

JARA MARUMBA YAGA

Make good Country

Quandamooka Country Sustainability Strategy





Acknowledgements

The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) acknowledges that we operate and function on the lands of the Quandamooka Peoples. We pay our respect to the land and sea that provide for us.

We acknowledge and pay respects to the Ancestors that walked and managed these lands sustainably for over 40,000 years.

We acknowledge our Elders who are our knowledge holders, teachers, and leaders. We acknowledge our youth who are our hope for a brighter future and who will be our future leaders and guide our children's children.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to our members who have gone before us and recognise their contribution to our people and community.

We acknowledge and thank all those involved in the development of *Jara marumba yaga* including the Land and Sea Committee, the Quandamooka Land and Sea Management Agency (QALSMA), the Board of Directors, and all survey respondents who have shared their knowledge and guided this strategy.

We acknowledge the support of Healthy Land and Water, Beck Grace, the Queensland Government, and the wide range of collaborating stakeholders that have provided assistance to realise the Quandamooka People's vision for *Jara marumba yaga*.

Jandai language expertise within *Jara marumba yaga* including the title has been provided by Aunty Sandra Delaney with the support of the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages and Arts Program. Language has been transcribed as part of our Indigenous Languages Preservation and Revival Project.



Winters Morning out Back Beach by Belinda Close

My story is always about home.
Quandamooka Country.

So magical is Minjerribah.

Full of fresh clean air on a cool winter's morning,
out the Back Beach.

As you look into my story, cold westerly winds
cut deep into the white sand dunes.

Spinifex dances in the wind, and the ocean's seawater
sprays droplets of wet sand everywhere.

Seaweed crawls up along the beach tossing
and rolling with the incoming tide.

Purple, pink, yellow, brown, and white eugaries
push up through the sand and look like
little mounds on the beach.

On the other side is our swamps and lakes which are
full of life, that filters freshwater out through the peat,
reeds, and sand then trickles down into the ocean.

Everywhere is in tune with each other ... waterways,
creeks, oceans, the seasons, our plants ... it's good to
be part of the earth ... our ancestors taught us that we
are all connected this way.

Belinda Close comes from a long line of traditional Minjerribah women. Her apical ancestor was Nidgeri. Her family belong to the Gorenpul, Ngugi and Noonuccal clans of Quandamooka. She has lived on Minjerribah all her life (from One-Mile to Dunwich) and belongs to the Saltwater Murris-Quandamooka Inc. Art Group, who are all descendants of the Quandamooka clans. Her inspiration comes from her island, her people, her family, their culture, the saltwater lakes, marine life, and plants.



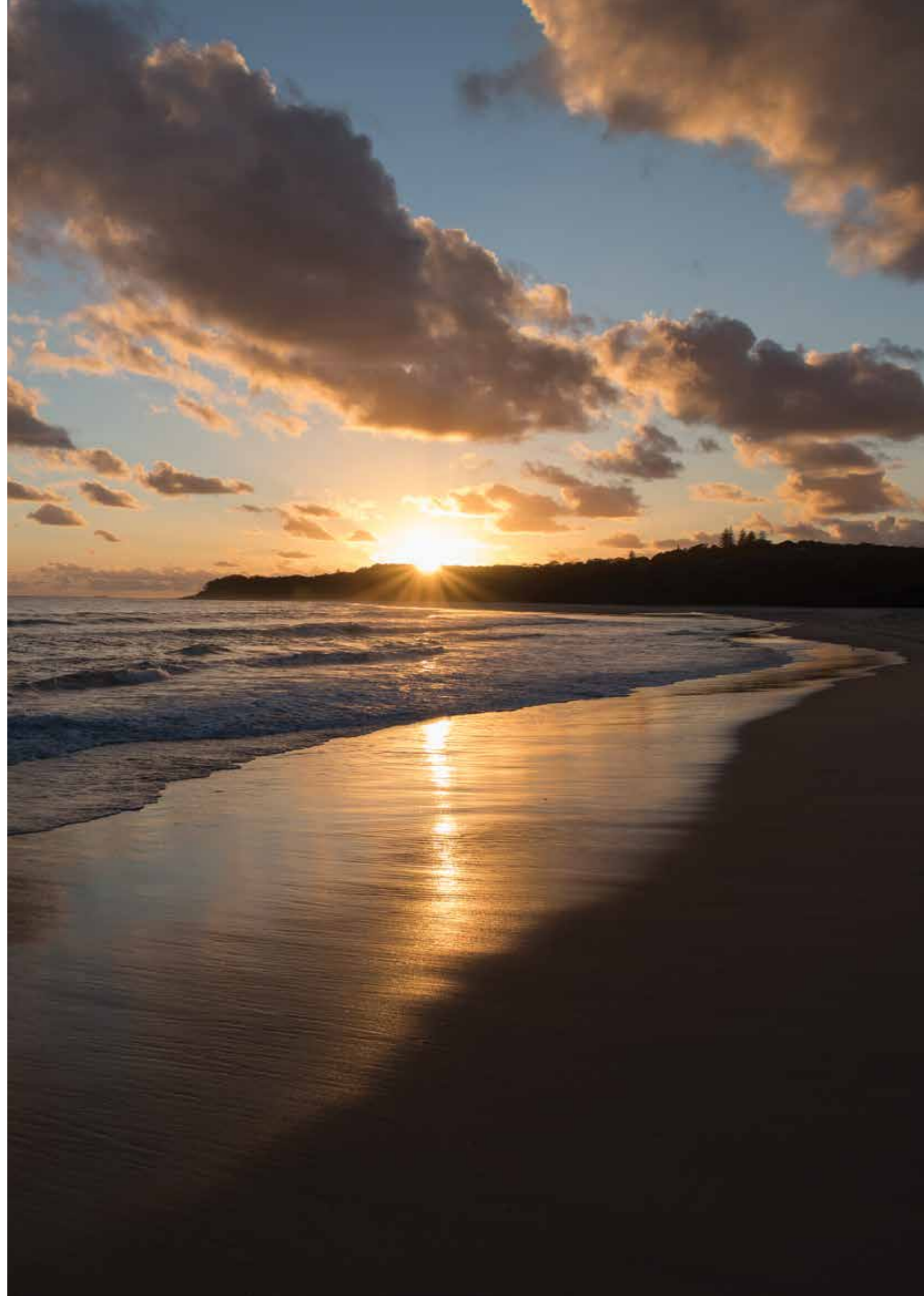
Foreword

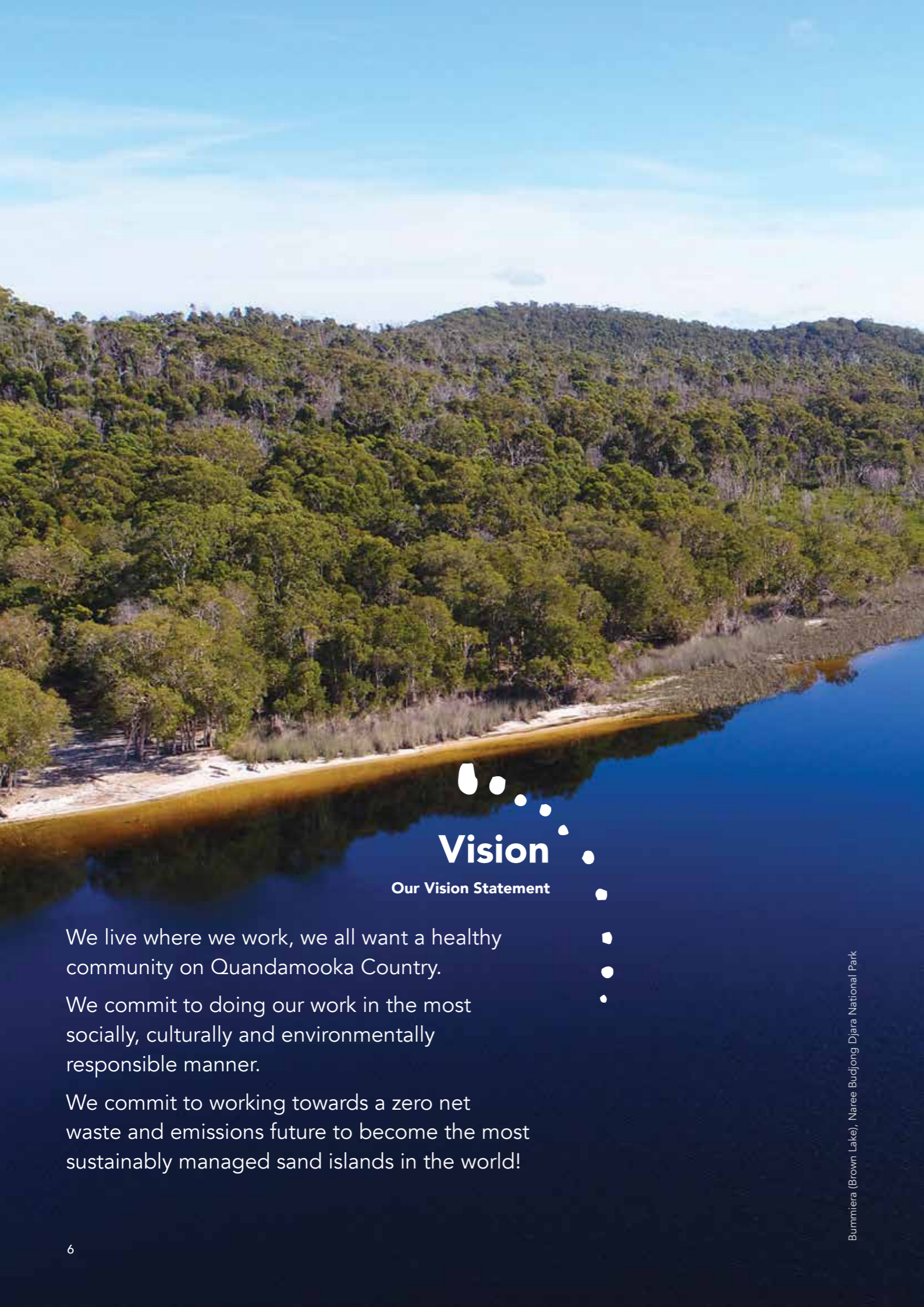
Sustainability is at the core of Quandamooka culture and who we are as Quandamooka People. For over 40,000 years our people have managed this Country and continue to do so. Quandamooka cultural practices, knowledge systems and connection to Country provide a source of great strength, resilience and pride. Caring for Country is fundamental to healthy culture and people. *Jara Marumba Yaga* reinforces the need for Quandamooka people to drive the custodianship of Country and to ensure a glad tomorrow for our children's children.

With reflection on the past and forward thinking focused on the generations to come, our ideas and actions will strengthen our community through the development and implementation of a whole of Quandamooka Country Traditional Owner Fire Management regime. Corresponding strategies include, enhancing cultural heritage compliance and protections, as well as development of a Quandamooka groundwater management approach.

Jara Marumba Yaga is the Quandamooka People's strategy for Quandamooka country, supported by both government and industry. It reflects our ambitions for our Community and how we intend to lead the way for supporting fundamental values to sustain Quandamooka Country.

Valarie Cooms
QYAC Chairperson





Vision

Our Vision Statement

We live where we work, we all want a healthy community on Quandamooka Country.

We commit to doing our work in the most socially, culturally and environmentally responsible manner.

We commit to working towards a zero net waste and emissions future to become the most sustainably managed sand islands in the world!

Bumiera (Brown Lake), Naree Budjong Djara National Park



Quandamooka Festival

The Quandamooka Perspective

We are the Quandamooka People. We are Yoolooburabee (people of the sand and sea). Our connection to our Ancestral lands and waters remains unbroken.

Quandamooka Country is the Quandamooka People's sanctuary we have carefully managed for thousands of generations.

We acknowledge that our physical, spiritual, and emotional wellbeing and connection to Country has been handed to us by our Ancestors. Through our continued cultural practices, we maintain, protect, and nurture our cultural and natural values across all of Quandamooka Country for our children's children.

We have an unbroken connection to Quandamooka Country with over 40,000 years of stewardship that needs to be continued and heightened to further care for Country. Through careful planning and management, we can ensure that the needs of today are met whilst ensuring that the future of our children's children is one of social equality, economic development, and a place where culture and nature thrive.

Jara marumba yaga forms the basis for a five-year Action Plan that will, in addition to caring for Country, help achieve the social, economic, and cultural goals of the Quandamooka People.

Objectives

The following objectives are what Jara marumba yaga aims to achieve for the seven focal areas of the strategy.

- Enable self-sufficiency of Quandamooka People by transforming how our energy is generated and used, resulting in reduced emissions and ensuring we do our part in fighting climate change.
- Empower Quandamooka People to lead the way in waste management systems that reduce waste production and environmental impacts whilst increasing employment outcomes.
- Preserve our Culture and Country through the protection of the Quandamooka Estate.
- Continue to reinstate custodianship by incorporating traditional science and knowledge in Quandamooka led management of Land and Sea Country.
- Protect our life-sustaining water resources, to ensure the optimum outcomes for the future of Quandamooka Country.
- Sustainably connect Quandamooka Country through transport systems to achieve social and economic objectives while protecting our natural environments, wildlife, and culture.
- Increase the resilience of Quandamooka Country through land and sea planning that looks to the future and protects Quandamooka values.



Quandamooka People

Quandamooka People have cared for these lands and seas for over 40,000 years. Expressed through art, stories, dance, language, and songs, Quandamooka culture remains strong today. Our cultural protocol, traditions, and responsibilities to always protect and care for our ancestral lands, wildlife, and waters have never been ceded. We are the people of the sand and sea.

The Quandamooka People are a First Nation of Traditional Owners from Moreton Bay and the southern mainland areas in South East Queensland. The groups that make up the Quandamooka People include Nunagal, Ngugi, and Goenbal. The Quandamooka People are the biological descendants of the 12 family groups who identify as, and are accepted as Quandamooka People by other Quandamooka People according to Quandamooka traditional law and custom.

On 4 July 2011, the Quandamooka People were recognised within the Australian legal system under its Native Title Laws. This landmark determination recognised the Quandamooka People's enduring connection to the Native Title claim area comprising of waters, islands, and land on and around Minjerribah. Today the Quandamooka People have extended recognition of their Native Title over Country including Mulgumpin and continue to operate under our own distinct system of laws and customs.



Quandamooka Country
The traditional estate of Quandamooka Country comprises the waters and lands of and around Mulgumpin, Minjerribah, the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and South Stradbroke Island. Quandamooka Country crosses the boundaries of four Queensland Local Governments. It includes the mainland from the mouth of the Brisbane River, Wynnum, Chandler, Lytton, Belmont, Tingalpa, south to Cleveland taking in Redlands Coast, and further south to the Logan River.

What is in the strategy?

Quandamooka Country and its People have coexisted for millennia and have adapted to a changing environment throughout history such as climate change, sea level rise, wildfire, wars, pandemics, global economic shocks, and extreme weather events. The future holds more of the same and other unknowns which can be avoided, mitigated, or adapted to by ensuring Quandamooka Country and its People are maintained with integrity and good health. This can be addressed by supporting Quandamooka People to take advantage of future economic opportunities as a result of the sustainable custodianship of natural and cultural assets.

Jara marumba yaga has been developed with the acknowledgement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It specifically contributes to the following goals:



There are four aspects underpinning sustainability; **social, economic, cultural, and environmental**. These aspects form a strong basis for *Jara marumba yaga* and its resulting actions.



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SUSTAINABILITY?

Cultural Sustainability

Quandamooka Country has a wealth of cultural heritage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

Songlines are held in physical parts of the country, stretching across land and sea. Each location has its own songs, rituals, and stories, handed down generation after generation. They are the past, present, and future of the Quandamooka People, written in the land. If an element of a songline is damaged then that story and connection can be changed forever bringing great sadness and sense of loss to our people. This impacts on the social dimension of cultural sustainability.

A priority is the physical and spiritual preservation of cultural heritage and the avoidance of inappropriate commoditisation of culture and natural assets. Inappropriate commoditisation can occur when activities such as tourism proceed with an overwhelming economic focus rather than respecting

the value and significance of culture and natural assets. Cultural sustainability is intertwined throughout this strategy. For more details on specific cultural sustainability actions refer to *Mara Millen Yagabili: Many Hands Create*, the Quandamooka Arts and Culture Strategy.

Social Sustainability

Social sustainability can be defined as the ability of a community to provide the essential support and basic services for individuals to achieve their aspirations while not reducing the opportunities for future generations to achieve their aspirations.

The strong community cohesion that exists through traditional kinship ties provides an important framework for the community to mitigate and recover from impacts and to maximise opportunities that arise. The diversity of people living and working on Country represents a valuable set of skills, knowledge, and

personalities which can achieve the collective vision for sustainability. *Jara marumba yaga* will clearly articulate how the community can work together to sustain a welcoming and productive society. A critical element of this aspect is education, training, and employment. *Jara marumba yaga* is complimented by actions that are found within the Quandamooka Education, Research, Training, Employment and Small Business Innovation Strategy.

Social sustainability is greatly enhanced when Quandamooka People are actively involved in the protection and conservation of our cultural heritage, lands and seas.

Environmental Sustainability

Quandamooka People are connected to the land, sea, and each other through obligations and responsibilities to care for Country. We value the plants, wildlife, and special places found across Quandamooka Country and have connections to these features that are important for maintaining Quandamooka lifestyles. Visitors come to see the highly visible wildlife, the beautiful places, and to experience the relaxed and therapeutic atmosphere associated with Country.

Future population and tourism growth have the potential to impact our already threatened species and landscapes. The protection and care for our flora and fauna is vital to ensuring these populations are sustainable.

Economic Sustainability

One of the recent changes to the economy of Quandamooka Country has been the cessation of mining on Minjerribah. With the end to sand mining, there is a need to transition the Island's economy to a more stable and resilient future. Industries such as tourism, education and sustainable use of resources offer opportunities to contribute to maintaining and growing employment and continued economic prosperity of the island in a way that recognises the aspirations of the Quandamooka People and residents of the Island.¹

Tourism, when managed appropriately, is one of several alternatives that can help the Minjerribah community address socioeconomic issues and increase recognition of Quandamooka Country values.^{2,3} However, there is also the potential for negative cultural, social, and environmental impacts which can take a serious toll on the fragile places, and societies when tourism activities are mismanaged.

The pressure on biodiversity and natural habitats as a result of a changing climate and human activity across the globe will increase the value of healthy natural areas and habitats to tourism and related industries such as the retail and service sectors.⁴ This will in turn increase the importance of sustainable management of natural assets and biodiversity for their existence, value, and contribution to the region in the long term. This provides an opportunity for Quandamooka Country over other areas of the globe where natural and cultural assets have been degraded.

However, it is also important not to replace a reliance on one industry like mining with a singular industry such as tourism. A diversity of industries and activities is required to create and maintain a resilient Island economy where the economy is underpinned by the environmental and cultural values of Quandamooka Country rather than an overriding focus.

For more information about sustainable tourism on Quandamooka Country, please refer to the Tourism Strategy, *Gudjundabu Marumba Gubiyiyanya*.



¹ EC3 Global (2011) *Interim Tourism Industry Action Plan North Stradbroke Island 2011*, DERM, Brisbane.

² Guille, H. (2014) *The rents of paradise - what to do with Island economies* - Presentation to The 1st South East Queensland Island Forum held on North Stradbroke Island and Southern Moreton Bay Islands, February 2014.

³ McCool, S. and Moisey, R.N. (eds) (2008) *Tourism, recreation, and sustainability: linking culture and the environment 2nd ed.* CAB International 2008, Oxfordshire.

⁴ Hajkowicz, S., Cook, H., and Boughen, N. (2013) *The Future of Tourism in Queensland - Megatrends creating opportunities and challenges over the coming twenty years* CSIRO, Canberra.



Yungan (Dugong)

Guiding Principles

Quandamooka People see the world as a network of interconnected relationships between people, landscapes, plants, and animals. No one relationship can be separated from the other. It is understanding and nurturing the connections between the elements of a landscape and society that provides the true road map for sustainability.

This requires a deep understanding and approach to stewardship that in turn will provide a more effective strategy for action to ensure sustainability.

The representative body, QYAC, has articulated a set of guiding principles for stewardship based on the knowledge, experiences, and aspirations of the Quandamooka People that describe the relationships between people, landscapes, plants, and animals. The principles guide the realisation of the objectives of *Jara marumba yaga* as follows:

1 Maximise ecological and cultural sustainability before economic benefit.

2 Energy, water and waste systems which promote the conservation of resources.

3 Provide sufficient space and time through land and sea planning so that Quandamooka People always have access to enjoy Country and cultural resources, and to undertake cultural activities.

4 Maximise employment, procurement, capacity building, and participation for Quandamooka People.

5 Promote caring practices and behaviours to eliminate waste and emissions on Quandamooka Country.

6 Ensure all Quandamooka People have access to safe, suitable affordable housing, water, sewage, and energy services.

7 Maximise the material, cultural and environmental benefits for Quandamooka People.

8 Support the Quandamooka People to play the lead role in sustainable land and sea management, planning, and governance through QYAC.

9 Integrate science and traditional science and knowledge to ensure environmental best practice is implemented for all land and sea management.

10 Encourage improved human behaviour and community practices to create sustainable communities.



FOCAL AREAS

Water

To achieve a sustainable Quandamooka Country, waterways must be clean and healthy by ensuring the amount and quality of water present supports the connections between all four dimensions of sustainability.

Quandamooka People are ‘the people of the sand and sea’ and possess a strong connection to water, both marine and freshwater. Sustaining this connection is vital for the health of water and the lives of people, landscapes, flora, and fauna. Water is the connector in this all-encompassing spiritual, cultural, social, economic, and environmental system.

There are many threats to this connection (in particular from a reduction in rainfall as a result of a changing climate) and the increasing demand for clean and reliable water supplies for a growing South East Queensland population. Providing adequate supplies of water for natural and cultural systems and caring for the health of water resources on Quandamooka Country is essential to a sustainable future.

Poor water quality and reduced water levels can break the connection between natural and cultural systems and make it difficult for plants and animals to survive. These connections can be seen in the close relationship between groundwater and surface water systems. The extent of interrelatedness of groundwater and surface water on Quandamooka Country is highly complex and in many cases not properly understood. This requires further investigation underpinned by current key management philosophies and theories relating to total water management for the Islands alongside holistic integrated catchment management for the entirety of Quandamooka Country.

Water connects people, plants, and animals as it flows through a landscape in response to the weather and climate. It is these flows that must be guaranteed through a holistic management approach that prioritises the environmental and cultural values of water. The allocation and use of water must be based on a balanced approach of traditional and western science that ensures Quandamooka People are actively involved in water management.



Conservation

The conservation of our Country, our People, and our history as the foundation for the future is paramount. Quandamooka Country possesses very high conservation values and a diversity of habitats in addition to high Quandamooka and European cultural heritage values.

The land and sea are home to the plants and animals that provide the biodiversity required for life. Biodiversity and the processes it generates provides essential services such as clean air and water, food, and fibre.

Achieving our goal of 80% of Minjerribah protected under National Park will produce positive conservation outcomes for Quandamooka Country. The protection and management of cultural heritage and landscapes further support the conservation of Quandamooka history and culture.

⁷ <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/managing/framework/>

The expansion of joint management arrangements to include Mulgumpin’s National Park area allows a holistic and integrated management of large areas of Quandamooka Country. A Values Based Park Management Framework⁷ is being employed in the development of the visitor management plan for Naree Budjong Djara National Park.

QYAC has continued a campaign for the nomination and listing of a Quandamooka – Moreton Bay World Heritage Area. This aims to foster greater recognition of the values of Quandamooka Country, particularly the land and waters on and around Minjerribah and Mulgumpin, while supporting the implementation of better management systems and outcomes for Country.

World Heritage designation will help to ensure Quandamooka People are integral in managing Country, ensure sensitive tourism and recreation, and attract additional resources for land and sea management.

Transport

For Quandamooka People, moving around Country and further afield has always been an important part of life allowing for social and ceremonial activities, trade and adaptation to changes in our environment. Land, sea, and air transport is an essential part of life on Quandamooka Country, allowing communities and businesses to be effectively connected and sustained.

Connecting townships and key recreational and cultural sites is integral to the social and economic fabric of Quandamooka Country. A transport system that minimises waste and maximises efficiencies is important for all sectors of the community.

Residents require transport to access employment, sustain community ties, and meet cultural obligations. Transport is important to access education and training both on the Island and on the mainland. Education and training complements Quandamooka traditional knowledge and science to ensure ongoing stewardship of Country.

The tourism industry relies on transport for visitors to access the islands from the mainland and to access facilities and attractions. Tourism related transport comprises of private vehicles and vessels, commercial barges, ferries, buses, trains, and aircraft. Transport is of high economic value to Quandamooka Country.

Commerce requires the free flow of goods and services especially back and forth from the mainland which often results in a higher carbon footprint than the mainland. The environmental, social and cultural impacts of commercial and recreational vessels and vehicles, public transport systems, and residential transport can be seen on a local and broader scale.

Local impacts from transport systems include sediment disturbance, seagrass and coral habitat damage, and shoreline erosion from marine vessel traffic. Vessel impacts also result in injury and death to many of the Bay's most iconic and culturally significant species with half of the coastal boat strike incidents in Queensland attributable to Moreton Bay.⁵

⁵ <https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/moreton-bay/boat-strikes/>

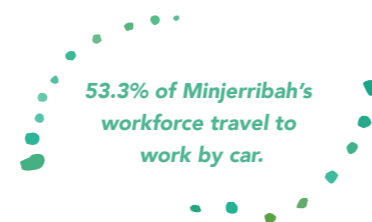
Vessels also pose a threat to the health of Country by introducing oil, fuel, cleaning and anti-foul chemicals, sewage, and waste disposal into the environment.

Four-wheel vehicle driving (4WD) is a popular activity on Quandamooka Country. This activity places pressures on soil and sand stability which can result in erosion particularly in fragile sand dune systems. Roosting shorebirds are also commonly disrupted by 4WD traffic.

Increasing air traffic through Quandamooka Country's airspace as a result of expansions to mainland airport and increased activity, risks higher air pollution and noise levels. Addressing this issue is a global and regional challenge which *Jara marumba yaga* supports as part of a more sustainable tourism industry.

An increasing population in South East Queensland will require transport planning to cater for any future population growth and the needs of a sustainable tourism industry. A crucial goal of a sustainable transport system is to reduce the need for private vehicles and increase the quantity and effectiveness of public transport networks and other options.

Enhancing the connectivity across Quandamooka Country in sustainable ways can reduce the environmental impacts of transport whilst supporting sustainable economic, cultural and social goals.



Land and Sea Planning

Our communities must have access to the resources and services required to sustain life such as food, clean water, energy, waste management facilities, and accommodation. These basic needs are required to achieve individual and community aspirations while nurturing a healthy environment that in turn supports healthy humans.

Land and sea planning must be holistic and understand how elements are connected across and beyond Quandamooka Country to ensure potential impacts on natural and cultural assets such as climate change and development can be considered in tune with community aspirations. This includes the applications of best practice land and sea planning methodologies such as "Limits of Acceptable Change"; "Recreational Opportunity Spectrum" and the "Ecological Footprint".

Island and coastal communities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. Heatwaves and sea-level rise (with the associated risk of inundation) are also major risks. A major impact of a changing climate is increased erosion of sandy shorelines, largely driven by predictions of stronger storm events. Commercial development, social infrastructure, coastal infrastructure, and transport networks including recreational tracks are also potentially exposed.⁶

Land and sea planning must respect Quandamooka aspirations and the cultural, social, economic, and environmental values of Quandamooka People and Country, as described in the QYAC Strategic Plan. Unsustainable development often changes vegetation structure, and destroys habitat and the beauty and peace of the land and sea. Sustainable development should always protect ecological processes and natural systems to provide opportunities for sustainable economic development while maintaining the cultural, physical, and social wellbeing of people and communities.

⁶ Roiko A., Mangoyana R., McFallan S., Oliver J., Carter R., Matthews J. and Smith T. (2010) Socio-economic Trends for South East Queensland and Directions for Climate Change Adaptation, Sustainability Research Centre, University of the Sunshine Coast, Sippy Downs, Qld, Australia.

Energy

Energy takes many forms in a landscape and within society. There is the energy that flows between people, and flows between people and the environment in the form of relationships and responsibilities. Separately, there is the manufactured energy required to power a society and an economy to allow these relationships to form and flourish.

The landscapes of Quandamooka Country contain a life energy that is integral to its health and that of its people. This energy is bound to the stories and responsibilities associated with natural and cultural assets and places and must be maintained to ensure relationships are harmonious and productive.

Increasing the self-sufficiency of manufactured energy is a key ingredient for a sustainable Quandamooka Country. Currently, energy for island communities comes from the mainland power grid, powered by mostly non-renewable energy sources.

A sustainable future for Quandamooka Country requires a sustainable energy network, increasing self-sufficiency whilst minimising greenhouse gas production. Minjerribah Camping has already begun shifting to renewable energy through the generation of solar to sustain camping activities.

Renewable energy generation has immense potential as a future industry on Quandamooka Country, supporting employment opportunities, the local economy and the community and helping us reach a vision of a zero net emission future.



Waste

A cornerstone of Quandamooka stewardship is the law and custom of beneficiary take and replenishment which means only taking what is needed, not wasting anything, and ensuring there is always some left to reproduce, or for others to take. This system provides a strong commitment to waste minimisation which is the first step in waste management.

Waste is produced as a result of social and economic activities. Waste needs to be managed appropriately including opportunities to reuse and repurpose material to satisfy other needs such as energy and recycled products.

Waste can be sewage, food waste, and commercial and residential litter. If waste is not managed properly it can reduce the health of people, place, environment, and waterways. Mismanaged waste also impacts the social and cultural values of Quandamooka Country and threatens economic activities such as tourism.

Waste management must be based on an integrated system of minimisation, resource recovery, and reuse and must operate efficiently with low impact on environmental and cultural values. If specially built waste management systems are not operated properly, they also pose potential dangers for human health.

Currently waste management systems on Quandamooka Country include removal of rubbish from island communities to mainland resource recovery centres. Mainland centres then treat, contain, and stockpile waste for reuse or destruction.

Sewage treatment plants service parts of Minjerribah, Coochiemudlo Island, and mainland communities. A number of communities across Quandamooka Country remain on septic systems.

Sustainable waste management requires a holistic approach that looks at every link in the chain; from rubbish production in households to commercial practices, and the associated carbon footprint.



Land and Sea Management

Informed by detailed consideration and planning (refer Land & Sea Planning section above), sustainable land and sea management ensures Quandamooka landscapes, flora and fauna, and natural processes are successfully cared for, securing their future existence. Caring for Country, and therefore cultural health, requires meaningful participation in land management. Through the employment of Quandamooka People in land and sea management, custodianship can be enacted through caring for Country, reinstating stewardship, and increasing economic outcomes.


The application of adaptive management principles is critical to support the effective management of Quandamooka Country, recognising the complex mosaic and variable nature of its landscapes.

Land and sea management is also focused on the rehabilitation of disturbed ex mining land and contaminated sites. The restoration and rehabilitation of our landscapes promotes ecosystem health, increasing environmental resilience in addition to providing opportunities for Quandamooka People to participate in land and sea management.

Fire affects air quality, human health, the health of our soil, and soil erosion. Increased erosion from bare soil exposed to more frequent extreme events could impact the supply of clean water. There is a high confidence that climate change will result in a harsher fire-weather climate in the future.

The *Jarlo Jargu Boma* (Striking Fire to Ground) Project aims to restore cultural fire practices and integrate this knowledge into land management to reduce the occurrence of large wildfires. Cultural heritage sites are also being managed to reduce the threat from wildfires. In addition, fire management strategies coordinated by QYAC and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) are protecting urban areas, infrastructure, and natural assets across Minjerribah.

Cultural burning practices are central to fire management strategies. Frequent low intensity burning is consistent with the cultural practices of the Quandamooka People. These practices maintain cultural landscapes and ecosystem structure while protecting life and property.



“ The Aboriginal peoples of Quandamooka have never relinquished sovereignty over our land and sea Country. Archaeological evidence shows that our cultural heritage today is part of an ongoing management regime that spans more than 25,000 years. Our cultural heritage, our ‘business’, is caring for this Country. Our land and sea Country is a cultural landscape that includes our living community, the spirits of our Ancestors, our children, our children’s children, and their descendants into the future .⁸ ”

Foundational Plans and Consultation

Jara marumba yaga acknowledges that sustainability has always been a consideration for the Quandamooka People and is reflected in a significant body of previous planning and strategic documentation.

Jara marumba yaga has been developed in consideration of the following foundational plans as the building blocks for this strategy:

- *Gudjundabu Marumba Gubiyiyanya* Tourism for a glad tomorrow: A five-year strategy for sustainable tourism on Quandamooka Country
- Quandamooka Yoolooburabee Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Plan 2017-2020
- Shaping SEQ, South East Queensland Strategic Plan 2017
- Minjerribah Futures
- Our Plan: The South East Queensland Traditional Owner Cultural Resource Management Plan
- Quandamooka Education, Research, Training, Employment and Small Business Innovation Strategy 2020-2023
- Mara Millen Yagabili: Many hands create Quandamooka Arts and Culture Strategy
- Through Native Title to a glad tomorrow
- South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009-2031
- North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011
- Quandamooka Action Plan 2013

Jara marumba yaga recognises that there will be future Quandamooka action planning processes which may compliment and supersede elements of this strategy.

Pressures impacting Quandamooka Country and subsequent relevant actions have been identified through consultation with the Quandamooka Community and are reflected through this strategy.

As planning progresses and projects develop over the five-years of this strategy, engagement and consultation with Traditional Owners will continue through QYAC.

⁸ North Stradbroke Island Aboriginal Community Plan 2007



Mount Vane, Mulgumpin

Strengths, Opportunities, Pressures, and Challenges

Jara marumba yaga recognises the opportunities that can be harnessed across Quandamooka Country, through a shared vision that encourages social, cultural and economic growth without compromising the environment and the future of Quandamooka Country.

In doing so, it also recognises the current and future pressures that impact Quandamooka Country and the challenges that must be overcome to ensure a sustainable future.

The Quandamooka People face the challenges of undertaking their traditional role as caretakers of the land and sea in a modern world that has considerably changed through displacement of cultural practices and the introduction of laws and practices since the first European settlement almost 200 years ago.

Identifying and acknowledging our strengths, opportunities, pressures and challenges will enable the formation of partnerships to investigate and examine each of these in more detail and identify actions to work collaboratively across all levels of government and the community.

Strengths

- Local scale actions are achievable over the entirety of Quandamooka Country, resulting in extensive positive impacts.
- A strong community connected through similar values and an appreciation of Quandamooka Country.
- Emerging youthful workforce with 31% of Aboriginal people living on Minjerrabah under 15 years old.
- Over 20,000 years of traditional knowledge and science from the continuous occupation of land and sea by Quandamooka People.
- 30,720ha of Quandamooka Country is already classed as protected areas with Naree Budjong Djara jointly managed and cared for by Land and Sea Rangers.

Opportunities

- Partnerships formed through current MoU arrangements by QYAC with State Government, research institutions, and industry.
- Research opportunities through current and future partnerships and the creation of a dedicated Research Hub within Minjerrabah Ganaba.
- Increasing the capacity and knowledge of the Quandamooka People.
- Advances in technology are continually being discovered and developed, allowing sustainability to become more attainable and affordable.
- Sustainability initiatives present an opportunity to increase and enhance economic development while providing post mining employment opportunities.
- The promotion of social cohesion through a shared community vision of a sustainable future.

Pressures and Challenges

- Renewable energy storage is not economically viable yet for large applications and capacity is still limited, however frequent technological advances are enhancing efficiency and reducing the associated costs.
- Increasing population and tourism industry growth will see increased transportation, development, natural resources, and services demand.
- Climate change and its associated impacts are becoming an ever-increasing threat to coastal communities, threatening Quandamooka Country's landscapes and flora and fauna.
- Increased tourism activity during peak periods places stress on the wildlife.
- Transport constraints inhibit direct access from Brisbane and the Gold Coast, coupled with limited public transport options on Minjerrabah and across Quandamooka Country.
- Large scale sustainability actions sometimes are not possible due to economic, social, political, and innovation barriers.

Action Plan

Over the next five years, key actions will be identified and led by QYAC across the whole of Quandamooka Country and will form part of a detailed action plan that will underpin *Jara marumba yaga*. As planning progresses, new actions will be identified and prioritised as required to achieve the objectives of *Jara marumba yaga*.



Land and Sea Management Objective

Continue to reinstate custodianship by incorporating traditional science and knowledge in Quandamooka led management of Land and Sea Country through the following actions:

- Transition to the use of only biodegradable pesticides across Quandamooka Country.
- Implement of the statement of intent regarding the ending of mining on Minjerribah.
- Develop and implement of a whole of Quandamooka Country Traditional Owner Fire Management Regime and corresponding strategies including a Quandamooka Country Fire Hazard and Fuel Monitoring Plan.
- Develop a Quandamooka Sea Country Management Plan that ensures management actions such as the Marine park zoning review recognise Traditional Owner rights and interests.
- Undertake specific Catchment Management Plans for Minjerribah and Mulgumpin and develop specific wetland management plans.



Waste Objective

Empower Quandamooka People to lead the way in waste management systems that reduce waste production and environmental impacts whilst increasing accessibility and employment outcomes through the following actions:

- Work to reduce waste production from Quandamooka Country by:
 - Supporting the banning of single use plastics;
 - Quandamooka festival transforming into a showcase 'green' event;
 - Implementing education and waste recovery initiatives;
 - Undertaking of a waste production study to better understand and investigate options for waste recovery;
 - Implementing options that support waste recovery for Quandamooka Islands and Quandamooka led management of refuse centres on Native Title landscapes.
- Develop a sewage management strategy for the whole of Quandamooka Country that plans for future growth, aspirations and challenges and investigates current onsite septic systems on Quandamooka Country including location, impact and recommendations for the future.



Conservation Objective

Preserve our Culture and Country through the protection of the Quandamooka Estate by pursuing the following actions:

- Develop and implement a Quandamooka Country Koala Strategy that reduces domestic dog attacks on native fauna and includes the establishment of Minjerrabah based koala treatment facilities alongside koala release sites.
- Promote sustainable tourism on Quandamooka Country including introducing a visitor's commitment to respect our Islands through ECO-Destination certification with EcoTourism Australia.
- Protection of marine megafauna including:
 - Preventing boat strikes by developing and implementing a large marine mammal monitoring system;
 - Expanding community education, compliance, and protocol regarding dolphin feeding on Quandamooka Country;
 - Increasing protection measures to reduce unnatural turtle deaths across Quandamooka Country by 50%, supported by a turtle monitoring program development and implementation.
- Safeguard and document Quandamooka Cultural Heritage through comprehensive surveys of Quandamooka Country that contemporarily record and protect sites through a cultural heritage management plan.
- Increase protection of Quandamooka Country by:
 - Improving protection of flora, fauna, and cultural values by increasing protected areas in Quandamooka Country including reaching the 80% target on Minjerrabah and the installation of culturally appropriate signage in reserves;
 - Ensuring research does not result in cumulative impacts by improving permit management and processes;
 - Progressing World Heritage listing and pursue other mechanisms to recognise the globally significant cultural and environmental values of Quandamooka Country to ensure ongoing conservation and protection.



Ecological Survey Minjerribah



Minjerribah Camping



Land and Sea Planning Objective

Increase the resilience of Quandamooka Country through land and sea planning that looks to the future and protects our values through the following actions:

- Develop guidelines that support and empower Quandamooka homes and buildings to be optimised for innovative and sustainable living on Country.
- Develop an environmental health plan that:
 - Improves water and air quality;
 - Safeguards the life supporting capacity of air, water, and land ecosystems;
 - Removes the impact of contaminated land on human health;
 - Ensures waste management systems avoid public health risks;
 - Ensures accommodation meets community needs and facilitates the prevention of disease.
- Complete a study of sustainable land and sea use through a fine scale planning assessment (for example carrying capacity).
- Enhance cultural heritage compliance across all tenures on Quandamooka Country by improving development assessment processes.
- Undertake a Quandamooka Country housing study that includes:
 - Existing and future housing demand assessment;
 - Housing and accommodation supply;
 - Housing affordability;
 - Sustainable housing options;
 - Potential new forms of residential accommodation.



Energy Objective

Enable self-sufficiency of Quandamooka People by transforming how our energy is generated and used, resulting in reduced emissions to do our part in fighting climate change through the following actions:

- Support the transition of Quandamooka Country power to renewable energy sources by undertaking a feasibility study of network options including solar, tidal, and wind.
- Develop a solar farm on ex-mining land.
- Increase energy efficiency and renewable energy use across Quandamooka Country through increased uptake by community and business.



Fishermans swamp, Minjerribah



A range of transport arriving at Goompi



Water Objective

Protect our water resources to ensure the optimum outcomes for the future of Quandamooka Country by pursuing the following actions:

- Develop a Quandamooka groundwater management strategy which includes:
 - Establishing appropriate extraction limits;
 - Water restriction guidance;
 - Consideration of urban growth plans;
 - Future climate change scenarios;
 - Publicly transparent groundwater monitoring;
 - Understanding and management of water table impacts from current and past land use;
 - Considerations and management of the interactions between groundwater and cultural landscapes through total water management modelling.
- Increase efficient water practices by undertaking community engagement and education and expanding rainwater collection and storage on QYAC buildings.
- Implement water sensitive urban design into all future town planning.
- Increase the number of strategically placed monitoring bores to address gaps in the monitoring network.



Transport Objective

Sustainably connect Quandamooka Country to achieve social and economic objectives while protecting our natural environments, wildlife, and culture through the following actions:

- Provide low impact tourism transportation options for Quandamooka Country including the Great Walk development and the implementation of joint partnerships to bring more eco-friendly transport options to Minjerribah (normal bicycles, electrical bicycles or scooters).
- Protect cultural and environmental values from vehicle impacts by assessing the feasibility of the following:
 - Seasonal limits on 4WD beach permit availability;
 - Restructure of access areas;
 - Decreased speed limits on Flinders and Main beaches and other priority landscapes.
- Assess future risk to Quandamooka Country from air traffic movements and new aerial technologies.
- Develop a Quandamooka Country Transport plan that:
 - Coordinates and optimises connections between Quandamooka Country and the SEQ public transport network;
 - Facilitates improved connectivity between the Islands and mainland that protects Country and culture;
 - Incorporates world class sustainable and innovative transport operations.



Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC)

QYAC was established in 2011 under the Native Title Act 1993 as the Prescribed Body Corporate to manage the rights on behalf of all Native Title holders. QYAC acts as the agent for the Quandamooka Peoples' Native Title rights and interests in land and sea Country. QYAC is also the registered cultural heritage body under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (QLD).

QYAC is working with Quandamooka People with a focus on their priorities which will build on the Native Title outcomes to support a strong future for Quandamooka People. The role of QYAC in leading the *Jara marumba yaga* will help to ensure the future of Quandamooka Country is managed in a culturally, environmentally, and economically sustainable way.

Quandamooka Rangers are working on Country for the joint management of Minjerribah's Naree Budjong Djara (Our Mother Earth) National Park and Mulgumpin's Gheebulum Kunungai (Where Lightning Strikes) National Park. Rangers are learning from Elders and QPWS staff as traditional knowledge and science is passed on to the next generation. Socioeconomic and cultural networks are being sustained as Quandamooka Rangers become active and proud members of the workforce and society.

With QYAC now the largest employer on Minjerribah, and one of the largest economic contributors to Quandamooka Country, the Quandamooka People are now well positioned to play a significant role in safeguarding the future sustainability and prosperity of the region.

Our place in the world

Quandamooka Country has the potential to contain the most sustainably managed sand islands in the world. With an unbroken connection to Country, Quandamooka People can lead the way in ensuring the needs of now are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Through Island friendly solutions to sustainability we can achieve our long-term vision of a future Quandamooka Country that produces zero net emissions and waste.

QYAC has a unique capacity to achieve engagement at multiple levels, from a community approach to local, state, and national governments. This broad engagement allows for a holistic approach enabling sustainability to encapsulate the entirety of Quandamooka Country.

Internationally

- QYAC is a leader in First Nations around the world, pioneering a way forward.
- A partner with other First Nations entities, increasing connections and capacity.

Nationally

- A First Nations leader in cultural protection; Caring for Country; and protecting Native Title.
- Unique positioning with marine park MoU and joint management of National Parks.

Queensland

- A conduit for two-way communication with Queensland Government.
- Trusted advisor on Native Title and cultural protection.
- QALSMA is a leading agency in the region for land and sea management and co-ordination.
- Facilitator of a thriving yet culturally appropriate tourism industry.

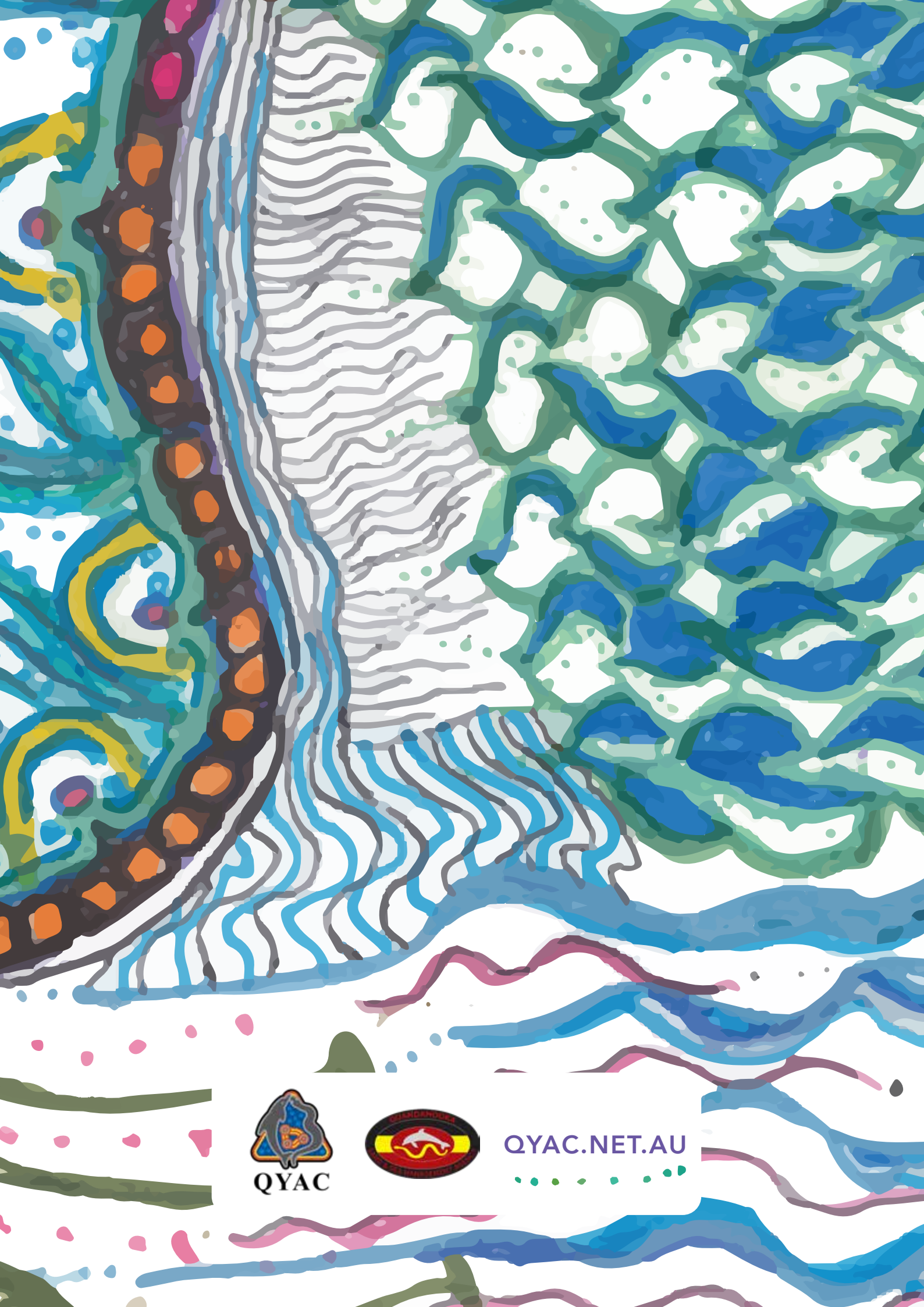
Quandamooka Country

- QYAC is a registered Prescribed Body Corporate to manage Native Title and passionate advocate for Quandamooka People and residents.
- An employer of choice and partner in local business and economic development across Country.
- QYAC drives and facilitates reconciliation through passionate advocacy and management of Country.

QYAC and partners will continue to develop strong partnerships with the wider community, including all levels of government, environmental and community organisations, and industry. QYAC has completed a range of projects that contribute to goals of this strategy and more are underway. Successful implementation of this strategy will involve and require QYAC to adopt a wide range of actions throughout its operations.

Examples of how priority actions will be delivered within QYAC operations include:

- Energy efficient practices and renewables utilised across all QYAC operations.
- Educate community groups and industry on biodiversity values and management and engage community, environmental groups, school groups, and industry through environmental and educational outreach programs, potentially in partnership with the Dunwich State School, University of Queensland and Healthy Land and Water.
- Increase QYAC led management of reserves and public lands within Quandamooka Country.
- QYAC related fleets transitioned to low-emission vehicles.



QYAC.NET.AU

