



A Chance To Plan For Country: Resource Manual

To help you make a decision about National and World
Heritage on Cape York Peninsula.

Overview

The Cape York Peninsula region is a place of special heritage, containing vast and relatively undisturbed landscapes, rich with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions and customs, and extraordinary biological significance and diversity.

The Queensland Government is consulting with the community, in particular the people of Cape York Peninsula. A nomination will only proceed with Traditional Owner consent and support of the community.

Traditional Owners are being encouraged to get involved in a country planning process which could help identify cultural and natural heritage values, and determine boundaries and management strategies for any proposed National and World Heritage areas.

This resource manual contains a range of information that may assist Traditional Owner group through the country planning process and assist with making a decision about Nation and World Heritage on their country.

For more information about the program see the weblink below:

www.derm.qld.gov.au/cape_york/index.html

or call the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) on: **(07) 4222 5239**



Serpentine River, Mitchell River Delta. Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Introduction

Background – how did we get here?

There is a long history of community support for investigating National and World Heritage listing as an option for recognising and managing the cultural and natural heritage of Cape York Peninsula.

[\[Read more...\]](#)

Section 1. Planning for your Country

Guidelines on how to write a country plan.

[\[Read more...\]](#)

Section 2. Cultural and Natural Heritage past and present

How to access existing recorded/archived information and how to gather and record current cultural heritage information.

[\[Read more...\]](#)

Section 3. Overview stories about Cape York Peninsula

Research and reference material including

- Natural Values
- Cultural Values

[\[Read more...\]](#)

Section 4. Information about National and World Heritage

How to make sure that everyone has the right information to make a decision about preparing a National and World Heritage nomination.

[\[Read more...\]](#)

Introduction >>

Introduction : Cape York Peninsula – building a National and World Heritage nomination together

Background – how did we get here?

There is a long history of community support for investigating National and World Heritage listing as an option for recognising and managing the cultural and natural heritage of Cape York Peninsula. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, conservationists and pastoralists expressed support in 1996 through the signing of the historic Cape York Heads of Agreement. The agreement, which reflected the broad interests of all three parties, included clauses regarding the development of 'a management regime for ecologically, economically, socially and culturally sustainable land use on the Cape York Peninsula' and assessment for a potential National and World Heritage nomination.

The State Government signed on to the agreement in 2000 and commenced desktop research work to determine whether the natural and cultural heritage values of the Cape might be of 'outstanding universal significance'; one of the tests for a National and World Heritage nomination. Reports resulting from this work are available on the government website (http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/cape_york).

The State and Commonwealth Government have committed to investigating a potential National and World Heritage nomination for suitable parts of Cape York Peninsula. Both governments have made the commitment that they will only proceed with a National and World Heritage nomination if it has the consent of Traditional Owners and the support of the wider community.

What has been done so far?

To establish a statutory framework for the State to undertake the preparatory work for a potential National and World Heritage nomination, the Government introduced the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 which was passed by parliament unanimously.

The Act establishes a 'study area' ([Map of the Cape York Region](#)), sets up a process for the State to declare an Area of International Conservation Significance and provides for two advisory committees: Cape York Peninsula Scientific and Cultural Advisory Committee and the Cape York Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee which has over 50% indigenous representation.

These committees provide advice to the Minister; they do not make decisions or implement the process, but have been valuable in guiding the work priorities of DERM in respect of the project. To date the committees have provided valuable advice regarding a suitable methodology for undertaking the work required to prepare a successful nomination, which is supported by the community.

Draft boundaries will be determined through a combination of heritage values, community input, and Traditional Owner consent.

The Queensland Government is encouraging Traditional Owners and the community to get involved in the consultation process to help make a decision about National and World Heritage and also assist with identifying the heritage values that could form part of a nomination.



[Map of the Cape York Region](#)


Planning for Country >>

Section 1: Planning for your Country

Planning for Country – to make a decision about National and World Heritage

Traditional Owner groups may wish to consider a potential National and World Heritage nomination in the context of their land use aspirations and existing planning and legislative arrangements. It is recognised that many groups have not yet undertaken this planning work..

Funding and other assistance is available to Traditional Owner groups to engage in this process through the preparation of a plan for their country.

 [How to get involved - diagram of the planning process](#)



During the planning process for their country, Traditional Owner groups will be in a better position to make an informed decision in relation to whether they want to go ahead with a National and World Heritage nomination or not.

If yes, Traditional Owners will be asked to contribute information about heritage values and management arrangements for their land which will support a nomination.

Without the consent of Traditional Owners a National and World Heritage nomination can not go ahead. It is anticipated that this engagement approach will:

- Improve the way that Government engages with Traditional Owners in relation to decision making about country and culture;
- Give something back to the community through providing resources to develop a plan for country;
- Involve Traditional Owners in the National and World Heritage nomination from the very beginning.

The journey towards a decision about National and World Heritage provides many opportunities for planning and reflection on the values of Cape York Peninsula in the context of the aspirations of the Cape York Peninsula community.

We hope you enjoy using this manual and we appreciate your feedback!

 [Guidelines for Country-based Planning](#)

Country Planning Guidelines and National and World Heritage Workshop

This workshop was held in Cairns on November 29, 2011.

[Workshop overview and presentations](#)



Cultural and Natural Heritage >>

Section 1: Planning for your Country

Country Planning Guidelines & National and World Heritage Workshop

On the 29th November 2011 DERM held a Country Planning and National and World Heritage Workshop at the Holiday Inn in Cairns.

The day was designed to provide information to planning consultants and Traditional Owners on both the country planning aspect of the Cape York Peninsula National and World Heritage Program and information about National and World Heritage, how the nomination process may occur and what management of a National and World Heritage area might look like for Traditional Owners.



The workshop included presentations relating to the draft Country Based Planning Guidelines Dermot Smyth has put together and to also discuss National and World Heritage and the process associated with identification of values for the potential nomination.

Around 38 people attended including existing and potential planners associated with the National and World Heritage program working across Cape York Peninsula along with Traditional Owners from the different regions.

The following documents include the workshop agenda and presentations.



Documents



[Workshop agenda](#)



[Introduction to the World Heritage and Country Planning program](#) Lyn Wallace



[Introduction To The World Heritage List And Nomination Process](#) Anita Smith



[Community engagement on the heritage values of Cape York Peninsula](#) Donna Harkess



[Our Country Our Way - Experiences in Indigenous planning](#) Dr Rosemary Hill, Dr Fiona Walsh, Dr Jocelyn Davies, Mr Marcus Sandford

Section 2. Cultural and Natural Heritage past and present

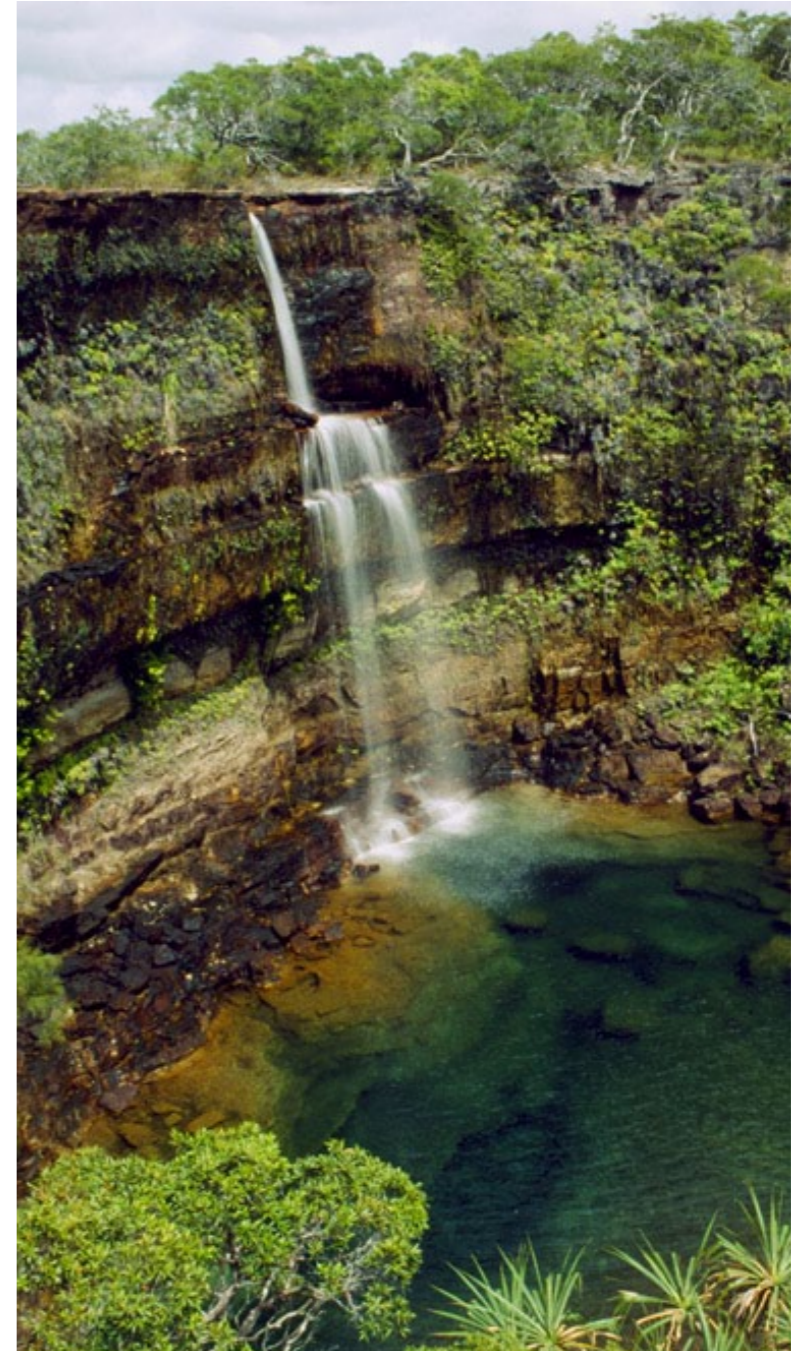
The link below provides information on cultural heritage databases and tips on how to gather and record cultural heritage knowledge.

 [Cultural Heritage support document](#)

Data gathering methodologies that can support a National and World Heritage nomination

Information about heritage can be gathered and recorded in a number of ways:

- Recording the old people telling their stories
- Interviews and through general conversation – Writing down quotes about the different ways that people value their culture ...
- Cultural mapping – using GPS and GIS technologies
- support and research assistance available through DERM cultural heritage support officer
- Film, audio recording, photos, story writing and database entry




Waterfall. Photo: Kerry Trapnell


[Overview Stories >>](#)

Section 3. Overview stories about Cape York Peninsula


The Queensland Government commissioned a number of reports outlining the cultural and natural values of Cape York Peninsula (see links below)


Natural Values

 [The Landscapes Of Cape York Peninsula And Their Heritage Values](#) Peter Stanton


 [Cape York Peninsula Ornithological Story](#)
The Evolutionary Ecology Of Birds On Cape York Peninsula: National And International Significance, Robert Heinsohn


 [The Story Of Plants On Cape York Peninsula](#) Dr Bruce Wannan


 [The Geological Story Of Cape York Peninsula](#) Warwick Willmott

 [The Hydroecological Natural Heritage Story Of Cape York Peninsula](#) Ben Cook, Mark Kennard, Doug Ward And Brad Pusey

Cultural Values

 [A Framework For The Development Of Ethno-ecological Heritage Stories On Cape York Peninsula](#) Mark Ziembicki

 [Cape York Peninsula Cultural Story Non-Indigenous and Shared History](#) Dr Nicky Horsfall

 [Cape York Peninsula Indigenous Cultural Story](#) Peter Sutton

Protected Matters Search Tool

www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html



[Information about World Heritage >>](#)

Section 4. Information about National and World Heritage

There is a lot of information available that you can access to inform your community about National and World Heritage. These documents provide some background information about National and World Heritage programs.

Guest Speaker

If interested, you could contact DERM about organizing for a speaker to come and talk to your community – this might be a good chance to meet on country.

Supporting Information


 [An Overview of World Heritage](#)

 [Indigenous people and protected areas](#)

Online Documentation


There are many resources available on-line here are a few:


 [World Heritage Brochure](#)


 [Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#)


 [Preparing World Heritage Nominations manual](#)

 [World Heritage Information kit](#)


 [World Heritage Today and Tomorrow with young people](#)

 [World Heritage Cultural Landscapes](#)
A Handbook for Conservation and Management

 [The EPBC Act and the National Heritage List](#)
The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

 [An Indigenous Guide to Understanding the Assessment of Places for the National Heritage List](#)

 [Management Arrangements for potential World Heritage Listing for Cape York Peninsula](#)
Discussion Paper

 [Review of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List under the Cultural Landscapes category](#), Anita Smith

 [Matters of National Environmental Significance](#)
Significant impact guidelines