



Woppaburra People Caring for Country

Woppaburra People are represented by three endorsed entities; Woppaburra Saltwater Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC for their native title determination and Cultural heritage, Woppaburra TUMRA for Sea Country management within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Area and the Woppaburra Land Trust for land held in trust on Woppa (GKI). Our Country encompasses the Keppel Islands and sea Country including Konomie (North Keppel Island) and Woppa (Great Keppel Island).

People need to know who we are; it's not only our relationship between land and water but it's us and the science. With our land and sea Country management, we want to do this a certain way that's sustainable, respectful and efficient (eco-friendly). Increasing Woppaburra's presence on Country and monitoring the health of Country are our biggest priorities.

Today we are involved in caring for our Country through:

- Increasing Woppaburra's presence on Country and monitoring the health of Country which are our biggest priorities
- Managing our PBC functions and cultural heritage responsibilities through Woppaburra Saltwater Aboriginal Corporation and our TUMRA
- Development of our Sea Country management plan which will clarify our frameworks and positions
- Respecting and working with Country
- Co-design, implementation and co-management; we want to manage our own Country, we want to be front and centre of it all
- Key partnerships with GBRMPA and QPWS
- Our TUMRA's leadership as a united voice, service provider and leveraging upskilling opportunities
- Maintaining our cultural heritage sites and advocating to leave cultural heritage in situ, where possible
- Participation in regional NRM planning processes with our neighbours and partners

Our aspirations for our people and Country include:

- Development of our Ranger Program which will sit under the Land and Sea Country Management Plan
- On-ground presence on Woppa (GKI) and an office in Yeppoon
- Development of our land held in trust on Woppa to provide accommodation for relaxation, respite and to run programs from
- FTE employment targets with training, upskilling and hybrid employment with partners

Key priorities we are working towards include:

- Looking after Country to return our islands back to their natural state starting with our smaller islands to build upon small wins
- Mapping our reefs and seagrass and understanding water quality issues as we are the first part of the reef that gets the sediment runoff from the Fitzroy catchment

To make Woppaburra Country healthy again, we support and encourage projects, activities and investments that help to:

- Increase Woppaburra presence on Country
- Improve Land and Sea management
- Develop secure infrastructure
- Change island politics
- Support our governance structures and policies to support MOUs with all partners and identify mutual benefits of working together
- Achieve equitable opportunities on Country
- Return our islands to their natural states and reduce erosion to the reef
- Get rid of vermin such as goats and exotic weeds
- Ensure development on the islands take into account biosecurity
- Improve water quality from the catchment hitting the southern part of the Great Barrier Reef
- Improve the health of our reefs and seagrass
- Improve the health of threatened species such as turtle, dugong and snubfin dolphins

Working together

When planning to engage with Woppaburra People it is important to consider:

- Respecting and engaging all three Woppaburra entities via the three Chairs and TUMRA Coordinator
- Increasing timeframes for engagement and consultation – we need to take time to digest information, share with our families and to identify problems that may need addressing. We have an obligation to take information back to our family groups if projects have major impacts.
- There is not a good community wide level of understanding of cultural values including intangible heritage, this needs improving- respect all the intangible and tangible cultural heritage
- Cultural heritage advice and requests for assessments need to go through the Woppaburra Saltwater Aboriginal Corporation
- Availability – recommend plenty of lead in time

We look forward to discussing how we can best work together.

The Woppaburra Saltwater Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC can be contacted through WoppaburraSaltwater@gmail.com, the Woppaburra TUMRA via tumracoordinator@woppaburra.com.au and Woppaburra Land Trust via the Chair, Valmai Smith valmai2014.vs@gmail.com

