
Snapper Island Section – Hope Islands National Park – Management Statement 2006–2016.

Cairns Marine District Northern Region – effective December 2006

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Vision Statement:

Snapper Island will be managed to maintain its high biodiversity, remote setting, and very high scenic coastal landscape values, by ensuring sustainable, low-level, nature-based use, with minimal infrastructure development.

Kuku Yalanji cultural resources, values and practices will be adequately recognised, respected and protected, and Traditional Owners will be meaningfully involved in the planning for, and management of, these resources.

1. Management intent

Snapper Island will be managed to:

- provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the island's natural resources and values (including very high scenic values);
- protect the area's cultural resources and values and present these values in a culturally appropriate manner;
- provide for the ecologically sustainable use and enjoyment of Snapper Island and, to ensure that use of the area is nature based and culturally appropriate to the Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners; and
- facilitate the meaningful involvement of the Kuku Yalanji in the management of Snapper Island, and to provide a management framework that is consistent with the ongoing exercise of Native Title rights and interests.

2. Basis for management

The contemporary basis for management is derived from:

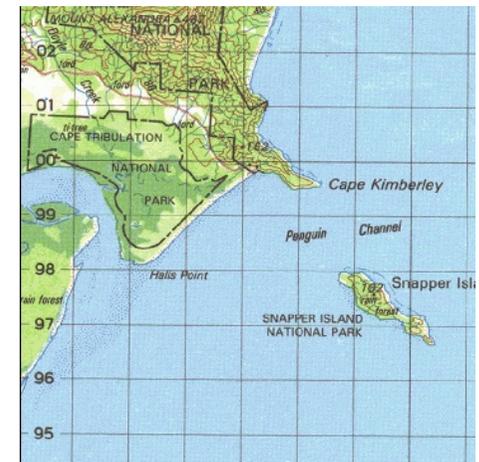
- the national park [management principles](#) and management planning considerations established by the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld). Although a management plan is available for the Hope Islands National Park, it was developed prior to the inclusion of Snapper Island in 2000;
- recognition of Kuku Yalanji rights and responsibilities for Snapper Island, including those Native Title rights and interests that currently exist in customary and common law. The State of Queensland recognises that the Kuku Yalanji people have expressed cultural connection with Snapper Island and have rights and interests in areas of land and sea referred to in this management statement. Nothing in this document is intended to extinguish, regulate, control, or otherwise impact upon Native Title rights and interests that may be present in the area. There is currently no formal Native Title claim over Snapper Island;
- the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (Qld) 2003* which provides for the recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage, and the recognition of Aboriginal people (in this case, the Kuku Yalanji people) as the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage;

- *the Wet Tropical Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan* (WTCRCMP) which describes how Snapper Island and the surrounding coastal waters are to be managed within the policy framework established by the *State Coastal Management Plan – Queensland’s Coastal Policy* and the statutory planning and development assessment framework provided for by the *Coastal Act 1995* (Qld). The WTCRCMP recognises Snapper Island as an area of state significance for both its natural resources and its scenic coastal landscapes;
- consideration of adjoining State and Commonwealth marine park legislation and management, including the relevant zoning plans and legislation for the surrounding *Snapper Island Reef Sensitive Location* within the *Cairns Area Plan of Management CAPoM*, (see also Appendix B); and
- consideration of relevant Commonwealth legislation and international conventions pertaining to Snapper Island’s place in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, listed on the World Heritage Register in 1981 as an outstanding example of geology, biology and coral reef evolution.

3. Location and context

Snapper Island forms an integral part of Kuku Yalanji sea country and lies within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA), the Cairns/Cooktown Management Area of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP), and the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (Queensland). The entire island is national park (part of the Hope Islands National Park (Lot 418 on Plan NPW611) and is located one nautical mile north-east of the Daintree River mouth.

Snapper Island is an inshore continental island totalling 56ha, reaching 99m above sea level at its highest point, and is fringed by small isolated beaches and coral reef. The island consists of a relatively rugged, wooded landscape, which is not easily traversed. As a result the island retains a high level of natural and cultural integrity, and remains a key low use site for local users from Cairns to Cape Tribulation. Access is weather dependent and by small vessel only. The boundary between the national park (i.e. the area subject to this Management Statement and the surrounding Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (GBRCMP) is defined by the high water mark. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (and the associated Cairns Area Plan of Management; CAPoM) extends seaward from the low water mark.



4. Protecting and presenting national park values

Snapper Island, as part of the Hope Islands National Park, will be conserved and presented according to the following major directions.

4.1. Conserving nature

4.1.1 Landscape

Snapper Island is recognised as having very high scenic landscape quality and is deemed an “area of state significance for scenic coastal landscapes” (WTCRCMP). It is a relatively rugged, vegetated continental island, composed of strongly deformed Hodgkinson Formation sediments. Small sand and coral rubble beaches are interspersed between rocky headlands around the island and support narrow vegetated dune systems on both the central and western flanks of the island. The island’s alignment toward prevailing south-easterly winds and fringing coral reefs, constrain human access to a small number of beaches (recreation nodes) which provide attractive recreation opportunities. The dune systems rise sharply to a prominent central ridge which graduates towards an exposed rocky outcrop on the eastern headland. Seasonal freshwater springs surface at two locations, on the west of the island, and towards the eastern headland.

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy / Guidelines & Actions
Snapper Island currently retains a high level of geophysical and biophysical integrity. Inappropriate visitor use and infrastructure development has the potential to impact on the island’s natural values and scenic amenity.	L1. Park operations, Traditional Owner, and general visitor and tourism use have minimal impact on the island’s high scenic coastal landscape values.	L1a. Visitor use and infrastructure development is consistent with the landscape settings outlined in section 4.3.1. L1b. Any management decisions and actions take into consideration impacts on the island’s scenic amenity.

4.1.2 Plants and animals

Snapper Island is recognised as having high nature conservation value, and falls into the medium nature conservation threat category (Park Profiles).

Plants

Snapper Island has high biodiversity with a mosaic of 10 ecosystem types, but the regional ecosystems have not been mapped to date. Ecosystems include closed notophyll vine-forest (dominant vegetation type), closed sclerophyll forest, low open scrubland, low woodland, mangroves and foreshore vegetation associated with beaches. An unusual feature of Snapper Island is the presence of grassland that is both naturally occurring due to aspect and slope, and enhanced in some areas due to disturbance.

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy / Guidelines & Actions
<p>Snapper's vegetation types retain relatively high ecological integrity due to the rugged terrain and isolation from the mainland.</p> <p>The island's woodlands are under threat from rainforest encroachment and carefully planned high intensity late dry season fires are considered an appropriate strategy to maintain biodiversity.</p> <p>A "statement of fire management intent" exists for Snapper Island but requires review.</p> <p>Key threats to endemic vegetation (species and ecosystems) relate to habitat change, mainly from historical disturbance and unsuitable fire management.</p> <p>Pest plants are mainly concentrated in isolated pockets within disturbed areas (including primary recreation nodes) with limited distribution elsewhere.</p> <p>An unidentified vine species located in 2002 has the potential to smother native vegetation.</p>	<p>P1.The integrity of natural systems on Snapper Island is protected and biodiversity is maintained. Rainforest encroachment does not impact further on the woodland communities on the south-eastern end of the island.</p> <p>P2.The use of fire as a management tool (from both an indigenous and non-indigenous perspective) is better understood and effectively utilised, especially in the maintenance of existing habitat diversity.</p> <p>P3. Invasive species are better understood, particularly the impacts of the unidentified smothering vine.</p> <p>P4.There are minimal impacts on island vegetation from visitor use and infrastructure.</p>	<p>P1a. A natural resource management strategy will be developed to protect vegetation. The strategy will include a weed/pest plant management plan and either a revised statement of fire management intent, or a comprehensive fire management plan.</p> <p>P1b. Habitat status will be preserved by using high intensity fires to maintain the areas of woodland at the south-eastern end of the island.</p> <p>P2a. Any natural resource and fire management strategy should include meaningful input from relevant Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners to ensure the maintenance of cultural values (refer section 2 and 4.2.1)</p> <p>P2b. Fire is only permitted on Snapper Island for land management and Kuku Yalanji purposes. Open campfires are not permitted.</p> <p>P3a. A smothering vine species recorded in 2002 is identified and, where possible, appropriate control measures are implemented.</p> <p>P4a. Visitor impact upon island vegetation is managed via well planned and maintained tracks and infrastructure including appropriate signage.</p>

Animals

Fauna records are limited. However, there appears to be a definite similarity with assemblages found on other inshore islands in the region. Observations to date include: woodland bird species, roosting and nesting sea-birds, vertebrates e.g. *Melomys burtoni* (grassland melomys), bats and a range of reptiles (including occasional nesting sea turtles). Pied imperial pigeons (*Ducula bicolor*) roost and nest seasonally on Snapper Island although estimated peak numbers, (approximately 1000–1500), are not considered regionally significant. In-frequent visitation by estuarine crocodiles can be expected but no permanent habitation has been recorded. Non-endemic fauna and flora populations on Snapper appear to be minimal and generally localised.

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy / Guidelines & Actions
<p>Although fauna records are far from complete, there may be only two species listed as threatened under current legislation – the grey goshawk (rare) and the beach stone-curlew (threatened).</p> <p>Inappropriate visitor use and behaviour has the potential to impact on sea bird, beach stone-curlew, and turtle roosting and nesting (refer 4.3.1)</p> <p>With the exception of the cane toad and the common house gecko, Snapper Island is thought to be free of introduced pest animals. Snapper Island's high level of natural integrity is attributable to diligent pest management programs to date, relatively small and seasonal visitation patterns, and the island's limited connectivity with the mainland.</p> <p>Key threats to endemic fauna (species and ecosystems) relate to habitat change, mainly from unsuitable fire management and increases and new invasions of non-endemic animals including the common house gecko and cane toad.</p> <p>The Daintree River is a significant potential source of invasive species. Flood plumes from the Daintree River have been known to transport living biological material attached to debris onto Snapper Island.</p>	<p>A1. The integrity of natural systems on Snapper Island is protected and biodiversity is maintained. Additional fauna surveys are undertaken to target mammals (especially bats), preferably during the wet season.</p> <p>A2. Pest species are better understood, particularly the impacts of the cane toad and common house gecko.</p> <p>A3. The significance of the island as a locally important sea bird and turtle nesting site is preserved.</p>	<p>A1a. A natural resource management strategy will be developed to protect fauna values. The strategy will include key species monitoring and a pest animal management plan.</p> <p>A1b. Where possible an additional wet season fauna survey is undertaken to gain a more complete understanding of vertebrate fauna, particularly birds and mammals</p> <p>A1c. The island foreshore areas are monitored for new pest / weed invasions soon after major flooding of the Daintree River.</p> <p>A2a. Where possible, pest animals are monitored and appropriate control measures are in place.</p> <p>A3a. Seabird and turtle nesting is monitored during routine patrols. Access to nesting areas is seasonally restricted (as required) by regulatory notices.</p>

4.2 Conserving culture

4.2.1 Kuku Yalanji cultural values

Snapper Island and reef is located only one nautical mile from the resource-rich lower Daintree coast and has long formed a spiritually and physically important part of the wider Kuku Yalanji traditional estate. Today, Snapper Island constitutes a rich and significant cultural landscape including “story places” and cultural features such as an intact fish trap. The island and reef remains a strong focal point for Kuku Yalanji traditional law and spiritual connection.

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy, Guidelines & Actions
<p>Kuku Yalanji involvement in the management of Snapper Island has yet to be fully established and formalised. Knowledge of places of significance and culturally appropriate management practice has not been fully documented by QPWS.</p> <p>Impacts on traditional “country”, particularly special cultural places such as well soaks, fish traps, etc, could result from weeds, inappropriate fire regimes, unsustainable recreation impacts and development, and a lack of understanding of the island’s cultural resources and values.</p> <p>Inappropriate presentation, management, and recording, of cultural material have the potential to alienate traditional owners and impact upon the integrity of those values (see also 4.3.2).</p>	<p>C1. Kuku Yalanji values, traditions and law are respected, integrated and protected in the management of Snapper Island.</p> <p>C2. Places of cultural significance are appropriately identified, presented and protected, particularly those places of special significance located on the north-west and eastern sections of the island.</p>	<p>C1 a. A co-operative working relationship is to be developed between QPWS and the Traditional Owners for Snapper Island. This may take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploring appropriate mechanisms to facilitate Kuku Yalanji to meet their traditional management obligations and to protect the island’s cultural values; • engaging the Traditional Owners in the development and implementation of any operational plans e.g. site plans, natural resource / fire strategies, and visitor management plans; • engaging the Traditional Owners, where possible, in work programs, and relevant training programs; and • facilitating QPWS operational and permitting staff to become adequately resourced and trained to effectively engage with Traditional Owners, and to respond appropriately to their cultural aspirations. <p>C2a. Where appropriate QPWS will seek to collaboratively identify and record cultural values, and incorporate protection of these values / places within contemporary management programs.</p>

4.2.2 Non-indigenous cultural values

Snapper Island’s non-indigenous use dates back to 1815, and features prominently in local written and oral history. Kew Gardens are thought to have used Snapper Island as the first botanical collection station in Australia from 1815. Local oral and written history from 1889 suggests that a number of non-indigenous burials existed on Snapper Island. An Asian “market garden” was cultivated by Chinese settlers during the early 1900s. Documented evidence of an old dwelling associated with the market garden is no longer visible. Small stone “irrigation channels” to run water from the Aboriginal well soaks to the market garden and, small “hopper” tracks most likely for lime carriage, are present but currently overgrown. A “heap burning kiln” lime operation was conducted on Snapper Island during the early 1900s, fuelled by timber carried from the Daintree on Jerry Doyle’s vessel “*Nellie*”. The modest size of the kiln, fashioned on the historical Scottish “sow” and Welsh “sod” designs, indicates that it was most likely used to produce lime for market garden activities on the island. Lime production is evidenced today by several heaped formations of cut coral boulders (harvested from the surrounding beach and reef) and located approximately 500 metres from the south-western visitor node.

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy, Guidelines & Actions
<p>The island’s non-indigenous cultural heritage values have high local significance and may warrant further evaluation.</p> <p>The status and significance of the market gardens and the lime operation is poorly understood.</p> <p>The location of recorded non-indigenous burials is unknown.</p> <p>Non-endemic fruit crops were removed during the 1990s by QPWS.</p> <p>The prominence and visibility of non indigenous cultural fabric is declining due to vegetation growth, discontinuity of historical knowledge, and the lack of awareness of their significance by both managers and visitors.</p> <p>The obscurity of contemporary cultural evidence hampers effective management and interpretation.</p> <p>A lack of understanding of the status and significance of historical values hampers their effective management.</p>	<p>C3. Non-indigenous historical values are identified respected, and protected.</p>	<p>C3a. Where possible document and record the location and condition of non-indigenous burials, the location, design type and historical significance of the lime kilns and the location and historical significance of the market garden and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>C3b. As far as practicable, assess the significance and conservation requirements of the tangible cultural fabric, and undertake any necessary remediation (including vegetation clearing) in consultation with heritage professionals.</p>

4.3 Presenting the park: recreation, tourism and education

4.3.1 Recreational and tourism values

Snapper Island and the adjacent Daintree coast unofficially mark the southern boundary of one of Australia’s most magnificent coastal environments, stretching 50 kilometres north from the Daintree River mouth to Cedar Bay. Viewed from Snapper Island, the rain drenched mountains of Daintree National Park dominate the landward vista, reminding visitors that the island was once connected to these ancient landforms. Not surprisingly Snapper Island features powerfully in local indigenous creation stories. This combination of natural and cultural values remains intact at Snapper Island and today’s visitors experience a special place of rugged beauty offering exceptional nature-based recreation opportunities.

Historically, private recreational visitors to Snapper Island have exceeded commercial visitors. The undeveloped nature of the Island and its proximity to the Daintree coast create a strong (predominantly local) user connection dominated by recreational boating, fishing, and indigenous user groups. These values also support opportunities for low impact - nature-based tourism such as guided sea kayaking. Kuku Yalanji have indicated strong cultural connections to the island and have expressed concern to QPWS that the island’s natural and cultural use values should not be dominated or displaced by growth in commercial tourism visitors over time. In this context QPWS intends to achieve sustainability by managing ecological and cultural values, and by carefully balancing the island’s capacity for recreation and tourism demand.

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy /Guidelines & Actions
<p>Appendix A and section 4.3.1 provide an overview of existing visitor nodes and infrastructure.</p> <p>Access to Snapper Island is by vessel through the surrounding Marine Parks. The level of commercial (permitted) activity in adjacent Marine Park waters effectively determines commercial visitation to the island (refer Appendix B).</p> <p>The waters surrounding Snapper Island out to a distance of 500m from the reef edge are designated as a “Sensitive Location” with a “Low Use” setting under the CAPoM). The overall Great Barrier Reef zoning is Conservation Park Zone.</p> <p>A Commercial Activity Permit (CAP) is required under the <i>Nature Conservation Act (Qld) 1992</i> to conduct commercial tour operations on the national park.</p>	<p>R1. The islands key recreational nodes remain accessible to local users and the broader community.</p> <p>The current low-key visitor experience is maintained in a manner consistent with the designated landscape setting, and sustainable management of natural, scenic, and cultural values.</p>	<p>R1a. Visitor nodes are to be managed in accordance with their current landscape classification (LCS), section 4.3.1, the QPWS Facilities Manual, and the following detailed prescriptions.</p> <p><u>Node 1: (LCS 4.2).</u></p> <p>The day-use area will be managed to accommodate a maximum of 24 persons at any one time (PAOT) although current visitor numbers rarely approach this figure.</p> <p>Campsites 1-4 will be dedicated for use by free and independent travellers (FITs), with a maximum of six PAOT (each campsite).</p> <p>An additional campsite may be dedicated for future indigenous cultural / commercial day use and / or permitted camping, with a maximum of 12 PAOT.</p>

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy /Guidelines & Actions
<p>Visitation by free and independent travellers to Snapper Island is seasonal, and reflects the low use character of the island. A booking / permit is required to camp on the island. Visitors must bring fresh water to the island due to the inaccessibility and seasonality of the island's water supply.</p> <p>There are no annual records of total private recreational (day visitation) to Snapper Island; however observations suggest that fishing and island visitation are widely practiced because Snapper Island is one of only a small number of near shore islands and reefs that can be safely reached by locals with small (low cost) vessels.</p> <p>The <i>Integrated Access Parks</i> records indicate 163 recreational campers used Snapper Island campground in 2004. This figure is believed to understate actual use levels.</p> <p>Eight commercial operators accessed the marine parks around Snapper (to high water mark) with a CAPoM booking for a total of 74 days in the 12 months to August 2005.</p> <p>Seven commercial operators accessed the marine parks around Snapper (to high water mark) with a CAPoM booking for a total of 73 days in the 12 months to August 2006.</p> <p>A single commercial operator holding a Commercial Activity Permit for the national park took a total of 244 visitors to the island during a 12 month period (2004) for day use and camping. A second Commercial Activity Permit for Snapper Island expired in October 2006.</p> <p>There is ongoing local commercial interest from Port Douglas/Daintree tour operators including indigenous groups to conduct small scale "niche" style day use and camping tour operations to Snapper Island.</p>	<p>R2. Day visitor and camping areas are well designed and maintained over time and offer quality recreational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse user groups</p> <p>R3 Low-impact visitor opportunities are managed in collaboration with, and supported by, the Kuku Yalanji, commercial tour operators and the local community.</p> <p>R4 A co-ordinated and complementary approach to tourism and visitor management is developed across the marine park / national park interface.</p> <p>R5 The operation of aircraft does not impact on the island's wildlife and low-key amenity.</p>	<p>R2a A site plan will be developed and implemented for all of the area of Node 1 to direct the redevelopment of day visitor and camp site areas including required rehabilitation, minor site hardening, and associated management / interpretive signage. The site plan will consider the aspirations of Kuku Yalanji for a future Indigenous use area at Node 1 and where appropriate will enhance visitor understanding of the islands Indigenous cultural values through interpretive signage.</p> <p>Camper pick up and drop offs will be permitted seven days a week.</p> <p>Only one "special group activity" will be permitted on Snapper Island at any one time or during each month.</p> <p>Group activity permitted access will be limited to Nodes 1 & 2, with the maximum number of PAOT engaged in these activities being 24.</p> <p>Node 2: LCS 2.8</p> <p>A narrow natural track surface will be maintained. For safety and amenity reasons, a maximum walking group size of 12 PAOT applies on the track (at any one time).</p> <p>Monitor track character and surface condition for visitor safety.</p> <p>Node 3: LCS 2.3</p> <p>Day use only allowed with emphasis on minimal infrastructure. Monitor use levels to minimise site hardening and maintain current LCS.</p> <p>Node 4 LCS 2.3</p> <p>Beach access is tidally restricted — day use only allowed with emphasis on minimal infrastructure. Monitor use levels to minimise site hardening and maintain current LCS.</p>

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy /Guidelines & Actions
<p>Inability to effectively engage Traditional Owners in tourism and visitor management has the potential to impact on the island's cultural values through inappropriate decision-making.</p> <p>Minor conflict has been noted between tour operators and other visitors over use of particular sites, particularly the north-west beaches (nodes 3 and 4).</p> <p>Key threats from visitation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for diminished experience through inappropriate visitor numbers and behaviour. • Edge effects on the landscape and vegetation adjoining visitor nodes and walkways. • Inappropriate human waste management including effluent leachate from visitor nodes resulting in soil and groundwater contamination. • Accidental fire strikes particularly from unpermitted camp-fires. <p>Noise disturbance generated by low-level scenic flights is inconsistent with desired landscape settings, social amenity values, visitor expectations, and Kuku Yalanji cultural values.</p> <p>Visitor facilities at Node 1 including the day visitor area and 4 existing campsites are currently affected by erosion and the encroachment of vegetation, and require site redefinition, minor site hardening, and improved infrastructure and signage to enhance visitor experience in accordance with the defined Landscape Classification Setting.</p>		<p>Node 5 LCS 3</p> <p>Access is restricted to a single low impact day use/commercial site (12 PAOT - permits required). Minimal site definition/infrastructure is provided by QPWS. Permitted groups must use a portable toilet and remove all waste. Commercial and recreational use levels will be carefully monitored to ensure site impacts are minimal and no new social trails are created.</p> <p>All other beaches LCS 2</p> <p>No infrastructure other than NCA regulatory notices (Restricted Access Area) if required. Seasonal access restrictions may apply during the period 1 September–30 March in respect of turtle and bird roosting and breeding significance. Any visitor use of these beaches (i.e. those not part of existing nodes) must also be consistent with Kuku Yalanji cultural interests. (These interests are yet to be fully expressed / determined).</p> <p>R3a. A code of practice should be considered for development between QPWS, commercial operators, and Kuku Yalanji, for best practice management of commercial operations on Snapper Island.</p> <p>R4a. Visitor impacts upon Snapper Island and reef are managed by a co-ordinated inter-agency approach to permit assessment / visitor activity monitoring across tenure boundaries. In particular current and future commercial access to Snapper Island (below high water) through marine park (CAPoM) permit bookings requires close monitoring to ensure that operators do not facilitate unauthorised commercial access to the island which may impact upon the island's values and other users.</p> <p>R5a. Other than in emergency circumstances, helicopters and seaplanes are not permitted as vehicles for transport of persons to the island. It is proposed that aircraft over flight of the national park below 1500 feet) will be restricted under the <i>Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management Regulation 2006)</i>.</p>

4.3.2 Public education and awareness

Snapper Island has long been a popular destination for educational groups, particularly local schools. It is recognised as having very significant presentation value (Park Profiles). It provides a valuable undeveloped island nature education experience with a significant (currently understated) cultural dimension. Close proximity to the mainland and large urban centres makes it a valuable resource for schools, tertiary institutions and special interest groups.

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy / Guidelines & Actions
<p>Limited interpretative signage is present on Snapper Island, located at the main visitor node at the south-western end.</p> <p>Visitor information is also available from QPWS Offices and online at www.epa.qld.gov.au.</p> <p>No specific education package has been prepared for school or tertiary groups for Snapper Island (to date).</p> <p>Inadequate interpretation of Snapper Island's values has the potential to diminish visitor experience and promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ inappropriate visitor behaviour; and ▪ a lack of understanding of, and respect for, Snapper Island's important place in Kuku Yalanji sea country. 	<p>E 1. High quality education and interpretation is in place that promotes the protection and respect for the island's natural and cultural values by:</p> <p>(a) facilitating increased understanding and,</p> <p>(b) encouraging appropriate visitor behaviour.</p> <p>E 2. Cumulative annual visitation to Snapper Island and reef is monitored by QPWS.</p>	<p><u>Visitor education</u></p> <p>E 1a. Education is integral to the management of Snapper Island, in terms of protecting natural and cultural values, ensuring safety and adding value to visitor experience.</p> <p>E 1b. An interpretative strategy is developed for Snapper Island in association with Kuku Yalanji and commercial operators.</p> <p>E 1c. Interpretative infrastructure is to be managed in accordance with landscape classification and the QPWS Facilities Manual.</p> <p>E 2a. Improved monitoring of recreational and commercial visitor numbers is required to manage cumulative impacts.</p>

4.4 Research and monitoring

Snapper Island presents a range of research and monitoring opportunities, in natural resource management, visitor management, and Kuku Yalanji cultural resource management.

Key research and monitoring opportunities may include:

- a comprehensive cultural heritage survey of both indigenous and historical values (see also 4.2.1 and 4.2.2);
- the development and ongoing review of an appropriate fire management regime acceptable to both Kuku Yalanji and QPWS (see also 4.2.2); and
- an additional fauna survey (preferably in the wet season), including pest species (see also 4.1.2).

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy / Guidelines & Actions
<p>A co-ordinated research and monitoring program is needed to complement natural, cultural and visitor management.</p> <p>Research to date has been mainly opportunistic, and focused on vegetation. The current understanding of visitor use and impacts is limited, particularly in relation to conflict with Kuku Yalanji cultural values.</p> <p>Inadequate natural and cultural research and monitoring could compromise management effectiveness.</p> <p>A lack of collaboration and communication between Kuku Yalanji and QPWS has the potential to diminish research and monitoring outcomes.</p>	<p>R1. Ongoing research and monitoring are integrated into natural, cultural and visitor management in order to best inform management of these values.</p> <p>R2. Research and monitoring is undertaken in a culturally appropriate and sustainable manner, in consultation with Kuku Yalanji.</p>	<p>R1a. Encourage the development of a research and monitoring strategy for the natural and cultural values of the island. A purpose of this strategy would be the development of a better understanding of the connection between existing natural and cultural values. Kuku Yalanji people need to be meaningfully involved in any survey and assessment work.</p> <p>R2a. Explore the development of a framework for knowledge sharing between QPWS, the Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.</p>

4.5 Partnerships

Snapper Island has considerable potential value as a benchmark for an effective partnership approach to island management. Such a partnership should focus on involving Kuku Yalanji, QPWS, tourism and recreation interests, and the local community.

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy / Guidelines & Actions
<p>A strong management partnership is required particularly between QPWS and Kuku Yalanji to ensure an agreed and consistent approach to protection of the island's significant values. This approach is currently in an early stage of development. Further clarification of the appropriate Traditional Owners to be speaking for the island is required.</p>	<p>P1. Effective partnerships ensure that the island remains relevant, useful and accessible to the broad community. Relationships with tourism and recreational interests are positive and co-operative and lead to high quality and sustainable, visitor experiences.</p> <p>P2. The significance of Snapper Island to Kuku Yalanji (cultural resources, values and practices) is respected and protected, and meaningful indigenous partnerships underpin and enhance environmental management.</p>	<p>P1a. Facilitate a co-ordinated and informed approach to management by maintaining effective liaison and consultation with relevant tourism and recreation groups and other relevant management agencies such as GBRMPA.</p> <p>P2a. Continue to work with Cape York Land Council to determine the appropriate Traditional Owners within the wider Kuku Yalanji "nation" to be speaking for the island. Until such an agreed position is reached it is appropriate that an all-inclusive approach to involving Kuku Yalanji people is maintained.</p>

Status, threats and opportunities	Desired outcomes 2016	Policy / Guidelines & Actions
Management of the neighbouring marine park requires co-ordination with GBRMPA to ensure appropriate and sustainable access to and use of the island (see also sections 3 and 4.3.1)	P3. Inclusive “grassroots” relationships are developed and sustained with local community groups to raise stakeholder awareness of management policy and site planning (including agency constraints) and to facilitate active community support such as volunteer work groups.	P3a. QPWS develops a client focus to day-to-day management activities and directly involves community and partner groups in management activities (where appropriate) and consistent with existing QPWS policy including the <i>Park Master Plan</i> .

5. Acknowledgements

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff prepared this management statement. Although the principal author is Gordon La Praik, the preparation of this document and associated policy has been made possible only by the contributions of a number of QPWS officers and external stakeholders. QPWS specifically acknowledges and appreciates the involvement and support of Kuku Yalanji traditional owners and individuals whose knowledge, information, and input have contributed to this Management Statement.

6. Disclaimer

This Management Statement may be amended from time to time and does not necessarily represent Queensland Government policy. However, it is intended that this Management Statement will be used as a basis for managing Snapper Island Section (Hope Islands National Park) consistent with legislative requirements. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any actions taken by any other person on the basis of this document. This Management Statement is not intended to affect Native Title rights and interests in the National Park.

Note that the implementation of some management strategies may need to be phased in according to the availability of resources.

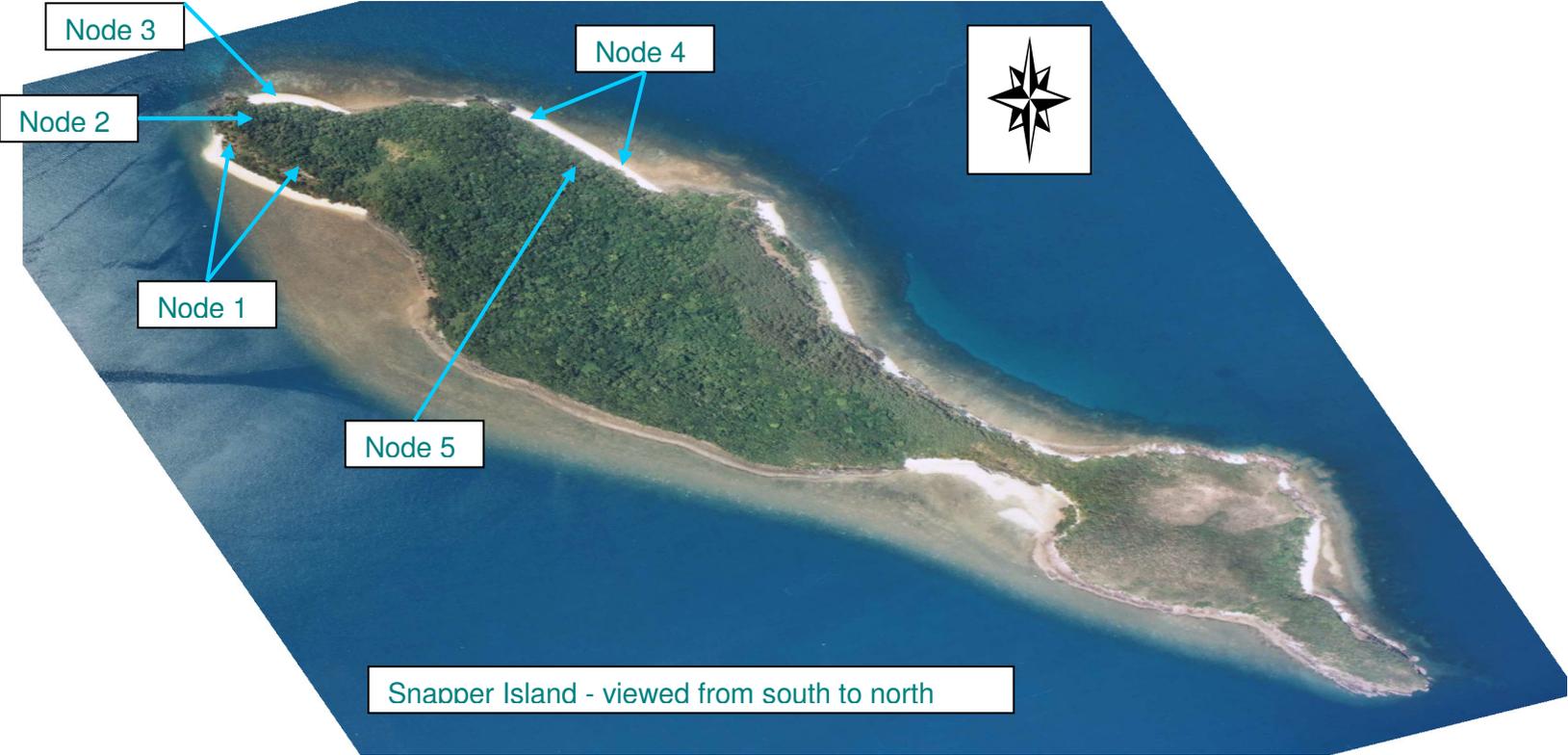
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Appendices

Appendix A - Map 1 Visitor Nodes (refer section 4.3.1)



Appendix B: Level of commercial use by tourism operators permitted (December 2006) under the CAPoM

Under the *Cairns Area Plan of Management (C'wlth) 1998* the Snapper Island Location (the Marine Park waters surrounding Snapper Island out to a distance of 500m from the reef edge) is designated as a "Sensitive Location" with a "Low Use" setting applied.

The Low Use Sensitive Location setting, limits visitation from "standard" vessel tour operators to one operator per day (with a prior booking), and for a maximum of 50 visits per operator per year and a maximum group size of 15 people (including crew).

In addition, provision is made under the plan for some "non standard" operations to have various exemptions from this setting limit, being:

- One commercial sea kayaking tour operator may access Snapper Reef Location on a daily basis without a booking; and
- Any other kayaking or non-motorised water sports tour operator may access the locality for 50 days in a year without a prior booking.

Note:

- The current commercial sea kayaking tour operator is only permitted to access the national park on week days and up until 11.00 am on Saturdays.
- All commercial and recreational users must register an overnight camping booking request and obtain a camping permit from the relevant QPWS offices before camping overnight at Snapper Island.
- All Marine Park permits previously in place have either expired or have been standardised and fall into one of the above categories. Two permits that used to give permission to do passenger transfers / camper drop-offs have not been renewed.
- Marine Park access only applies to Marine Park waters. Access under a Marine Parks permit does not extend onto the island national park.
- Permission is required under the *Nature Conservation Act (Qld) 1992* in the form of a Commercial Activity Permit (CAP) to access the island national park.