



*Far West Coast*

# Healthy Country Plan

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*This Draft Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan is released for comment to the members of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC). Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the plan before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 so that the final plan can be endorsed at the FWCAC AGM 2016. Comments can be provided to:*

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*Or*

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**Photos on cover from top left in a clockwise direction:**

*Nullarbor Plain, Yellabinna Regional Reserve, Mount Finke, Googs Lake, Acraman Creek, Clare Bay, Chinaman’s Hat, Twin Rocks and the Bunda Cliffs.*

## About this plan

This draft plan was prepared by the Far West Coast (FWC) Working Group in consultation with FWC Aboriginal people. The working group is made up of the FWC main members of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee and Yumberra Conservation Park Co-management Board who contribute on behalf of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation with support from staff of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. The Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) brings together six cultural groups who have native title interests within the region; Kokatha, Mirning, Wirangu, Yalata group, Oak Valley group and the Robert's group.

The central focus of the FWC Healthy Country Plan is to direct and support implementation of projects, prioritised by the FWC Working Group, as significant in creating and maintaining our culture and a healthy environment for our land and our people. This includes actively supporting engagement of Far West Coast people in caring for their country, particularly through the co-management Far West Coast parks and reserves.

*We have come together as a single Native Title Group to work together to care for our country and ensure our culture remains strong.*



*Participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> Nullarbor on-country workshop*



*Participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> Yumberra on-country workshop*

## The story of this plan

### February 2015

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee (NPAC) and Yumberra Conservation Park Co-management Board (YCPCB) met with some Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) Board members to discuss making a Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan to guide how the Far West Coast Aboriginal community could care for country. The group decided that the NPAC and YCPCB would make up the working group and could develop the plan as representatives of the FWCAC.



### May 2015

The Working Group had its first meeting to discuss what the plan would cover and to plan the first on-country workshop. They also agreed that the information from this process would be used for the park management plans.

### August 2015

Two on-country workshops were held; one for Nullarbor at Koonalda Homestead and one for the Greater Yellabinna and Wanna Munda area at Scotdesco. These workshops included other members of the Far West Coast Aboriginal community who talked about what they wanted the future to look like, what was important to them (targets) and what was affecting those important things (threats).



### February 2016

Working Group meeting 2 at Scotdesco where the group used the information from the on-country workshops to develop visions and decided which threats needed to be dealt with first.



### May 2016

Working Group meeting 3 at Scotdesco where the group brainstormed strategies to manage the threats and improve the targets.



### July 2016

Two on-country workshops, one for Nullarbor and one for the Greater Yellabinna and Wanna Munda area, both held at the Iluka mine site.



These workshops involved the larger group again who developed projects from the strategies and developed activities to implement the strategies.



### September 2016

Working Group meeting 4 was when the group reviewed the draft plan and gave feedback to improve it. They also worked on how they could check that the plan was working.

How the boards and the plans work together



## The area our Healthy Country Plan covers

The Far West Coast Native Title area (outlined in pink on the map below) includes; the Undiri-Nullarbor Parks (Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area, Regional Reserve and National Park), the Greater Yellabinna Parks (Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area and Regional Reserve, Yumbarra Conservation Park (CP), Boondina CP and Pureba CP) and the Wanna Munda Parks (Wahgunyah CP, Fowlers Bay CP, Chadinga CP, Point Bell CP, Wittelbee CP, Laura Bay CP and Acraman Creek CP).



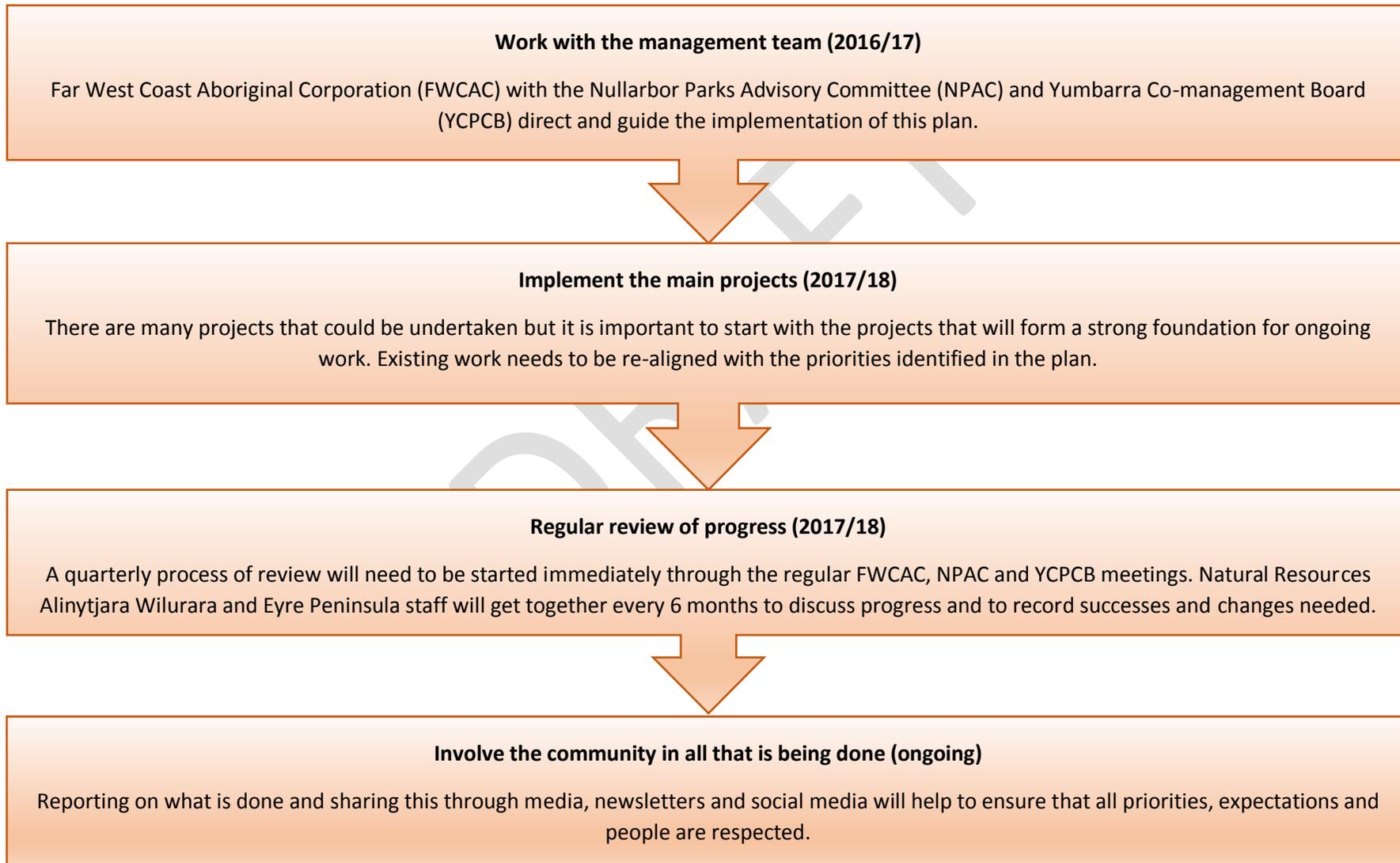
## Our Vision

Together we will create a vibrant Far West Coast community where the unique Aboriginal culture and the arid and fragile country is strong, shared and respected.



## How we will work together

This plan is about achieving the vision of the Far West Coast People for their country and it needs to be clear on the priorities. Twelve projects will be carried out, building on the work already in progress:



## Summary of Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan

*Vision: what we want the future to look like*

<p><b>Our Vision:</b> Together we will create a vibrant Far West Coast community where the unique Aboriginal culture and the arid and fragile country is strong, shared and</p>		
<p><b>TARGETS</b> Important things we want to look after</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural knowledge</li> <li>• Cultural sites</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Community and wellbeing</li> <li>• Coastal landscapes</li> <li>• <i>Wanna ma</i> (coastal food)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine animals</li> <li>• <i>Gabi</i> (water)</li> <li>• <i>Guga</i> (bush meat)</li> <li>• Important plants</li> <li>• Animals of significance</li> <li>• Places of significance</li> </ul>
<p><b>THREATS</b> Problems we want to stop or reduce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feral predators</li> <li>• Knowledge loss</li> <li>• Onshore and offshore mining</li> <li>• Lack of employment opportunities</li> <li>• Uncontrolled visitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camels</li> <li>• Buffel grass</li> <li>• Inappropriate hunting and harvesting</li> <li>• Inappropriate fire regimes</li> <li>• Lack of funding</li> <li>• Dog fence</li> </ul>
<p><b>PROJECTS</b> What we will do to keep people and country healthy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen knowledge of country</li> <li>• Fire management</li> <li>• Camel management</li> <li>• Buffel grass eradication</li> <li>• Feral predator management</li> <li>• Minimise the impact of the dog fence on native animals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor management</li> <li>• Minimise impacts and maximising benefits from mining</li> <li>• Sufficient funding to implement the plan</li> <li>• Create employment opportunities</li> <li>• Enough healthy <i>guga</i></li> <li>• Good <i>gabi</i></li> </ul>

## Current Health of our Targets

The people and the country are connected and everything is linked; when the country is not healthy, the people cannot be healthy and vice versa. For our planning we talked about all the things that are important to us and then grouped them together into twelve “targets”. We know that if we look after these targets that the whole of country and the people will be healthy.

When we look after all the targets we will be looking after the things that are important to us and the whole community, including what scientists, visitors and local people value. Taking care of specific sites such as rockholes means that we are looking after our cultural sites, water sources and the different plants and animals that rely on the rockholes for survival.

### Key

- Very Good** – as healthy as it can be
- Good** – might need a bit of support
- Fair** – needs a lot of support
- Poor** – needs urgent attention

FAIR



**Guga (bush meat)**  
includes: *gibra* (bush turkey), *malu* (red kangaroo), *wadu* (wombat), *gulda* (sleepy lizard) *barna* (goanna)

FAIR



**Marine animals**  
includes: dolphins, whales, seals, sea lions, penguins, fish, sharks, seabirds

FAIR



**Gabi (water)**  
includes: rockholes, salt lakes, caves, soaks, groundwater

FAIR



**Wanna ma (coastal food)**  
includes: oysters, razor fish, cockles, *galda maru* (crabs), *mudi* (fish), *moona ma* (limpets), shellfish, seafood, squid

FAIR



**Employment**  
includes: jobs as Rangers, Tour Guides etc, Aboriginal enterprises and businesses, training and education

FAIR



**Important plants**  
includes: *bulgar* (sandalwood), water mallee, *guduyah*, quandong, bush medicine

**FAIR**



**Animals of significance**  
includes: all land animals including dingos, thorny devil, sandhill dunnart, echidna, snakes and birds

**FAIR**



**Community and wellbeing**  
includes: spiritual health, physical health, health of country

**FAIR**



**Cultural knowledge**  
includes: stories, language, knowledge of the right way to do things, cultural safety

**GOOD**



**Places of Significance**  
includes: Koonalda, Googs Lake, Mt Finke, dog fence, whaling station ruins, Gilgerabbie Hut

**POOR**



**Cultural sites**  
includes: rockholes, flint mines, ochre sites, middens, burial sites, artefacts, caves

**POOR**



**Coastal Landscapes**  
includes: dunes, the reefs, the creeks, the caves, the *bindhara* (swamps), soaks and bays

## HCP TARGET

## Cultural Knowledge

FAIR

## Cultural Knowledge Indicators

- Aboriginal elders with traditional knowledge recognised as cultural knowledge experts / teachers
- Old people passing knowledge to young people
- Cultural knowledge is guiding everything we do

Cultural knowledge is held in the stories, dance and songlines that are passed from our old people on to our young people. This knowledge is a map of country that tells us how to move between waterholes and find food. It is about teaching our children in language so they know the names of the plants and animals and they can learn the right way of doing things.

It's about being able to teach our children but also about sharing some knowledge with other people through signs and classes.



## HCP TARGET

## Cultural Sites

POOR

## Cultural Sites Indicators

- Right people managing right sites with right knowledge
- Park workers are culturally safe and informed
- Public awareness and respect for cultural sites
- Cultural site knowledge passed through generations (so not lost)

Our cultural sites are all over the Far West Coast area. Most people could pass by a cultural site and have no idea it is there but other sites, such as, Koonalda Cave are well known and well-studied. We know where our sites are located and how to look after them – this knowledge is passed on to us from our Elders through stories, dance and songlines. We need to be able to protect these sites and protect visitors from doing culturally unsafe things and damage to our sites, either unwittingly or deliberately. Our cultural sites are protected through legislation.

Some of our sacred sites can only be known to specific people and need to be kept secret. We encourage people to visit other sites to marvel at the natural beauty and appreciate our ancestor's art while gaining an understanding of our culture. We are proud of our culture, the oldest living culture in the world and cultural sites provide places for us to continue to practice it and for others to learn and respect us and our culture and country.



## HCP TARGET

## Employment

FAIR

## Employment Indicators

- Number of Aboriginal people employed and contracted
- Number of opportunities available for training and employment
- Number of active Aboriginal-owned business

Our parents, grandparents and great grandparents were moved off our land to make way for pastoralism. Some stayed in the area, living on missions such as Koonibba and others worked for the farmers, shearing sheep but many moved away, looking for more opportunities and a better life for their children.

Employment and training opportunities need to enable us to maintain our cultural values and we need employers to value our cultural knowledge. There are some jobs on-country with government, in farming and at the Jacinth-Ambrosia mine but not enough for everyone. We want more of our children to get higher degrees so they can get better jobs. More Far West Coast people could be employed in the jobs that do exist. There are also opportunities that could be turned into jobs and businesses for Far West Coast people especially in nature-based and cultural tourism as well as awareness and education in Aboriginal culture.



## HCP TARGET

## Coastal Landscapes

POOR

## Coastal Landscapes Indicators

- Elders/TOs happy sharing culture
- Presence of associated plants and animals
- Visitors are happy, safe and inspired
- People doing the right thing

The Far West Coast is well known for its rugged, remote and beautiful coastline. We call the coastal area “*Wanna Munda*”. Lots of people come to visit the coast to fish, surf, camp, enjoy the spectacular views and watch wildlife such as whales and sea lions. *Wanna Munda* includes: the dunes, the reefs, the creeks, the caves, the *bindhara* (swamps), soaks and bays. Coastal soaks provide fresh water and the coastline is dotted with camps where there are middens, fossil sites, burial grounds and flint working sites.

These significant cultural sites need protection and need to be maintained by the right people. *Wanna Munda* is home to many types of animals and plants and some, such as the Nullarbor daisy, are only found along the Far West Coast.



## HCP TARGET

*Guga* (bush meat)

FAIR

*Guga* Indicators

- Number of different types of animals
- Numbers of each types of animal
- Amount of fat and taste
- Area of vegetation with right fire regime

*Gibra* (bush turkey), *malu* (red kangaroo), *wadu* (wombat), *gulda* (sleepy lizard), goanna and emu are bush meats collectively known as *guga*. This target also includes the things that make *guga* abundant and healthy such as the plants they feed on like saltbush and bluebush. We still hunt *guga* such as *gibra*, *malu*, *wadu* and *gulda* and we share whatever we catch with our extended families and within our communities. Food is an important part of our culture as the hunting, preparation and eating of such food all allow for us to continue our culture and traditions. It is also a time to bring families together. The whole process gives us a healthier way of living.

Today, opportunities for us to hunt and eat *guga* are limited as many of us live far away from our traditional hunting grounds and we may not have access to vehicles or have the time to go hunting. Changes in the way land is managed, competition from pests or destruction by pests affects the amount of *guga* that is available to hunt.



## HCP TARGET

*Marine Animals*

FAIR

## Marine Animals Indicators

- Population structure
- Breeding success
- See them where they should be
- Species composition

The remote nature of the coastline means that it is home to many threatened species such as ospreys and white-bellied sea eagles which make their nests along the cliffs where they are safe from predators and people.

Some of these animals, like the southern right whales and humpback whales travel thousands of kilometres to get here. Every year southern right whales migrate from the seas near Antarctica to breed and to give birth and nurse their calves in the relatively protected waters of the Head of Bight and Fowlers Bay. Other animals like dolphins, seals and sea lions live in the area all year round and feed on fish and crustaceans. The whales, seals and sea lions were hunted almost to extinction by early settlers. Long nosed fur seals have recovered and are now abundant but the southern right whales and Australian sea lions are taking longer to recover and have special provisions in place to protect them and help their species recover.



## HCP TARGET

*Important Plants*

FAIR

## Important Plants Indicators

- Animals that spread useful plants are there
- Easy to find
- Animals that are dependent on them are abundant

These are the bush foods that are good to eat like; quandong, *gulgara* (bush banana), *bildy bildy* (pigface) and *warlga* (bush tomato) and the bush medicines that treat our illnesses when we're sick like; emu bush (*E. alternifolia*) and sandalwood. These plants provide food, water, medicine, tools, weapons and art and craft. Plants are also important because they provide food and habitat for animals, particularly totem animals and *guga*.

Bush tucker plants are more than just a food source; they are important for cultural reasons and for our health and wellbeing. The process of collecting, preparing and eating food is a way for us to share cultural knowledge. Similarly, bush medicine is used to treat specific ailments and the collection, preparation and administering of the medicine is also a way to get out on-country and share knowledge.



## HCP TARGET

*Wanna Ma (coastal food)*

FAIR

## Wanna Ma Indicators

- Presence and amount of *wanna ma*, in right places at the right time of year
- Condition and variety of sizes

The coast of our country is famous for its seafood. For us this seafood is our *wanna ma* and it sustained our ancestors for thousands of years. We search the rocky reefs and sandy bays for periwinkles, razor fish, *galda maru* (crabs), mussels, *moona ma* (limpets), oysters and abalone. Some of these we eat and some we use for bait to catch fish.

Our coastline is famous for mulloway, a huge fish that people travel from far away to try their luck at catching. There are plenty of other types of *mudi* (fish) and seafood that we like to catch and eat like; salmon, squid and flathead. Going fishing and camping is an activity that lots of our families do together.



## HCP TARGET

## Community and Wellbeing

## FAIR

## Community and Wellbeing Indicators

- School involvement
- People of all generations out working on country
- Community attitude and participation
- Hunting and use of traditional foods
- Use of language

For the Far West Coast people the area is our home, supermarket, pharmacy, school, church and cemeteries. Country supports our physical and spiritual health and wellbeing; if the country is not healthy we cannot be healthy and vice versa. Knowledge on how to take care of country and our sacred sites is passed on to us from our Elders in the form of songs, dance and stories and being shown how to do things.

We need to be able to go out on country to take care of cultural business and to eat our traditional foods and use our traditional medicines. It is important for us to continue our culture and language. To be able to do these things in modern society, and to live with pride, we need to work and to be respected within in our community and the broader community.



## HCP TARGET

*Recent Heritage Places*

GOOD

## Recent Heritage Places Indicators

- Stories recorded
- Signage
- Presence of pest plants and animals
- Presence of flora and fauna
- People doing the right thing

There are lots of places that are important because of their Aboriginal history, recent history or cultural significance. Koonalda Cave is classified as a National Heritage Site because of the finger flutings which were recorded as being at least 20,000 years old proving that Aboriginal people were in Australia for much longer than the previous estimates of 2-3,000 years.

There are also the sites that were recorded by the early explorers and then the more recent history of the pastoralists such as the Gurneys who managed Nullarbor Station and built Koonalda Homestead. Other places of significance include; the whaling station ruins at Fowlers Bay, Gilgerabbie Hut, Googs track through Yellabinna and Yumbarra and the Dog Fence that tell of the history of the area and the people that came to a place that was considered a frontier and in some ways still is.



## Threats to our Targets

There are many threats that affect the health of the things that are important to us. By identifying the threats and working out ways to manage the threats we can improve the health of our targets. We identified many threats but we cannot work on all of them so we have decided which are the most important threats and will focus on them.

### Knowledge loss

Cultural knowledge is handed down from generation to generation. For this to happen Elders need to take young people out on country to teach them how to hunt, take care of cultural sites, how to find water, where to find bush medicine, how to navigate across the landscape. If there are not enough opportunities for Elders to get out on country to transfer knowledge to the next generation then the knowledge will not be able to be passed on to the right people and country will not be cared for properly. Our children go to school and learn in English but not their own language and there are fewer opportunities for them to learn their own languages. This means that there is a risk of our languages not being used and maintained.

### Inappropriate hunting and harvesting

There is some evidence to suggest there is illegal taking of native fauna and flora species, particularly sandalwood, is suspected and this affects the biodiversity of the area as well as impacting culturally important animals and plants. There is also inappropriate hunting of *guga* and overharvesting of bush tucker by Aboriginal people. This can be due to a loss of traditional knowledge and culture so that people don't have the right information to hunt at the right times or when to collect different types of bush tucker and medicine.

The use of four wheel drives and guns also mean that it is easier to cover large areas and hunt and this combined with a lack of traditional knowledge can lead to types of *guga* being overharvested.

### Camels

Camels were used to transport loads before roads and rail were available. Some of them escaped and there are now herds of camels that roam across the desert and semi-arid areas of Australia. They have multiple impacts; they compact the earth and damage vegetation through trampling and feeding on it having a severe impact on native vegetation. Although they can survive for long periods without drinking they can damage cultural sites such as rockholes as they seek out water in the arid environment. They also consume water so that it is not available for native species and contaminate the water with their faeces, sometimes even dying in the rockholes and polluting them so they cannot be used until cleaned. Camels can also do damage to remote communities where they will go into towns during drought to find water in houses and water towers.



### Uncontrolled visitation

Visitors are encouraged to come and visit the parks but visitors need to respect the country and the culture. Most visitors will be respectful if they know the places that are appropriate for them to visit and if they are given the right information. Some work has already happened to make visitor experiences better and to make sure that they do not have an adverse impact on the country. There have been lots of tracks and unauthorised campsites created by people driving off the main roads and tracks looking for somewhere to camp for the night. Some of the work already done have closed unnecessary tracks and rehabilitated them as well as improving the tracks people should use by grading them and by putting in signs to direct people. Authorised campsites in some parks have been defined and upgraded by putting in facilities such as park benches which encourage people to use these campsites. Visitors also need information on Aboriginal culture, natural heritage and European history to be able to appreciate the parks and what they are there to protect. There are also areas which are not safe to visit and so visitors need to be kept away from those areas.



### Inappropriate fire regimes

Fire was used by Aboriginal people in the Far West Coast area to cook, for clearing areas and safety and warmth. It was also used for hunting to enable new shoots to attract *guga* to come to feed on them and it was also used for ceremonial purposes and communication. This meant that fire in the landscape was managed around specific sites. Changes in climate and the removal of Aboriginal people from their traditional lands have meant that fire regimes have changed which can have a negative impact on cultural sites, fauna (particularly threatened species such as the sandhill dunnart and totemic species that cannot escape), native vegetation if the fire is too intense and people's property and lives. Traditional burning and prescribed burning, if carried out correctly can help prevent dangerous bushfires.

### Lack of funding

Insufficient and/or inconsistent funding make it difficult to develop long term programmes that will enable the protection of natural and cultural heritage as well as support Traditional Owners to carry out their responsibilities. Without funding it will be difficult to implement the strategies and actions to reduce the impact of the threats to improve the health of the targets. A lack of funding also affects the ability of the Far West Coast people to develop the opportunities that are available into a sustainable means to fund programmes that would provide employment for the Far West Coast people and manage natural and cultural heritage of the area.

### Mining onshore and offshore

Mining and petroleum exploration and extraction is permitted under strict conditions across much of the Far West Coast. The vast Nullarbor and Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Areas do not allow mining and were set up to protect unique ecosystems and cultural sites. Currently, there is a mineral sands mine (Jacinth-Ambrosia mine) owned by Iluka operating within the Yellabinna Regional Reserve that uses ground-water extracted from the Nullarbor Regional Reserve. This mine provides significant employment for local Aboriginal people and adheres to strict environmental requirements. The other key impacts include clearing areas for exploration and operational tracks and the mine area itself. There are stringent requirements for rehabilitation of affected areas with Cultural Heritage Assessments conducted to identify cultural sites and ensure they are protected from the impacts of mining and exploration. Offshore oil and gas exploration poses the threat of oil spills that would impact on the fragile coastline, cultural sites, and marine species (including migratory species) of the Far West Coast needs close attention.



### Lack of opportunities (facilities and employment)

Many Far West Coast people want to work on-country in jobs such as park rangers and land management officers. However, there are number of positions available is limited by insufficient opportunities. Mining provides some employment opportunities with a number of Aboriginal people currently employed by Iluka to work at the Jacinth-Ambrosia mine site. There are some opportunities for Far West Coast people to work in the tourism industry which could be utilised.



### Buffel grass

Buffel grass is widely recognised as one of the most serious environmental threats to the rangelands of Australia. It is very hardy and capable of destroying Australian ecosystems and threatening many plant and animal species with extinction. It invades landscapes rapidly competing with native grasses and shrubs. With a much higher burning temperature than native grasses it poses a very real threat to woodlands, community safety and infrastructure. Heavy infestations also prevent traditional hunting, foraging and cultural activities. It has been identified along the railway line and the Eyre Highway in the Far West Coast area and while it is actively managed it remains an ongoing threat.

### Feral predators

Cats, foxes and wild dogs prey on small native animals including birds, small mammals and reptiles. It is highly likely that some species, such as western quolls, are locally extinct within the Far West Coast area due to the impact of cats and foxes. Although baiting programmes temporarily reduce numbers, they continue to have a devastating impact on local animal and bird populations.

### Dog fence



The dog fence divides cattle grazing districts in the north from sheep grazing districts in the south. It is maintained to protect sheep from dingoes. The dog fence runs along part of the eastern boundary and through part of the Far West Coast Native Title Determination Area.

The fence also prevents the movement of native animals across the area and there are concerns about some getting caught in the fence.

## Threats to meeting our Target



### Threat ranking

Targets/ Threats	Cultural knowledge	Cultural sites	Employment	<i>Guga</i> (bush meat)	<i>Gabi</i> (water)	Animals of significance	<i>Wanna munda</i>	Marine animals	Important plants	Places of significance	<i>Wanna ma</i>	Community health and wellbeing	Summary of threat rating
Feral predators				H	VH	VH	VH						VH
Knowledge loss	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	H	H	VH
Mining onshore and offshore	L	H	M	H	M	L	M	H	L	M	VH		VH
Lack of employment opportunities	VH		VH		H								VH
Uncontrolled visitation	M	H		L	M	L	H	L	M	H	H	M	H
Camels		H		H	H	M	M		H				H
Buffel grass				M	H	M	H		H	M			H
Inappropriate hunting and harvesting				H					L		H		H
Inappropriate fire regimes				H		H	H		H	L			H
Lack of funding	H	H	H	M	L	M	H	L	M	H			H
Dog fence				M									L

## Objectives and Projects (what we want to achieve)

### Strengthen knowledge of country

We will get more people out on-country so Elders can share their knowledge and stories.

**Objective:** Strengthen knowledge of country with no more language or knowledge lost by 2021

**Strategies:**

- Master's Apprentice program return to country visits with school / men / women / old / young / middle-aged people
- Use Mirning language
- Transfer knowledge and stories to young Mirning

### Enough healthy *guga* (bush meat)

We will hunt in the right way, in the right season, so there is enough healthy *guga* for all.

**Objective:** Enough healthy wadu for everyone to eat in the right season by 2021 (Guga goal)

**Strategies:**

- Seasonal hunting calendar
- In-Park hunting management (seasons / guidelines)

### Camel management

We will manage camels particularly around rockholes so they don't damage cultural sites.

**Objective:** By 2036 rockholes aren't polluted or damaged by camels in the Greater Yellabinna and Wanna Munda parks and that camel numbers are maintained low enough for minimal impacts on important gabi sites in the Nullarbor parks.

**Strategies:**

- Regionally-based camel management program
- Maintain widespread camel culling

### Feral predator management

We will control cats, foxes and wild dogs around shorebird beach nesting sites and if successful, we'll expand the programme to other sensitive sites.

**Objective:** By 2026 hooded plover nests are protected from feral predators so chicks fledge.

**Strategy:**

- Targeted feral predator management program

### Visitor management

We will provide visitors with information so they can learn about and respect our culture and country and will use proper tracks and campsites.

**Objective:** By 2026 visitors are only using designated tracks and campsites

**Strategies:**

- Visitor management plan is developed and implemented

### Fire management



We will set up a fire unit so we can use fire to help keep country healthy.

**Objective:** Aboriginal people are actively involved in the management of fire within 5 years

**Strategies:**

- Establish a fire team

### Buffel grass eradication

We will keep destroying buffel grass until there is none left in our country and then we will keep it out.

**Objective:** Aim to eradicate buffel grass in any of our parks by 2036.

**Strategies:**

- Work with partners in regional approach to eradicate buffel grass

## Minimise impacts and maximise benefits from extraction activities

We will make sure that any mining and oil exploration and extraction has minimal or no impact on our country and the benefits of it for Far West Coast people are maximised.

**Objectives:** Maximise benefits (employment, education, funding, resourcing, skills) to people and country and minimise impacts (water, clearing, damage, disturbance, weeds) of mining and exploration offshore and onshore.

We are ready to stop any negative impacts on environment and culture of mining and exploration.

### Strategies:

- Minimise impact to coastal environment
- Be well-informed for decision-making on mining
- Manage water for mining
- Manage weeds and pests
- Develop relationships with companies involved in mining

## Enough money to make the plan work

We will find funds from different sources to support the projects so we can do all the things we need to keep Far West Coast country and people healthy.

**Objective:** Access available government (Working on Country, Indigenous Protected Area, Indigenous Land Corporation, National Landcare), industry (Iluka, mining, royalty) and philanthropic funds as needed to support Healthy Country projects (employment, research, management) by 2021.

### Strategies:

- Build fundraising capacity to secure funds from multiple sources by employment and Board development

## Creating employment opportunities

We will grab opportunities so that we can create sustainable businesses and jobs that allow Far West Coast People to work on and for country.

**Objective:** By 2020 we have sufficient facilities to support FWC people to enjoy and manage country and allow others to enjoy and respect country while minimising impact and by 2025 there will be more long-term employment opportunities available for FWC people.

### Strategies:

- DEWNR & FWCAC to identify & build facilities
- Create land management employment opportunities

## Aboriginal-owned parks

We will manage the parks for the benefit of the whole community so that we have the support for the parks to become Aboriginal-owned.

**Objective:** All the Far West Coast Parks become Aboriginal-owned parks with co-management boards by 2025.

### Strategies:

- The local community is consulted in the development of the park management plans and involved in on-ground works
- The Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation knows how well we are managing the parks

## Minimise the impact of the dog fence on native animals

We will find out how much impact the dog fence has on our native wildlife and find out how we can reduce it.

**Objective:** Dog fence has minimal impact on native animals

### Strategy:

- Understand the impacts

### Good *gabi* (water)

We will visit *gabi* sites like rockholes and caves to maintain and protect them.

Gabi (water) is an important resource that requires protection and maintenance.



**Objective:** By 2021 important rockholes, caves, sites and blowholes are maintained in their natural state (protected / not modified)

**Strategy:**

- FWC people and rangers' rockhole / gabi maintenance

## Learning as we go (monitoring, reporting and improvement)

We want to know if our strategies are working and to do this we need to check that the work set out in the plan is happening and that is changing what we wanted it to. We will monitor a number of indicators (signposts) which will tell us how well our strategies are working, if threats are being reduced and if the health of our targets is improving.

### Following the Signposts...

Start using  
our Plan ▶▶▶

