Cultural Mapping, Cultural Planning

Investigating a process for more effective heritage management in Wadandi Country



Cultural Mapping

- Toward effective protection and management of Wadandi cultural landscapes.
- This involves both cultural mapping & cultural planning.
- Recording and documenting the cultural values and places within the Wadandi cultural landscape.
- A map is the key interface.



Cultural Planning

- Cultural planning draws from the cultural mapping process
- Guidelines for the protection, maintenance or use of land of cultural value; or a place of cultural significance.
- Outlines the customary protocols and rights of Traditional Owners.
- Outlines the specific provision for the rehabilitation of cultural places or objects.
- Outlines the state and national laws



Local Context

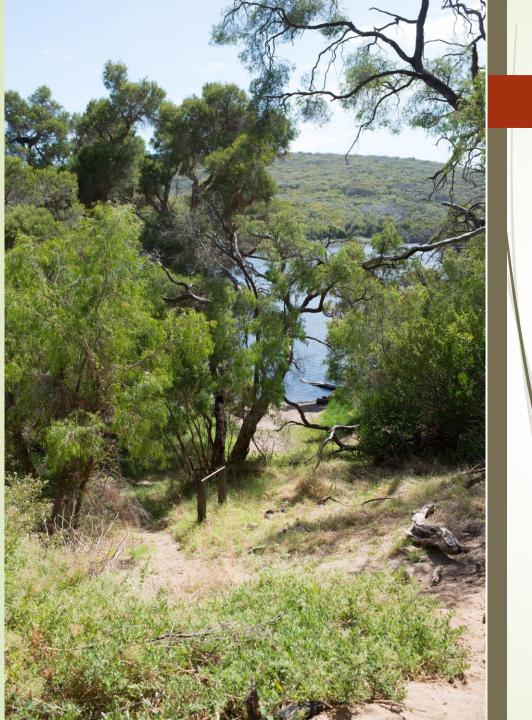
- For a cultural plan to be practical and effective, it requires collaboration.
- It requires integration with existing management plans.
- It also requires detailed understanding to the local context.
- A plan needs to identify the current barriers for the effective management of cultural heritage places and landscapes.



Recurrent Patterns

- Desecration of sacred caves
- Deterioration of rock art
- Impacts across Songlines
- Degradation of cultural (sacred waterholes and waterways)
- Destruction of cultural artifacts and sites
- Direct disempowerment of Custodians in the planning and management of their cultural landscape.







- Recurrent issues and points of contention.
- Why are no plans put in place? Why are heritage laws and guidelines not understood or not followed?
- Why is there no strategic framework in place? (A Section 18 permit is not strategic).
- Addressing these and other questions are the steps required to identify:
 - Barriers to collaboration
 - Barriers to strategic planning
 - Barriers to the effective development and implementation of projects
 - Practical action to understand and address these barriers,

Breaches – State and Federal Laws

- Laws and guidelines of various Acts and Conventions, including but not limited to:
- The Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (Section 17)
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1993.
- Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 19.



Planning & Risk Management

Heritage and environmental management plan - that guides projects around accumulated impacts, such as:

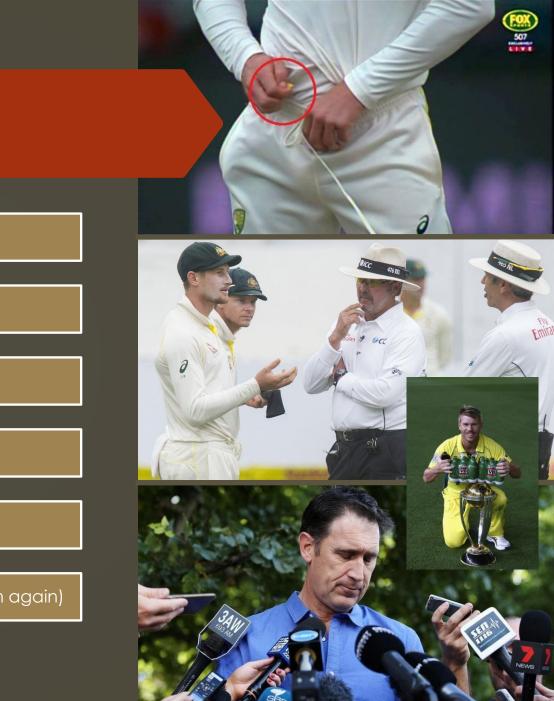
- Erosion
- Litter
- Noise
- Human waste
- Acid sulphate soils
- Spread of weeds
- Spread of dieback
- Exposure of cultural sites
- Exposure of human remains

Direct, indirect and potential impacts can be breaches to heritage laws

Conduct

- If heritage laws are not followed or enforced, and there is no risk planning or mitigation plan in place, then laws will continue to be broken.
- If these heritage laws are repeatedly not followed nor enforced, then there is a clear issue with the structures and processes in place.
- So, in the planning process, this needs to be investigated, and is, in order to change the 'culture' of how policies, projects and procedures are designed and implemented.





Breaking rules, breaking codes of conduct



Solution-based Planning

- This is to not cause conflict and argument.
- This is part of the context of cultural mapping and cultural planning - in this region.
- The intent is strategic collaboration and strategic integration
- This program has commenced. An independent process drawn from both the frustration and goodwill of senior Wadandi cultural leaders.

