



**Tropical
Water
Quality
Hub**

National Environmental Science Programme



**Reef &
Rainforest**
RESEARCH CENTRE

Tropical Water Quality Hub Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy

Version 1 – FINAL



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ACRONYMS

AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
CQU	Central Queensland University
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific Industry Research Organisation
DATSIMA	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
DOE	Department of the Environment [Commonwealth]
GBR	Great Barrier Reef
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
GU	Griffith University
IEK	Indigenous Ecological Knowledge
IEPS	Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
IRAC	Indigenous Regional Advisory Council
ISCSPG	Indigenous Sea Country Strategic Policy Group
JCU	James Cook University
NESP TWQ	National Environmental Science Programme Tropical Water Quality Hub
NESP	National Environmental Science Programme
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
RRRC	Reef and Rainforest Research Centre
TO	Traditional Owner
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
TSRA LSMU	Torres Strait Regional Authority Land and Sea Management Unit
TUMRA	Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UQ	University of Queensland

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INTRODUCTION

All research that is undertaken, irrespective of its nature, will have some sort of impact on Indigenous Australians. Indigenous engagement and participation is identified as a cross-cutting theme for all NESP Hubs in the development of research priorities. Outcomes for Indigenous Australians form a key assessment component of the NESP Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy.

The National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) Tropical Water Quality (TWQ) Hub aims to provide innovative research for practical solutions to maintain and improve tropical water quality from catchment to coast with a focus on the Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait and other tropical waters. These geographical areas are strongly connected to the region's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. There are approximately 70 Traditional Owner clan groups whose land and sea country include the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and coastal ecosystems. The Torres Strait has 20 Traditional Owner groups (19 Torres Strait Islander Corporations and one Aboriginal Native Title Corporation). Eight land and sea Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) and seven Traditional Use of Marine Resource Areas (TUMRA) are identified within the geographical region of the TWQ Hub.

The research priorities of the NESP Tropical Water Quality Hub are:

1. Improved understanding of the impacts, including cumulative impacts, and pressures of priority freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and species.
2. Maximise the resilience of vulnerable species to the impacts of climate change and climate variability by reducing other pressures, including poor water quality.
3. Natural resource management improvements based on sound understanding of the status and long term trends of priority species and systems.
4. Indigenous co-management for tropical marine and coastal systems.
5. Identify and prioritise regionally-specific management interventions to achieve or maintain realistic desired states for tropical environmental, social, cultural and economic values.

Indigenous ecological knowledge is a fundamental pillar for the sustainable environmental management of the natural resources of north Queensland. The NESP TWQ Hub recognises the importance of Indigenous engagement in the understanding and management of north Queensland's land and sea country. The overall goal of this Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy (IEPS) is to ensure a meaningful two-way engagement relationship that will recognise the interests, rights and Indigenous ecological knowledge (IEK) of Traditional Owners in land and sea country. The aim of this IEPS is to ensure research leaders consider and include opportunities for the engagement of Traditional Owners within projects. At all stages, research with Indigenous peoples must be founded on a process of meaningful engagement, respect, trust and collaboration between the research project team and Indigenous peoples. This IEPS has been redeveloped from a working group partnership of Indigenous representatives in North Queensland during the NERP¹. This is a living document that will be reviewed periodically throughout the life of the NESP.

¹ The process of compiling the NERP Indigenous Engagement Strategy and identifying Indigenous engagement opportunities within the NERP TE Hub projects involved three workshops from November 2012 – January 2013. The Working Group consisted of Indigenous representatives, Hub Administration staff and identified project leaders.

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the NESP TWQ Hub IEPS is to facilitate the recognition of the benefits of combining and acknowledging Indigenous Ecological Knowledge with western science to manage the natural and cultural environment. The aim is to ensure research leaders engage with Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities in their NESP TWQ Hub projects and to discuss agreed opportunities for knowledge transfer. The following objectives will guide the achievement of the Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy:

1. NESP TWQ Hub research is to be relevant and of benefit to Indigenous communities and organisations.
2. NESP TWQ Hub research is to be conducted according to the highest ethical standards and respects Indigenous priorities and values.
3. NESP TWQ Hub research will provide opportunities for Indigenous engagement, employment, skills transfer, sharing of knowledge and the increase of cultural awareness amongst all parties.
4. NESP TWQ Hub generated knowledge, data and research results will be effectively shared and communicated between Indigenous peoples, communities and organisations.
5. NESP TWQ Hub will facilitate effective Indigenous participation in Hub governance.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the NESP TWQ Hub Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy is to scope and ensure research leaders actively consider opportunities for the engagement of Traditional Owners in projects from the inception stage. Research project leaders are expected to have consulted with, negotiated with, and received consent from Indigenous peoples for effective engagement with Traditional Owner groups prior to submission of research project proposals. The Hub Administrator will where necessary, assist in the connection of research project leaders with respective Traditional Owner groups. The objectives and guiding information to implement the IEPS are provided below:

1. NESP TWQ Hub research is to be relevant and of benefit to Indigenous communities and organisations.

Indigenous peoples, as residents, major landowners and managers in north Queensland should have the opportunity to provide input into research project objectives and methods and to undertake research activities in their own right. Indigenous peoples have expressed a strong desire to develop their skills in participatory research with non-Indigenous researchers, government staff and others. Empowering local people to act as researchers should encourage the development of a constructive understanding of research practice and will ensure people, relationships and local environmental management are addressed.

It is important that researchers recognise that Traditional Owners may have different interests to those of the general resident community. It is recommended that TWQ Hub researchers develop an understanding of the local Indigenous history and current interests in the area they propose to work, including respecting cultural protocols. Where possible, it is useful for research projects to understand the interests of surrounding Indigenous communities as well. Some research activities may affect other neighbouring communities and this must be taken into consideration. Indigenous peoples should be well informed about the aims and methods of a research project, its implications and potential outcomes so they can decide for themselves whether the project is in their interests or not, and offer suggestions for ways of enhancing the relevance of the project. The cost of consulting and negotiating with Indigenous communities, where face-to-face meetings are likely to be preferred will need to be factored into project budgets. Identified Indigenous organisations, Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRA), Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) and Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBC) are provided at Appendix A.

2. NESP TWQ Hub research is to be conducted according to the highest ethical standards and respects Indigenous priorities and values.

Indigenous knowledge can make a significant contribution to the research being conducted within the NESP TWQ Hub. Researchers must respect the Intellectual Property rights of Indigenous peoples in relation to knowledge, ideas, cultural expressions and cultural materials. These rights are part of the heritage that exists in the cultural practices, resources and knowledge systems of Indigenous people that are passed on by them in expressing their cultural identity.

Based on the guidelines provided in the *NESP Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy Guidelines*, it is expected that all research and communication activities undertaken within the NESP TWQ Hub are conducted in a manner inclusive of and sensitive to Australia's Indigenous peoples, consistent with Article 19 of free, prior and informed consent within the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). For example, researchers will ensure that they gain the permission of Traditional Owners prior to conducting research on Indigenous lands; that Indigenous peoples are involved in the planning process for research which may have

impacts on Indigenous communities; that Indigenous peoples are employed in some form of capacity within the research team; and that Indigenous peoples are provided with the outcomes of the research in a format that is suitable.

Informed Consent requires that all information on the intended actual aims, processes, activities, uses and outcomes of the research should be clearly communicated to promote open and honest exchange between researchers and Indigenous peoples and communities. A Guide to Informed Consent is available from www.aiatsis.gov.au. All NESP TWQ partnership institutions and their research project leaders are expected to ensure all project team staff have completed an Indigenous cultural awareness course offered by their institution or similar service within six months of project commencement.

NESP TWQ Hub researchers are advised to consult the complete *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies* published by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and available from www.aiatsis.gov.au. The *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies* (AIATSIS, 2012) comprise 14 principles grouped under the six broad themes of rights, respect and recognition; negotiation, consultation, agreement and mutual understanding; participation, collaboration and partnership; benefits, outcomes and giving back; managing research: use, storage and access; and reporting and compliance.

<p><i>Rights, respect and recognition</i></p> <p>Principle 1: Recognition of the diversity and uniqueness of peoples, as well as of individuals, is essential.</p> <p>Principle 2: The rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination must be recognised.</p> <p>Principle 3: The rights of Indigenous peoples to their intangible heritage must be recognised.</p> <p>Principle 4: Rights in the traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions of Indigenous peoples must be respected, protected and maintained.</p> <p>Principle 5: Indigenous knowledge, practices and innovations must be respected, protected and maintained.</p> <p><i>Negotiation, consultation, agreement and mutual understanding</i></p> <p>Principle 6: Consultation, negotiation and free, prior and informed consent are the foundations for research with or about Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Principle 7: Responsibility for consultation and negotiation is ongoing.</p> <p>Principle 8: Consultation and negotiation should achieve mutual understanding about the proposed research.</p> <p>Principle 9: Negotiation should result in a formal agreement for the conduct of a research project.</p> <p><i>Participation, collaboration and partnership</i></p> <p>Principle 10: Indigenous people have the right to full participation appropriate to their skills and experiences in research projects and processes.</p> <p><i>Benefits, outcomes and giving back</i></p> <p>Principle 11: Indigenous people involved in research, or who may be affected by research, should benefit from, and not be disadvantaged by, the research project.</p> <p>Principle 12: Research outcomes should include specific results that respond to the needs and interests of Indigenous people.</p> <p><i>Managing research: use, storage and access</i></p> <p>Principle 13: Plans should be agreed for managing use of, and access to, research results.</p> <p><i>Reporting and compliance</i></p> <p>Principle 14: Research projects should include appropriate mechanisms and procedures for reporting on ethical aspects of the research and complying with these guidelines.</p>

Figure 2: *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies* (AIATSIS, 2012)

NESP TWQ Hub research project leaders are expected to familiarise themselves with the protocols for Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country. These are respectful acknowledgements of Australia's Traditional Owners. In general, Acknowledgement of Country should include the words of "I/We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this land we meet today". Welcome to Country should be provided by a Traditional custodian elder of the land on which the meeting/ event is taking place. An appropriate fee is normally charged for Welcome to Country and this should be factored into project budgets.

3. NESP TWQ Hub research will provide opportunities for Indigenous engagement, employment, skills transfer, sharing of knowledge and the increase of cultural awareness amongst all parties.

In conjunction with project objectives, Indigenous knowledge systems and processes must be respected. Indigenous participation as collaborators is to be encouraged, acknowledged and remunerated. Indigenous employment should, where possible, be undertaken through organisations that have appropriate institutional arrangements. Research and researchers must show an appreciation of the diversity of Indigenous peoples, who have different languages, cultures, histories and perspectives. It is also important to recognise the diversity of individuals and groups within these communities, for example, restrictions upon knowledge acquisition between men and women, young and old. Direct involvement as collaborators, co-authors, co-researchers and employees is often the most effective means of incorporating Indigenous perspectives in research activity. Differing types of participation are likely to require different pay rates, for example, technical assistance, consultation, liaison, translation, expertise in ecological and cultural knowledge.

Partner institutions are to consider the support of employment pathways that provide professional development opportunities and capacity building for Indigenous peoples including opportunities for doctoral, postdoctoral and graduate programs within the institution. Indigenous land and sea ranger groups should be given the opportunity through partnership with research projects to enhance and improve the community's capacity to monitor natural environmental assets within their sea country. This can be achieved through operational training to upskill rangers and the integration of IEK with western science.

4. NESP TWQ Hub generated knowledge, data and research results will be effectively shared and communicated between Indigenous peoples, communities and organisations.

The NESP TWQ Hub Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy is focused on opportunities for Indigenous engagement within all of the research projects. NESP TWQ Hub research projects will ensure opportunities for the transfer of knowledge to Indigenous groups within north Queensland are mutually agreed upon with Traditional Owner groups. Appropriate mechanisms for communication of research outcomes will be addressed through identified and agreed communication channels with Indigenous people. Traditional Owner groups must be included in all knowledge transfer communication opportunities. Research project results should be provided to Indigenous communities in a timely manner in the form of workshop presentations and culturally suitable products.

5. NESP TWQ Hub will facilitate effective Indigenous participation in Hub governance.

Opportunities and support for Indigenous engagement will be available at all levels of NESP TWQ Hub governance. The two primary co-ordination mechanisms are the NESP TWQ Hub Steering Committee and the NESP TWQ Science Advisory Committee (SAC). There is an Indigenous representative identified for both the Hub Steering Committee and Science Advisory Committee. The NESP TWQ Hub will provide logistical support to Indigenous representatives to attend scheduled meetings.

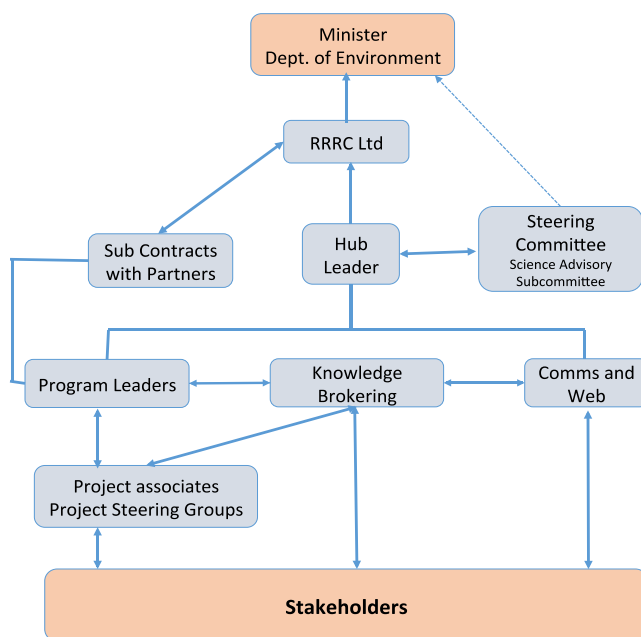


Figure 1: Governance structure of the NESP Tropical Water Quality Hub

Program leaders, project associates and project steering groups are encouraged to complete a Cultural Awareness training workshop provided by their institution. Evidence of this successful completion will be requested in milestone reporting as part of the project management framework. Environmental research in the Torres Strait is to comply with the guidelines from the Torres Strait Regional Authority for cultural protocol awareness training. Communities within the Torres Strait expect researchers to be respectful of Ailan Kastom (Island Custom). More information for conducting research in the Torres Strait is available at Appendix B.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators are identified as a means to measure the objectives of the NESP TWQ Hub Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy. These performance indicators will be included in the annual reporting to the Department of the Environment.

Table 1: Measureable Performance Indicators

Number of research projects engaging Indigenous peoples and their communities in their project to support local Indigenous community initiatives.
Number of projects incorporating Indigenous Ecological Knowledge into methods and outcomes.
Number of researchers who have gained Human Ethics Research approval from their institution to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Number of Indigenous partners collaboratively involved in the NESP TWQ Hub and its projects.
Number and proportion of projects operating under a written research agreement.
Number and proportion of projects with Indigenous staff in the research team.
Number and proportion of non-Indigenous people completing a cross-cultural awareness course.
Number of researchers engaged by Indigenous people to support their local initiatives.
Number of Indigenous people employed in projects.
Number of Indigenous people represented in NESP governance structures.
Number of joint projects, conference/workshop presentations and co-authored publications with Indigenous peoples.
Number of Indigenous public events with NESP TWQ Hub representation.
Number of graduate/ postgraduate training and development opportunities.
Number of people employed in on-going full-time or part-time roles (describe roles)
Number and type of communication products or activities that have been used to communicate results with Indigenous people.

Table 2: Aspirational Performance Indicators

Number and proportion of projects meeting identified Indigenous research and management priorities.
Number of collaborations that lead to additional external funded projects.
Examples of how non-Indigenous people in the project team have developed increased cultural understanding.
Case studies of projects helped to meet the research needs and interests of the Indigenous groups worked with.
Number of Traditional Owners (non-rangers) who have participated in meetings/field work.
Perceptions and attitudes amongst Indigenous people towards research are positive.
Number of researchers who receive the <i>Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies</i> produced by AIATSIS.
Majority of Indigenous partners remain interested and committed to the project.
Number of existing Indigenous governance structures engaged in guiding NESP projects.

IDENTIFIED COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

The correct communication channels for researchers to contact the Traditional Owner groups in the Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait and Cape York regions will be provided by RRRC on enquiry. Initial advice or guidance should be directed through the Hub Administrator, Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) on (07) 4050 7400 or enquiries@rrrc.org.au.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- AIATSIS *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies* http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/docs/ethics_nov.pdf
- Australian Government and Queensland Government (2015) *Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan*. Available from <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/publications/reef-2050-long-term-sustainability-plan>
- Cape York Land Council <http://www.cylc.org.au/>
- Dawul Wuru (2014) *Yirrganydji Sea Country Plan*. Available from <http://www.dawulwuru.com.au>
- Faury, M. (2009) *An evaluation of previous and current methods and models for researching Indigenous resource use and purposes, with recommendations for 'best practice' research solutions*. Available at <http://www.rrrc.org.au/publications/downloads/491-JCU-Fuary-M-2009-Indigenous-Resource-Use.pdf>
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (2014) *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014*. Available from <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/cdn/2014/GBRMPA-Outlook-Report-2014/>
- Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gugu Badhun, Gulnay, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungnu Traditional Owners, Regional Advisory & Innovation Network (RAIN) Pty Ltd (2013) *Giringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas Management Plan 2013-2023*. Cardwell: Giringun Aboriginal Corporation. Available from www.giringun.com.au
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- McIntyre-Tamwoy, S., Canendo, W. and Wyles-Whelan, T. (2010) *Wet Tropics Traditional Owners Strategic Research Directions Workshop Report*. Available from <http://www.rrrc.org.au/publications/downloads/491-JCU-McIntyre-Tamwoy-S-et-al-2010-Indigenous-Strategic-Research-Directions-Workshop-Report.pdf>
- North Queensland Aboriginal Land Council <http://nqlc.com.au/>
- Torres Strait Regional Authority <http://www.tsra.gov.au>
- TSRA *Cultural Protocols Guide* http://www.tsra.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1778/tsra20cultural20protocols20guide.pdf
- TUMRA Boundary Maps <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/our-partners/traditional-owners/traditional-use-of-marine-resources-agreements>.
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

Appendix A: Indigenous Organisations

Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements

Woppaburra TUMRA	Keppel Islands and surrounding sea country. It covers 561 square kilometres of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	Wearewoppaburra.wix.com
Yirrganydji TUMRA	Covers the area of sea country between Cairns and Port Douglas that extends far offshore to include outer reefs and islands "to where the sun rises on the horizon".	Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation http://dawulwuru.com.au/
Lama Lama TUMRA	Covers sea country that extends through Princess Charlotte Bay to the Normanby River in the south.	Yintingga Aboriginal Corporation
Yuku-Baji-Miluka TUMRA	Archer Point area, covers 1088 square kilometres stretching from Monkhouse Point south to Forsberg Point and extending east to just past the Ribbon Reefs.	Yuku Baja Muliku Land Trust http://www.archerpoint.com.au/ E: larissa.hale@balkanu.com.au
Girringun TUMRA	Sea country between Rollingstone and Mission Beach	Girringun Aboriginal Corporation http://girringun.com.au/ E: admin@girringun.com.au
Wuthathi TUMRA	Shelburne Bay area of Cape York	
Port Curtis Coral Coast TUMRA	Covers an area of 26,386 square kilometres extending from Burrum Heads, south of Bundaberg, to and including Curtis Island off Gladstone.	Gidarjil Development Corporation http://www.gidarjil.com.au/
Kuuku Ya'u People's ILUA	Nearly 2000 square kilometres of sea north of Lockhart River.	

Aboriginal Corporations:

Corporation	General Area
Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation	Mossman to Bloomfield
Girringun Aboriginal Corporation	North Maria Creek to Rollingstone
Dawul Waru Aboriginal Corporation	Cairns to Port Douglas
Yuku Baja Muliku Land Trust	Archer Point Area
Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation	East of Cairns across Trinity Inlet
Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation	Innisfail and surrounds
Gidarjil Development Corporation	Burrum Heads to Gladstone
Kuuku Ya'u Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Lockhart River

Traditional Owner Groups with sea country:

Darnley Island (Erub) groups	Eastern Torres Strait Islands and Northern Great Barrier Reef region including Raine Island
Murray Island (Mer) groups	Eastern Torres Strait Islands and Northern Great Barrier Reef region including

	Raine Island
Gudang	New Castle Bay region
Yadhaigana	Captain Billy Landing region
Wuthathi	Cape Grenville region
Kuuku Ya'u	Portland Road region
Kanthanumpun	Claude River region
Uutaalgnunu (Night Island) group	Night Island region
Umpila	Cape Sidmouth South region
Angkum	Cape Sidmouth region
Lama Lama	Princess Charlotte Bay region
Pul Pul	Cape Sidmouth region
Guugu Yimithirr Warra Nation	Lizard Island to Hopevale region
Ngulan people	Starke River region
Yuku Baja Muliku	Walker to Walsh Bay region
Eastern Kuku Yalanji	Cedar Bay to Port Douglas region
Wanyurr Majay	Fishery Falls, Babinda, Miriwinni, Mt Bellenden Kerr region
Yirriganydji people	Cairns to Port Douglas region
Gimuy Yidinji	Cairns/Trinity Inlet region
Gurabana Gunggandji	Kings Beach/Fitzroy Island region
Guru Gulu Gunggandji	Yarrabah/Green Island region
Mandingalbai Yidinji	Cooper Point region
Lower Coastal Yidinji	Russell River region
Mamu people	Innisfail region
Djiru	Mission Beach region
Gulnay	Tully region
Girramay	Cardwell to Murray Upper area
Bandjin	Hinchinbrook region
Warrgamay	Lucinda region
Nywaigi	Edmund Kennedy National Park
Manbarra	Palm Island region
Wulgurukaba	Magnetic Island/Townsville region
Bindal	Townsville region
Juru	Ayr region
Gia	Whitsunday region (Mainland)

Ngaro	Whitsunday region (Islands)
Yuibera people	Mackay region
Koinjimal people	Clairview-Broadsound region
Dharumbal	Rockhampton-Shoalwater Bay region
Woppaburra	Yeppoon region
Taribelang Bunda	Gladstone/Bundaberg region
Bailai	Gladstone/Bundaberg region
Gooreng Gooreng	Gladstone/Bundaberg region
Gurang	Gladstone/Bundaberg region

Appendix B: Guidelines for Research in the Torres Strait

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) works with all Torres Strait communities, government agencies and researchers to support whole-of-government policy coordination, research, planning and adaptive management for continued sustainability of healthy ecosystems in the Torres Strait. For fieldwork to be conducted within the Torres Strait, acknowledgement is made of the processes in place to address the need for effective engagement with the island communities by visiting researchers. A 'buddy' system involving the TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU) staff and formal communication channels enable researchers to seek approval from Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBC), Traditional Owners and community leaders. All researchers are required to conduct research in an ethical manner, mindful of Torres Strait Islander culture and Intellectual Property ownership.

Minimal guidelines to be adhered to in the Torres Strait include:

- Initial contact to be made with the TSRA LSMU a minimum of six months (if possible) before the intended and agreed fieldwork time in the region;
- The LSMU will then seek formal endorsement from the TSRA Board for research activities. Once approved by the TSRA Board, mandate is then given for LSMU to proceed to the next stage of seeking approvals to conduct research on chosen/selected communities.
- Through cooperation with the TSRA LSMU project team and community liaison support, a request to conduct research on country should be made to the PBC, TOs and elders prior to the intended fieldwork. This request to conduct research should be in the form of a letter seeking endorsement by the aforementioned to conduct research on country;
- Final confirmation from the TSRA LSMU to be able to assist and accompany the researchers in the fieldwork component rests with the TSRA LSMU;
- A community notice and project factsheet explaining the purpose of the research, how and why it is being conducted and the expected benefits to the community should be provided at designated community meeting areas and in person at community meetings, as advised by the TSRA LSMU;
- If needed, an agreement is to be made jointly outlining the roles and responsibilities of the researchers and the TSRA LSMU staff;
- Fieldwork cannot be conducted without the support of the TSRA LSMU;
- Fieldwork logistics should be confirmed with the TSRA LSMU at least two months prior to the actual intended fieldwork;
- Feedback to the community, RNTBC, elders and TOs should occur within three months of conducting the fieldwork. This may be in the form of a summary of results, technical report, face-to-face discussion, or other means deemed suitable;
- Researchers are expected to provide data results where relevant and reports back to the RNTBCs for comment and approval before distribution of any reports and/ or academic manuscripts;
- Acknowledgement of the support provided by the TSRA LSMU and Traditional Owners and RNTBCs is important;
- Further details on the TSRA, the Cultural Policy and Policy to Guide Community Liaison can be located at www.tsra.gov.au.