



# Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) Protected Area Expansion Strategy

## *Cultural and natural values enhancement*

Quandamooka People invite you to walk country that once only our people traversed. We share our country and culture in the hope that you may appreciate and will care for it as we do.

### About the island

Minjerribah is a place of incredible cultural significance, a sanctuary that has been cared for by its owners and custodians, the Quandamooka People, for many thousands of years. During the Native Title determination process, when Quandamooka People were negotiating their native title rights and interests, they specifically consented to allowing much of their native title lands to also be included in Naree Budjong Djara (My Mother Earth) National Park.

The island boasts some of the world's most spectacular scenery, rich cultural history and diverse habitats—offering locals and visitors once in a lifetime experiences with nature. It is also home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which are genetically unique, not found anywhere else in Australia.

### Protected area

Protected areas play a vital role in maintaining and permanently protecting the island's special cultural values and natural habitats, ecosystems and wildlife—allowing a balance between the delivery of environmental management outcomes and providing access to high quality eco-cultural recreation experiences.

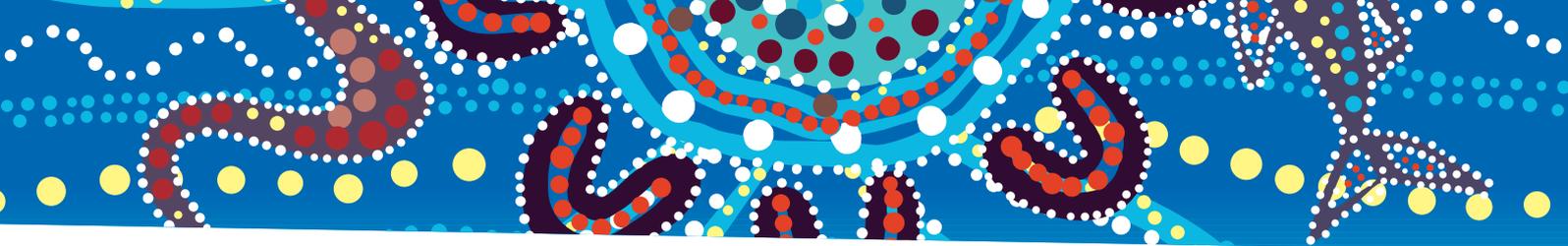
Around half of Minjerribah is currently protected area including Naree Budjong Djara National Park, jointly managed by Quandamooka People and the Queensland Government.

### Expanding protected area on Minjerribah

In 2011 the Quandamooka People were recognised as native title holders for the majority of Minjerribah. Since then, the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), in partnership with the Queensland Government, has been working to protect the island's biodiversity and rich cultural heritage for future generations. One of the projects as part of *Minjerribah Futures*—an initiative aimed at supporting the end of sandmining on the island—is to **develop a strategy for expanding the island's national parks and other protected areas and for the staged transfer of expired mining leases with funded joint management arrangements**. Implementation of the strategy would result in approximately 80 per cent of the island being protected area.

Increasing the island's protected area estate will enable improved access and opportunities for visitors to explore the island including, where appropriate, new walking tracks and experiences into places that were previously not publicly accessible.

Increasing the island's protected area estate to its full potential will take time and requires a staged, cooperative approach. In the short term, areas such as remnant heathlands, eucalypt forest and dune areas—stretching along Flinders Swamp in the north of the island to coastal areas south of Amity and the culturally significant Bummiera (Brown Lake) and its catchment—have been identified by Quandamooka People as high priority areas for inclusion.



Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has assessed the values and agreed they are priority areas for national park expansion on Minjerribah.

Transition of initial additional areas to national park has been funded and are expected to commence within the next 6 to 12 months. The additional areas identified have been mapped as 95 per cent remnant vegetation, with almost 90 per cent being habitat for critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or near threatened species.

More than 20 threatened and three near-threatened species populations have been recorded in/or adjoining the proposed additional areas, including the vulnerable wallum sedgefrog, endangered eastern curlew and vulnerable wedge-tailed shearwater.

The endangered swamp daisy and yellow swamp orchid also occur in the identified areas, as well as rare examples of mallee eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus planchoniana*) growing in the coastal heaths. Approximately 31 per cent of the areas overlap the Moreton Bay Ramsar wetland of international importance. Bummiera (Brown Lake), a unique regional ecosystem, is one of approximately 80 perched lakes on sand recorded worldwide and is a sacred landscape for the Quandamooka People.

In the medium to long-term, pending resources and funding, additional areas for transition to protected area include suitable areas of high conservation, cultural and landscape connectivity values.

## Joint management

To ensure the highest level of environmental management, and physical and spiritual protection of cultural values for Minjerribah, protected areas are jointly managed by the Quandamooka People and QPWS rangers.

Joint Management Rangers are highly skilled in conservation work, and experienced in caring for and managing Country through inter-generational knowledge sharing and formal land management qualifications.

Consistent with Australia-wide outcomes in Aboriginal management of Conservation estate, joint management has improved both cultural and natural outcomes.

## Changes and outcomes

Expanding Minjerribah's protected area estate will result in a number of benefits, including:

- better protection of the environment and threatened wildlife by utilising the intergenerational knowledge of Traditional Owners
- improved access and facilities such as walking tracks for visitors to explore the island
- increased protection of significant physical and spiritual cultural heritage values on Minjerribah
- new jobs for land management
- cultural knowledge sharing, through joint management
- improved protection and catchment management leading to reduced risks to water quality for lakes, streams and wetlands
- wider coverage for fire and pest management activities
- improved habitat connectivity
- further joint management arrangements that respect and consider Native Title rights and interests.

Minjerribah country proposed to be included as protected area has been and continues to be subject to the authorisation of the Quandamooka People.

Public recreation will continue to be a feature of the expanded protected area estate on Minjerribah, providing greater experiences for locals and visitors.

For further information on Minjerribah's cultural and environmental values, visit: [www.qld.gov.au/minjerribah](http://www.qld.gov.au/minjerribah)