross et al. (2005) advocate an adaptive management approach to building partnerships, starting small and aiming to continuously improve the working relationship as well as its NRM outcomes.
- **Be open to either formal or informal processes.** Some Aboriginal groups are working very effectively with agencies in informal arrangements, whereas others have sought more formal arrangements.

[note: emphasis added]

On behalf of the Council and the Community, and with the support of key partners (land and marine management agencies, enforcement and compliance agencies, regional NRM interests, research bodies) PL&SM will continue to seek to secure a comprehensive negotiated joint investment package through the Australian and Queensland governments to provide efficient, value for money CNRM at Pormpuraaw for the longer term. Additional investment to complement such a coordinated investment arrangement might include fee for service arrangements, research collaboration, private sector investment and philanthropic funding sourced from within Australian and internationally.

5. DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

PL&SM has established reporting and budgeting protocols and practices. These are supported by the administrative capacity of the Council.

PL&SM operates and maintains GPS (Global Positioning System) based and GIS (Geographic Information System) driven spatial data collection and related mapping capacities. The office undertakes general reporting and data management tasks using standard desktop computers, data and word processing programs, for routine tasks such as controlled burns, environmental monitoring and visitor permitting.

Ranger staff regularly use I Tracker and PDAs in the field, including increasing use of “Windows” enabled mobile phone technology. This equipment, together with digital stills and video cameras are used regularly in the field, on patrol, for research and partner agency collaboration, and for surveillance and monitoring.

PL&SM currently tracks and reports on multiple NRM projects and fee for service contractual arrangements held with a range of government organisations and agencies.

To reduce transaction costs and confusion in managing multiple programs, Ranger employment contracts resourced through government agency arrangements are generally negotiated and managed simultaneously, as PL&SM Rangers undertake a combined work program with collective milestones.

Key aspects of PL&SM Ranger operations

- ⊙ Real time data is collated and gathered cumulatively (over time) through GPS track files (PL&SM Rangers)
- ⊙ Linked photos and technical data is also collected (PL&SM Rangers)
- ⊙ Information is uploaded and transferred to maps (PL&SM Rangers)
- ⊙ Data management (PL&SM Coordinator)
- ⊙ Data, maps / track files informs Land and Sea Management planning on an on-going basis
- ⊙ Data, maps / track files informs on-ground CNRM on an on-going basis
- ⊙ Maps / track files inform local (Council) and contracted (external agencies) reporting
- ⊙ Weekly PL&SM Ranger team meetings
- ⊙ Weekly written report including photos prepared about weekly activities (PL&SM Rangers)
- ⊙ Monthly reporting for Council (PL&SM Coordinator)
- ⊙ Ongoing development of PL&SM staff literacy and communication skills
- ⊙ Accredited training and professional development is tracked (PL&SM Coordinator)

Key Planning Documents and other PL&SM Projects requiring regular data input and activity tracking

- ⊙ Review of *Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Lands & Waters Fire Management Plan* (2010 - 2011) and updating of Plan for 2011 -2012 period, and annually beyond
- ⊙ Review of *Pormpuraaw Pest Management Plan 2010*
- ⊙ Review of *Ngamp inth Wantharr Yumpnham* over time
- ⊙ Review of *Cape York Peninsula Pest Management Plan* (2006)
- ⊙ Development of *Cape York Peninsula Natural Resource Management Plan*
- ⊙ Development of *Cape York Peninsula NRM Regional Investment Strategy*
- ⊙ Development of a potential future *Cape York Peninsula Cultural Resource Management Plan* or similar (Traditional Owner driven regional Cultural and Natural Resource Management plan)

PL&SM will continue to work with the full range of government organisations and agencies which partner the organisation, to develop robust monitoring evaluation and review processes for its ongoing land, sea, cultural and natural resource management activities.

APPENDIXES INCLUDING MAPS

Appendix 1 – Land and Sea Management Governance and Decision Making at Pormpuraaw

Appendix 2 – Cultural and Natural Resource Management Governance and Decision Making at Pormpuraaw

Appendix 3 – *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)*: Listed Plant (flora) and Animal (fauna) Species found in the Pormpuraaw Region

Appendix 4 - *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (C'wealth)* search for listed matters of National Environmental Significance (as at May 2010)

TO BE INCLUDED - SEPARATE PAGE FOR EACH

REFERENCES

TO BE LISTED

- HREOC: 2006a* *HREOC National Survey on Land, Sea and Economic Development, 2006*
HREOC: 2006b *HREOC Native Title Report (http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/nt_report/ntreport06/index.html)*
HREOC: 2006c *HREOC A&TSI Social Justice (http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/sj_report/sjreport06/index.html)*