

YINHAWANGKA

Healthy Country Plan

A Strategic Plan for Yinhawangka Country



Warning: This Plan may contain images, names and references to deceased Aboriginal People.



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Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan - A strategic plan for Yinhawangka country

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Plan was developed through the participation of Yinhawangka Elders, the Directors of the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation, and other Yinhawangka people at a meeting in Karratha in February 2016, followed by a series of trips on Yinhawangka Country in May 2016. Yinhawangka participants included: Nicholas Cook, David Cox, Roma Butcher, Cecil Parker, Rodney Parker, Roy Tommy, Mary Mills, Sally Anne Johnson, Pamela Condon, Doreen James, Rhonda Parker, Jimmy Cox, Nathaniel Tommy, Rabia Cox and Lara Parker.

The Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan was prepared by Conservation Management Pty Ltd for the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation based on the limited time, consultation and background data available. Testing of assumptions and interpretation of the limited information will be a key task during implementation of the plan.

We would like to acknowledge the support and assistance of the staff of the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation: John Hughes, Andrew Eastick, Tania Johnson and Dr Heather Built.

A NOTE ON LANGUAGE

The Yinhawangka language is spoken by few people, and many Yinhawangka People use the Banjima language. Where traditional names are used in this Plan, they are as told to the authors, or are taken from sources such as Lola Young and Anna Vitenbergs (2007): Lola Young, Medicine Woman and Teacher Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2007 or Noel Olive (1997): Karijini Mirlimirli. Aboriginal Histories of the Pilbara. Fremantle Arts Centre Press

These references do not always specify from which of the traditional languages the names originate, so they are referred to as "traditional names" rather than as Yinhawangka, Banjima or other languages.

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ABOUT THIS PLAN

The Yinhawangka People have developed this Healthy Country Plan to:

- identify areas of special (cultural/environmental) interest;
- assess the current health of their Country; and
- determine the current and future management requirements of their Country.

Implementing the Healthy Country Plan will:

- provide the Yinhawangka People with an understanding of the health of their Country and an increased capacity to contribute to land and cultural management practices;
- take direct actions to preserve and manage the cultural landscapes, priority flora and fauna and the values of the surface and underground waters of Yinhawangka Country; and
- guide the establishment of a Yinhawangka Ranger Team to undertake an annual works program to implement the Plan.

Healthy Country Planning is widely used in Australia and is based on an adaptation of the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation*, a process used by conservation organisations, community groups, government departments and conservation funders globally.

<http://cmp-openstandards.org/> and <http://www.ccnnetglobal.com/>

Figure 1: Nyimili Range



INTRODUCTION

Yinhawangka Country covers approximately 11,920 square kilometres of land in the central Pilbara region of Western Australia (See Figure 2). The Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan (HCP) addresses Yinhawangka People's aspirations for the management of significant cultural and natural values within their Country.

The Yinhawangka native title determination (claimant) applications WAD 340/2010 and WAD 216/2010 (NNTT WC2010/016 and WC2010/011) were filed in the Federal Court in accordance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (NTA) on 12 August 2010 and 11 November 2010 respectively (Yinhawangka Claims). The Yinhawangka Claims have been accepted for registration by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT). Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) acts for the Yinhawangka People, being the native title claim group represented in the Yinhawangka Claims, and is also one of the native title representative bodies for the area (the other is Central Desert Native Title Services Ltd). The Yinhawangka People intend to nominate Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) as a Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) to hold the rights and interests comprising the native title on trust for the common law holders in the event of a determination of native title and is held by the Yinhawangka People.

In anticipation of this, Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation commissioned the development of this Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan to identify the requirements for management of culture and natural resources for the next ten years. YAC currently acts as an agent for the Yinhawangka People in respect of their rights and obligations under various land use agreements.

YINHAWANGKA PEOPLE

Yinhawangka moved seasonally throughout their country for particular purposes, procuring resources and undertaking cultural obligations and business like visiting thalu sites or law grounds. They might stop for a couple of weeks and then move on to another place.

One of the rockshelters at Channar, Yirra, is now believed by archaeologists to have been occupied or visited over a period of 30,000 years. It is still important to Yinhawangka Traditional Owners.

The effect of the establishment of the pastoral takeover of Yinhawangka and neighbouring Aboriginal lands forever altered the long-established Yinhawangka socio-economy and way of life; not least as a consequence of the introduction of domestic sheep, cattle and horses, and with many homesteads established on reliable water sources which were then prohibited to Yinhawangka families. Due to the actions of pastoralists, both directly and indirectly, the consequence was a large reduction in Yinhawangka population and families. This was followed in the late 1950s and early 1960s by the forced removal of the remaining families off traditional lands. This contact history explains why there are now only three surviving apical ancestor Yinhawangka families, tracing descent from Minatangunha; Jarndunha; and the couple Thurantajinha and Wilga.

About 315 people currently identify as Yinhawangka, about 80 of whom live in towns or communities within Yinhawangka Country, while about half live in coastal Pilbara towns, and the remainder live elsewhere. The Yinhawangka People are closely related with the surrounding Native Title Groups of Banjima (Panyjima) to the northeast, and Guruma (Kurruma) to the north of Yinhawangka Country. To the south-east Yinhawangka Country is bordered by Jurruru Country, to the west by Puutu Kunti Kurruma Country and to the south by Nharnuwangga Country (Figure 2).



Legend

- Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan Area
- Towns
- Homesteads
- Main Roads
- Railroads
- Freshwater Bodies
- Rivers and Creeks
- Neighbouring Native Title Groups
- Eastern Guruma
- Eastern Guruma - Area B
- Jurruru People Part A
- Rocklea Excision
- Tenure
- Crown Reserves vested in Local Government
- Freehold Land
- National Park
- Other Crown Reserve
- Pastoral Lease
- Unallocated Crown Land
- Unvested Crown Reserve

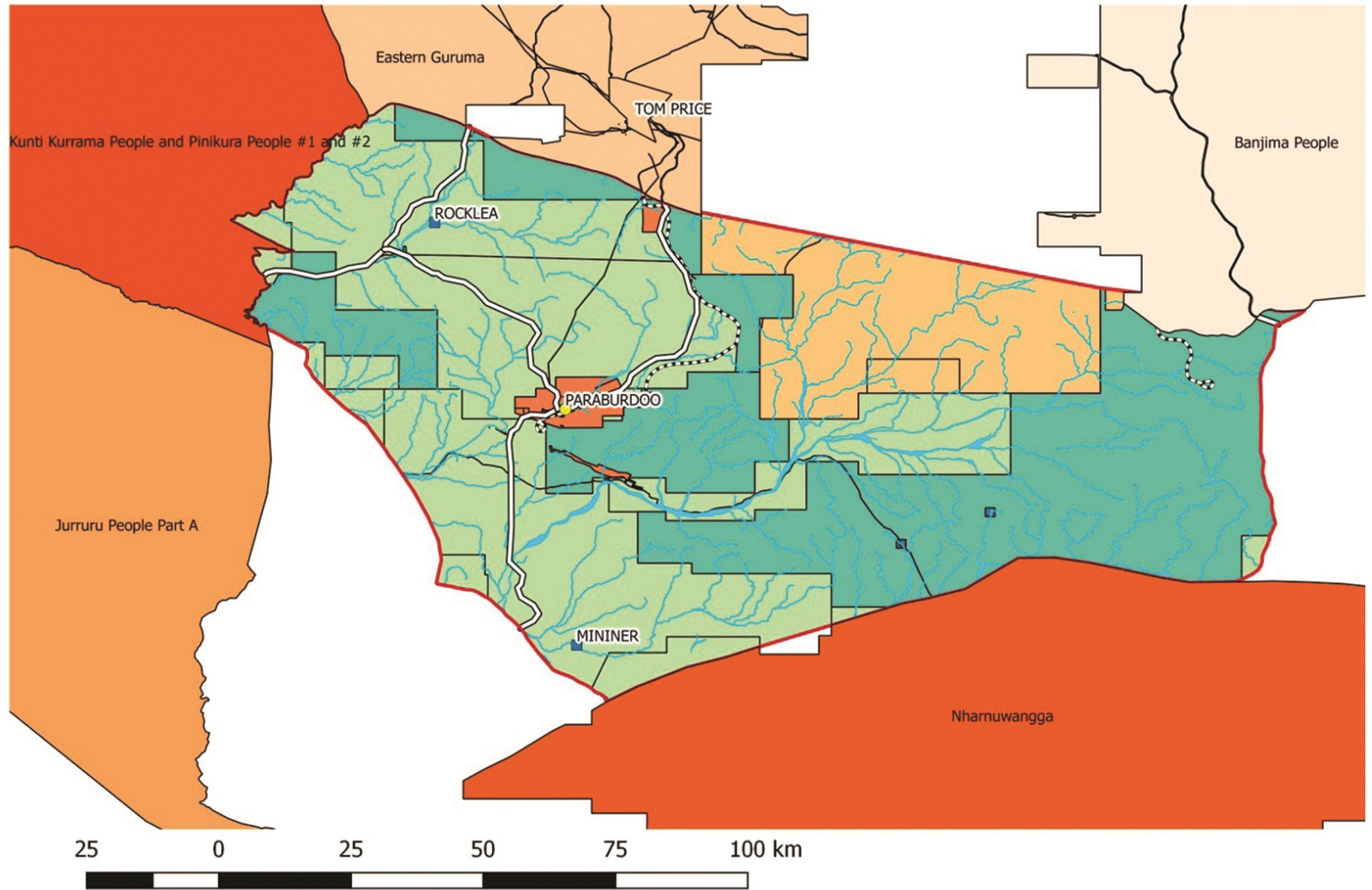


Figure 2: Tenure Map Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan

THE AREA COVERED BY THIS PLAN

The Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan covers all the areas to which the Yinhawangka People are the traditional custodians (see Figure 2) comprising:

- Yinhawangka Part A WAD340/2010 (4,699.83 km²);
- Yinhawangka Part B WAD216/2010 (5,413.71 km²) Native Title Claim Areas; and
- Approximately 1,820 km² within Karijini National Park which, while not part of the Native Title Claim Areas, is part of Yinhawangka Country.

Within Yinhawangka Country are parts of the Angelo, Ashburton and Hardey River catchments, the Kunderong Range and Mount Vernon. Pastoral stations within the area include parts of Rocklea, Turee Creek, Mininer, Mt Vernon, Cheela Plains and Ashburton Downs.

A number of iron ore mines operated by Rio Tinto Iron Ore (RTIO) (Paraburdoo, Eastern Ranges, Channar and West Angelas), and the town of Paraburdoo are within Yinhawangka Country, including the infrastructure (roads, railways, bore fields) associated with them. Some of these mines have been operating for decades, while new mines are also proposed. Areas around the partly rehabilitated Mount Olympus (gold) Mine, are now owned by Northern Star Resources and gold mining may recommence on those areas in the future.

There are still large areas of Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), although most of this is also under mining exploration or other mining tenements. These areas are largely unmanaged (see Figure 2).

The land under different tenures and management practices differs greatly in health or condition, from highly disturbed to a more natural condition. The nature and severity of the future threats is also different. We have therefore used the different tenures as the basis for “management zones”. The zones are Nyimili Range, West Side and areas of special cultural significance; Karijini National Park; Unallocated Crown Land (UCL); Rocklea Pastoral Station; other pastoral stations; and mining and town sites (Figure 3).

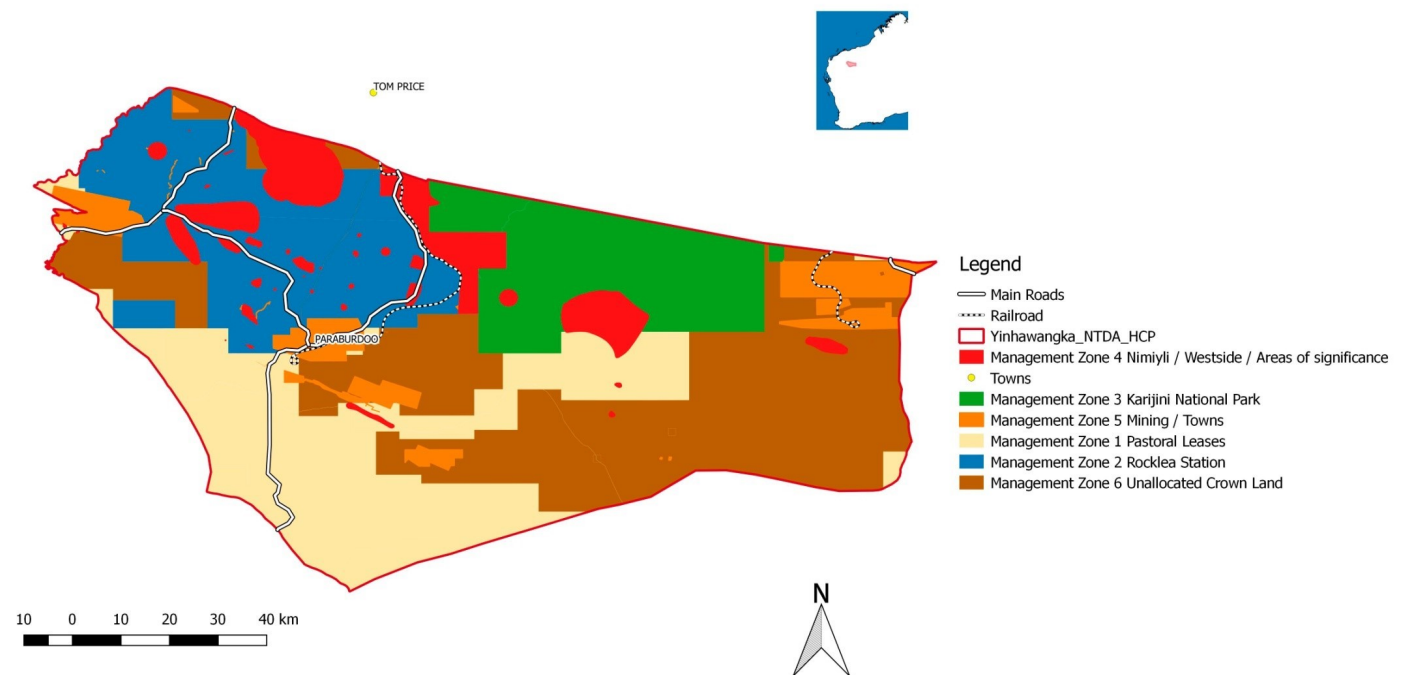
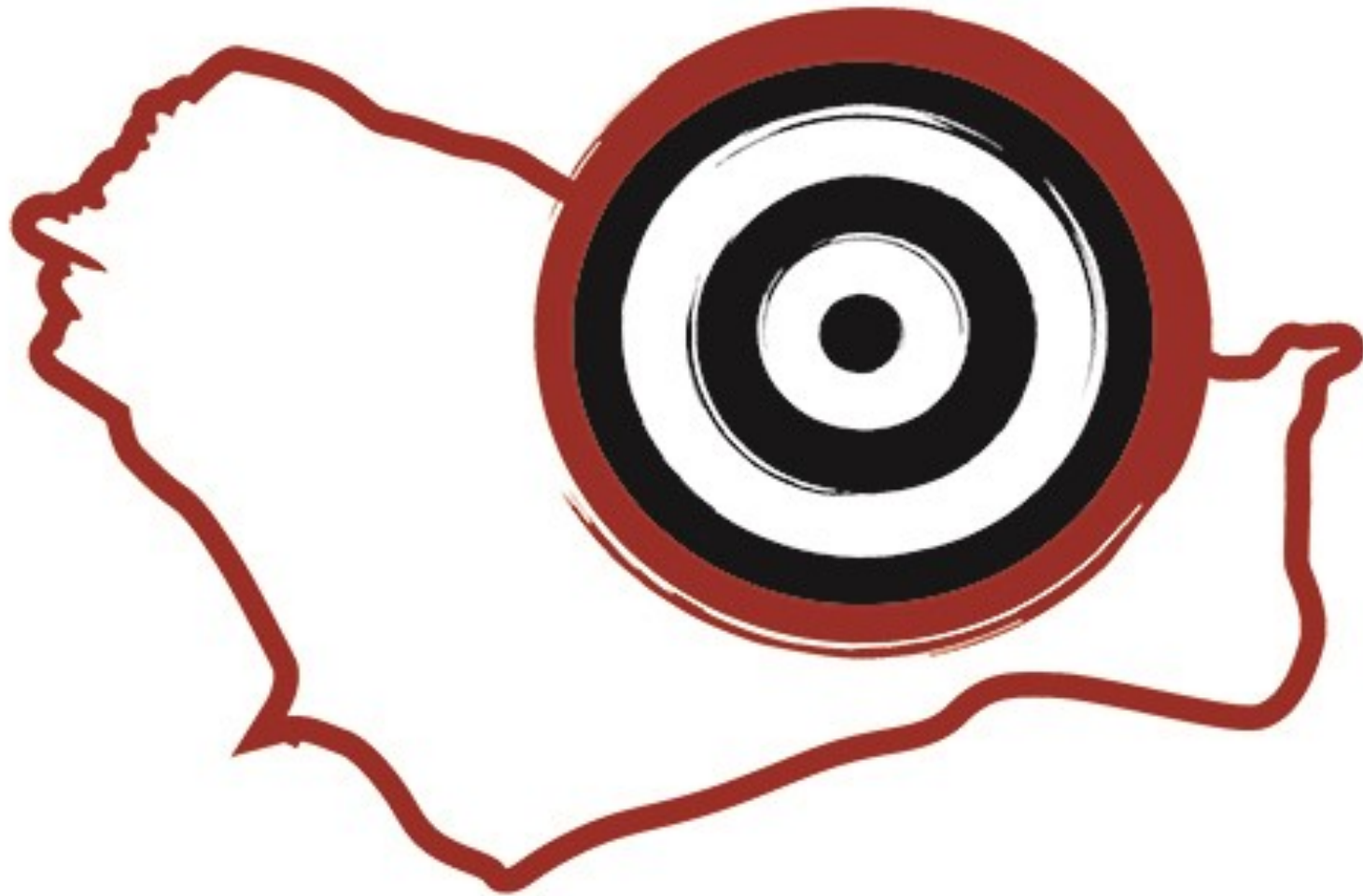
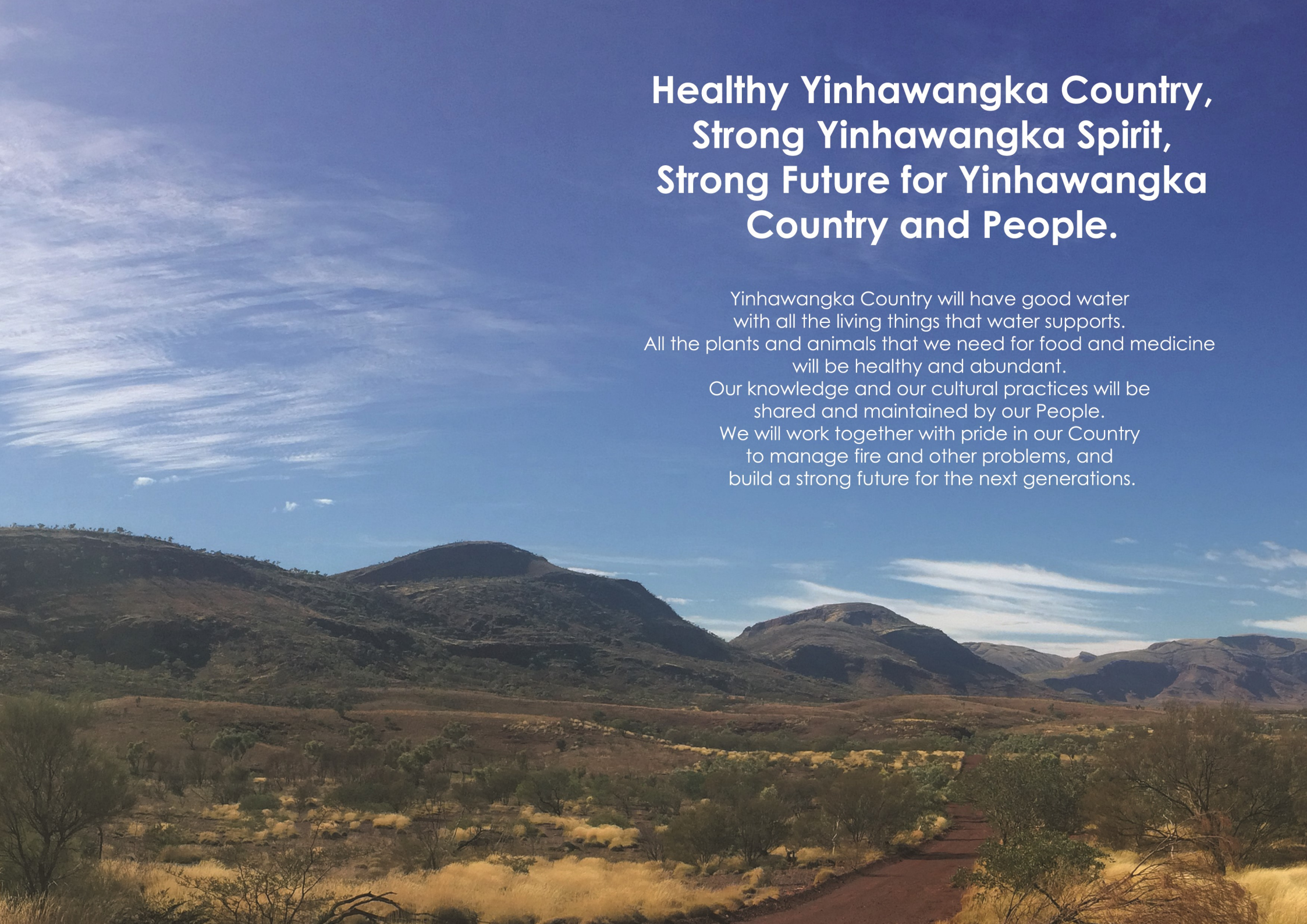


Figure 3: Management Zones





Healthy Yinhawangka Country, Strong Yinhawangka Spirit, Strong Future for Yinhawangka Country and People.

Yinhawangka Country will have good water
with all the living things that water supports.
All the plants and animals that we need for food and medicine
will be healthy and abundant.
Our knowledge and our cultural practices will be
shared and maintained by our People.
We will work together with pride in our Country
to manage fire and other problems, and
build a strong future for the next generations.

USING THE PLAN

The Yinhawangka Healthy Country strategic plan will help achieve the Yinhawangka vision for how country might be managed into the future.

The Plan talks about the important things that Yinhawangka People want to look after on our Yinhawangka Country, that is, our Targets. For each Target, a rating is given that describes how healthy we think it is. This will help us to check whether the Plan is working: we want to see that Targets are getting healthier.

The Plan then lists the problems or Threats facing Yinhawangka Country. For each Threat, a rating is given that describes how bad the Threat is, and will help check if the Plan is helping to reduce these Threats.

The Plan then lists the Strategies Yinhawangka People want to set up to help care for and improve the Targets and to get rid of or reduce the Threats. Each Strategy has clear Objectives that tell us exactly what Yinhawangka People want the project to achieve.

An important part of the Plan is that it helps show how to check that the Plan is being implemented, how effective each Strategy is, and the status of each of the Targets and Threats.

This will tell Yinhawangka People whether the Plan is being put into practice and whether it is working for Yinhawangka People and Yinhawangka Country.

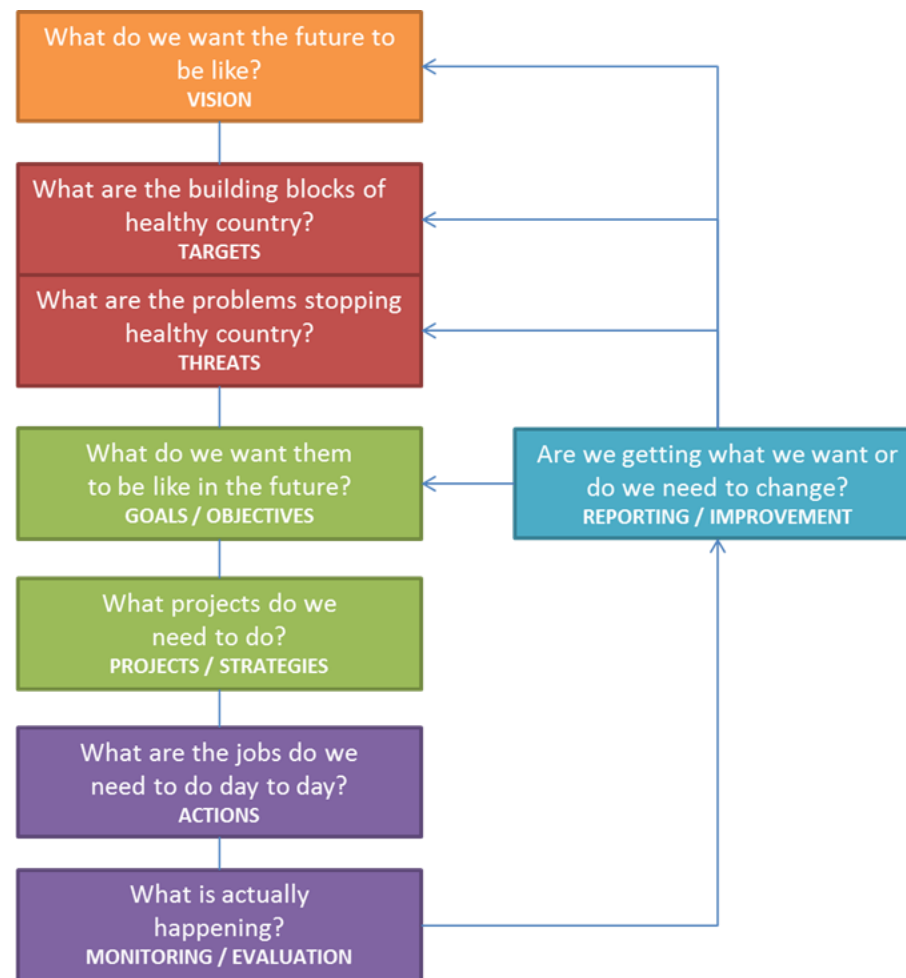


Figure 4: Schematic overview of the elements of the Plan

YINHAWANGKA TARGETS, THREATS and STRATEGIES – How they are related

This diagram illustrates schematically the context for the Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan. The nominated Targets for the Plan are on the top, with the main Threats in the middle and the main Strategies addressing Targets and/or Threats at the bottom.

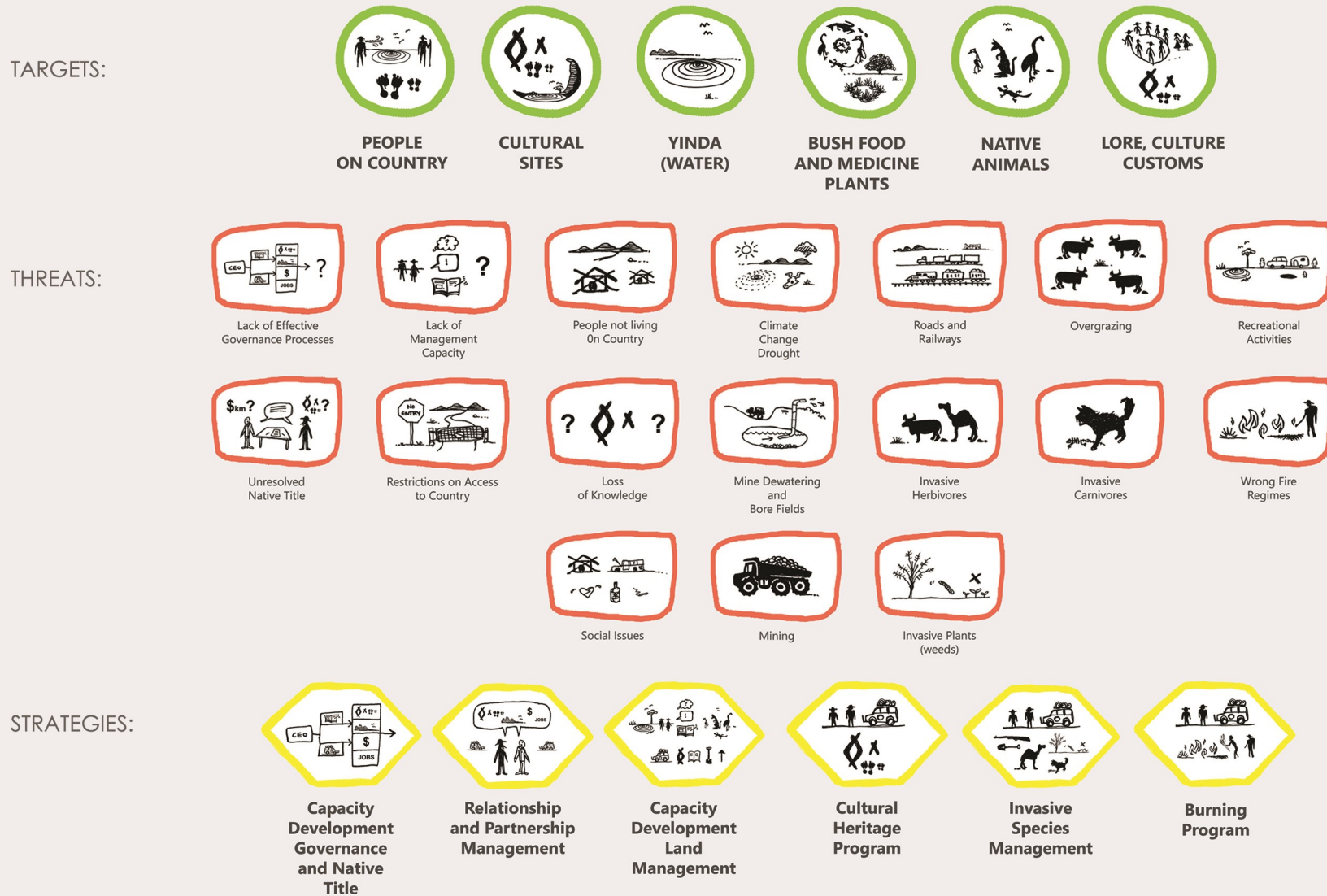


Figure 5: Targets, Threats and Strategies Overview

WHAT MAKES YINHAWANGKA COUNTRY HEALTHY?

Targets are the important things about our country that we look after and they help to make Yinhawangka Country healthy. If all of the Targets are healthy, then we will be able to achieve our Vision.

In the Healthy Country Plan process we look at health in different ways, and use a number of different "health categories". For example, the "landscape health" category, rates how Targets are affected by things like fire that happen at a landscape scale; in the "condition category", we look at things like composition (for example, are all the things like species that should be there actually there) and structure (for example, are there old and young plants or animals of different species); in the "size category" we look at things like the total areas or amounts of the Target; and in the "cultural condition" category we consider the cultural knowledge and practices to do with the Target and how they are assessed. We call the different things that we consider under each of these categories the "Key Attributes", and we bring together a number of them to make ratings for each target in a management zone. We have provided a list of these "Key Attributes" in Appendix 3.

For example, for yinda we considered the water quality, the condition of the vegetation around it and whether the native plants and animals we expected to find there are all present. When we tried to do this across all of Yinhawangka Country and come up with an overall health rating for Country, we found that the health of our Targets varied a lot depending on where they were and what sort of land uses and management were happening there.

To make it easier and to start looking at what actions we might take in different places, we identified six different Management Zones based on past and current land uses, and then rated the health of the Targets within each of these zones.

While health ratings may differ for each Target, generally the condition of the different zones can be described as mostly Good for Karijini National Park, Nyimili Range and West Side; mostly Fair for other Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and most pastoral leases; and generally Poor for Rocklea Station, town sites and mine sites (Table 1 described what we mean by Good, Fair and Poor). These are just preliminary ratings, based on limited information, and they will need to be confirmed and improved as we start to implement this Healthy Country Plan and spend more time on country measuring and recording the condition of important places. Some of the Zones that are only rated as Poor or Fair might still have areas within them that are in better condition, so these individual places within the Zones might be rated later as Good.

Our aim is to eventually make as many of the squares in Table 1 as possible green: that is, the Targets are as healthy as they can be in as many of the Management Zones as possible.

This will be a gradual process. Initially, for example, we might aim at making all the red squares yellow within 10 years. Then over the next 10 years we will try to make them green. For the squares that are already green (ie the Targets that are healthy now), we aim to keep them at least as healthy as this in the future.

	MANAGEMENT ZONE						
Target	Nyimili Range and West Side	Karijini National Park	Pastoral Stations (excl Rocklea)	Unallocated Crown Land	Rocklea Station	Towns, mine sites	Overall
Yinda (Water)	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
Plants	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
Animals	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair
Cultural sites	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
Culture, Lore, Customs	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair
People on Country	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Poor
Overall	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair

RATING	MEANING
Very Good	Target is viable and only requires monitoring for change
Good	Target is within the acceptable range of variation and only limited work is required for maintenance
Fair	Some work is needed to maintain the Target in the future
Poor	The Target needs immediate attention to protect it from disappearing

Table 1: Health of Targets across Management Zones



YINDA (water)

Goal: By 2027, the priority water places within each management zone have been identified and are in good condition and being maintained by Yinhawangka People.

All aspects of life in this mostly dry country depend on *Yinda* (water). Throughout Yinhawangka Country there are rituals, stories and important sites in and around water places that are essential to protecting and maintaining the water itself and the life that depends on it. This shows how important water places were for us as we lived and travelled through our Country in the past, and how important they still are today.

Under this Target we include different types of *Yinda* places, such as:

- Creeks, for example Turee Creek, Seven Mile Creek, Bellary Creek and other creeks that are part of the Ashburton River system
- All the river pools, whether they are permanent or semi-permanent
- Rock holes and gnamma holes, which may contain permanent or semi-permanent water, for example German Rock Hole
- Springs that are often associated with creek lines or occur within the ranges. Palm Springs and Mud Springs are examples, although Mud Springs is now without water and in very poor condition.

If we look after this Target, the many waterbirds, plants, fish and other life that depends on the water will also benefit. The riparian vegetation alongside the creeks and waterholes is especially important because of the habitat it provides for many birds and other animals. Unfortunately, this is also the area where introduced animals like cattle and horses gather to get at the water, and often bring in weeds as well as causing other damage.

All of the springs, rock-holes and waterholes have Yinhawangka names but not all of them are known and used now. There are also stories and songs that link the waterholes. The birth places of many of the older Yinhawangka People and their ancestors were by water places. For this Target to be healthy, the culture, water, plants and animals all need to be healthy.

Some of the *Yinda* places may take longer than ten years to get to Good condition, especially if they are now in Poor condition. By 2017, we want any of the places we decide are our priority places and that are now rated as Poor, to be rated as at least Fair, and we want any that are now rated Fair or Good to be rated Good. Eventually, we want them all to be rated Good.

Table 2: Health of Water across Management Zones

<i>Nyimili Range and West Side</i>	<i>Karijini National Park</i>	<i>Pastoral Stations (excluding Rocklea)</i>	<i>Unallocated Crown Land</i>	<i>Rocklea Station</i>	<i>Towns, mine sites</i>	<i>Overall</i>
Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair



Figure 6: Yinda



BUSH PLANTS — food and medicine

Goal: By 2027, Yinhawangka People are easily able to find and harvest a range of bush food and medicine plants.

We have used bush plants for generations as food or for medicine. People always knew where to find particular plants and at what times of year, and how to prepare them properly. Knowing where to find plants that would be fruiting or producing seed at the right time and the difference between plants that look similar but might be poisonous or safe to eat, was critical for our survival.

Popular fruits include *jalhparra* or *karlumpu* (Bush tomato), *kajawarri* (Wild orange) and *jilpukarri* (Wild passionfruit). Berries can be collected from plants like *nyirilyi* (Saltbush), *patharra* (Native currant or plum) and *wanalja* (Wild currant), while seeds from *jirparli* (kanji), *kunti* (tickweed), *partirri* (Camel bush) and *paru* (Hill Spinifex) can be ground or cooked whole. There are also vegetable plants, like *ngarlku* (Bush onion) and *kukatarri* (yams).

Native bees build hives in *karnti* (trees) such as *kartapirangu* (Snappy gum) and *wirlu* (Smooth-barked coolabah) and bush honey, *marliya* can be collected. Many *karnti* have scars that show where people have collected *marliya* in the past.

Other sweet food from trees include honeydew or *malpanhungu* from the *marralha* or River gum and lerp or *pirtingmarra* on *kartapirangu*.

There are many medicinal plants too, as well as plants that are used as soaps and shampoos, or for keeping insects away. *Minjawarrior minjarri* is known as the Vicks bush, and the crushed leaves can be inhaled direct or boiled up to make an infusion to treat congestion and colds. *Nhirti*, the Emu bush, can be used to make a general tonic and sore eyes can be treated by rinsing with a tea made from boiling the whole *thurlayilku* (Snake vine) plant.

The time of flowering, or amount of flowering of different plants also tells us about the availability of other food sources. For example, the appearance of the yellow flowers on *marrkan* indicates that *jankurnha* or *kayatpu* (emu) are laying their eggs. *Pajila* is also an attractive food for turkeys (Bustard) which can be trapped using the fruit to lure them.

As well as food and medicine, *karnti* including *jarparri* (Black Mulga), *jilkuru*, *kartapirangu* and *wintamarra* (Mulga) are used to make *yandi* (dishes), *mirrudu* (baby carriers), *walbarra* (spear thrower), spears, *wantijirri* (shields), dancing shields, *warkunti* (boomerangs), *kurartu* (digging sticks) and ceremonial objects.

Table 3: Health of Bush Plants across Management Zones

[See note on language, page 3](#)

<i>Nyimili Range and West Side</i>	<i>Karijini National Park</i>	<i>Pastoral Stations (excluding Rocklea)</i>	<i>Unallocated Crown Land</i>	<i>Rocklea Station</i>	<i>Towns, mine sites</i>	<i>Overall</i>
Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair



Figure 7: Bush Plants



NATIVE ANIMALS

Goals: By 2027, Yinhawangka People are able to readily find and hunt a range of bush meats within at least two management zones. By 2027, no fauna species currently listed as of conservation significance has a lower status compared to 2016 levels.

This Target includes the native animals that Yinhawangka People like to hunt for food, as well as the other native animals that are part of Yinhawangka Country, especially the ones that are not very common, and the traditional stories about them.

Meat from native animals is still an important part of our diet, with the most common bush meat animals including *bajarri* (big kangaroo), *bajiwana* (Plains kangaroo), *mandamal* or *parntakura* (Bush turkey) and *bunkurra* (Goanna). Some of these are becoming increasingly harder to hunt especially close to mine sites and towns. We believe this is partly due to the ways the land has become broken up by roads, railways, mine sites and other developments, but also because native animals have to compete with cattle and because our country is not being burnt in the right places at the right time. Some of the burrowing animals also can't dig now because cattle have made the soil too hard.

The whole Pilbara Region is important because it has a diversity of small animals that can find refuge from predators and changing climates in the gorges and ranges. Several species have been listed by governments as threatened or needing special conservation management (see Figure 6 and Appendix 1) for the same reasons that some of the bush food animals are harder to find. Among the threatened native animals that Yinhawangka People especially want to protect are the Pilbara Olive Python, the Western Pebble-mound Mouse, the Northern Quoll and the Greater Bilby. The Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and the Orange Leaf-nosed Bat are also important and are found in some of the cave areas that are also important culturally. But all species are important, and Yinhawangka People don't want to lose more of them from our Country.

When Yinhawangka People were able to take more responsibility for managing their Country, we used to burn more frequently so that there was good growth of grasses and other feeds when the rains came. Animals followed the feed, and so hunting was easier but the animals became more plentiful too. Reinstating some of the burning practices we used in the past should help regenerate food and cover for native animals.

Other things have changed and need to be managed as well. The introduced animals like cattle, horses, donkeys and camels compete for the good feed so they need to be controlled. There are more predators now, especially cats, and they are reducing the number of small animals. We need to make sure that big areas remain free of major disturbances too, so that there is enough room for all the native animals to live.

Table 4: Health of Native Animals across Management Zones

<i>Nyimili Range and West Side</i>	<i>Karijini National Park</i>	<i>Pastoral Stations (excl Rocklea)</i>	<i>Unallocated Crown Land</i>	<i>Rocklea</i>	<i>Towns, mine sites</i>	<i>Overall</i>
Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair



Figure 8: Parntakura (Bush Turkey)

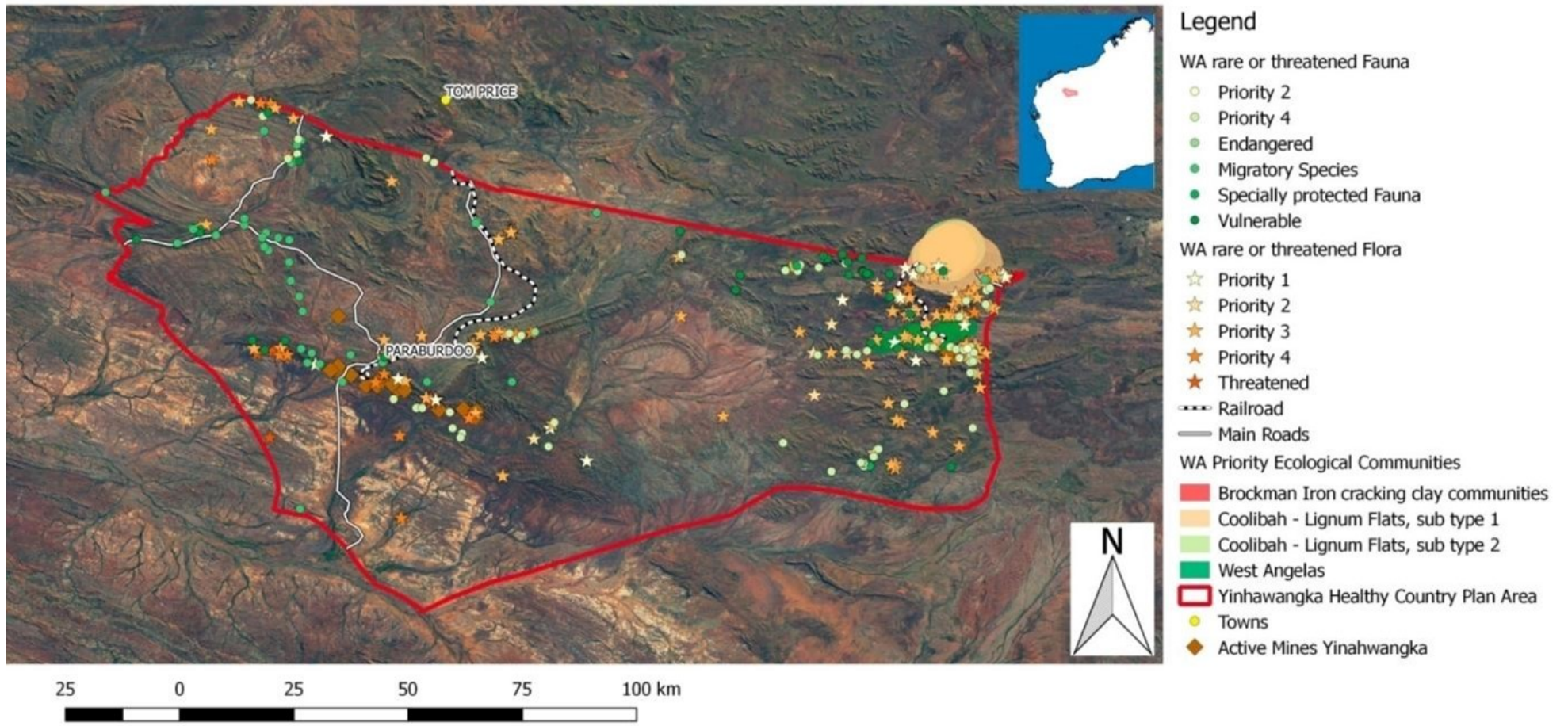


Figure 9: Threatened and Priority Flora, Fauna and Ecological Communities



CULTURAL SITES

Goal: By 2027, the majority of Yinhawangka cultural sites are in good condition and being regularly maintained by Yinhawangka People.

Yinhawangka country is a cultural landscape and this Target encompasses significant cultural places and locations across Yinhawangka country. We group rock art sites, engraving sites, scar trees, artefact scatters, ochre sites, rock-shelters, song lines, increase sites and burial places under this Target.

These places are the physical manifestations of the thousands of years of custodianship of our ancestors, and tell the story how the world came about and how our ancestors lived. Our important cultural sites are often located in close proximity to places where we could source water, food and materials for tools and other implements. Many of our ancestors were born at these sites.

The ochre paintings are like a guide to us and show us plants and animals our ancestors hunted and gathered. Scar-trees are as well tangible evidence of the millennia of occupation: our ancestors carefully removed a part of the bark or heartwood for *yandi* (dishes), *mirudu* (baby-carriers) or *walbarra* (spear thrower), but the tree sustained itself. Some scar-trees are like markers to us showing gender-restrictions for some sites. The many engravings on Yinhawangka country tell us our lore and beliefs, put on the rock by Creation Spirits during the time when the world was soft.

It is important for us that these sites are physically managed and spiritually maintained. Cultural sites need to be visited regularly to reinvigorate the stories of these places and pass the knowledge on to the younger generation.

Traditionally people asked for permission to visit these sites. Nowadays tourists and locals visit without asking, causing damage to the sites and distress to us. Some of our sites are listed on the Heritage Register, but the level of protection is not enough and we need to manage sites ourselves.

While impact from mining is managed through heritage surveys, our cultural sites need to be protected from the impact of invasive plants and animals, wildfire or to minimise damage and maintain the integrity and values of our sites.

Table 5: Health of Cultural Sites across Management Zones

<i>Nyimili Range and West Side</i>	<i>Karjini National Park</i>	<i>Pastoral Stations (excl Rocklea)</i>	<i>Unallocated Crown Land</i>	<i>Rocklea</i>	<i>Towns, mine sites</i>	<i>Overall</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Fair</i>



Figure 10: Grinding Stone

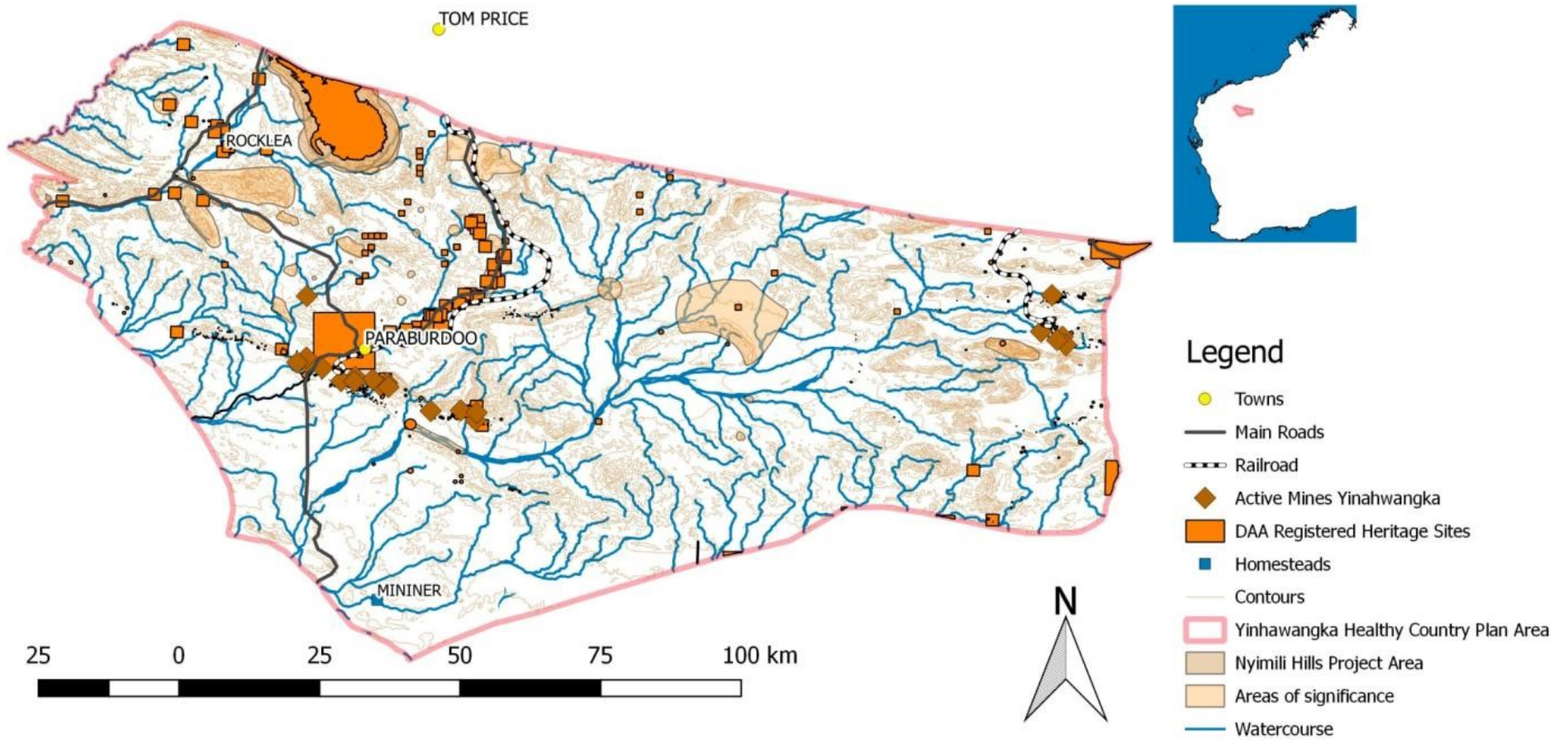


Figure 11: Significant Cultural and Heritage Sites



LORE, CULTURE and CUSTOMS

Goal: By 2027, Yinhawangka People are maintaining their cultural lore, knowledge, and practices, and passing this on to younger people.

Yinhawangka lore, culture and customs are unique to Yinhawangka people and the result of millennia of occupation of our traditional lands.

This Target includes the stories, songs, language, knowledge, dances and ceremony of Yinhawangka people. Our lore and culture is held by our Elders and has not been written down on paper: it is about preserving the knowledge of senior Traditional Owners and passing the knowledge through story and song to the next generation. The next generation then carries the responsibility for that lore, custom and ceremony and maintaining the connection to country.

Yinhawangka culture and customs are closely intertwined with country and we have to be on country to experience these stories. We connect with country by visiting our cultural sites, maintaining significant freshwater places or learning the stories and uses of bush-fruits and animals. Through renewal and other customs, we have a continuing obligation to care for our country to ensure that plants, animals and water are still plentiful in the future. Recounting the stories of how our ancestors travelled through country show us family links and traditional ownership of places gained through birth, conception and ritual knowledge.

There are now very few Yinhawangka people speaking our language and some partial speakers who have a passive knowledge of our language. This shows the importance to record our language and knowledge to preserve it into the future.

There were many Corroboree in the old days, and dancing grounds are known; some of the old dances we recite for tourists. It is important that visitors to our country follow our protocols and respect our culture. This includes a process of asking for permission to access country and being welcomed on country to ensure that visitors are safe on our country.



Figure 12: The YAC logo depicts Traditional ceremonial body decoration of Yinhawangka people

Table 6: Health of Lore, Culture and Customs across Management Zones

<i>Nyimili Range and West Side</i>	<i>Karijini National Park</i>	<i>Pastoral Stations (excluding Rocklea)</i>	<i>Unallocated Crown Land</i>	<i>Rocklea Station</i>	<i>Towns, mine sites</i>	<i>Overall</i>
<i>Fair</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Fair</i>



PEOPLE ON COUNTRY

Goal: By 2027, Yinhawangka People are regularly spending more time on their Country, managing the land, water and culture.

This Target is about Yinhawangka People's hopes to revitalise ties with country by spending time on country, travelling through country, hunting and harvesting. With this target we also want to express our wish to create the foundation for healthy livelihoods on Yinhawangka Country. We feel our Country is healthy when there are opportunities for people to return to country and find meaningful employment to sustain our lives. While not all Yinhawangka People will want to work directly on land management, there is strong support for a Yinhawangka Ranger Group to take responsibility for Cultural and Natural Resource Management.

There are other employment opportunities in managing natural and cultural resources through tourism, traditional harvest or cultural heritage that could give Yinhawangka People more opportunities individually while staying on Yinhawangka country, and also increasing the recognition and rights of Yinhawangka People in our Country.

To ensure livelihoods on country, several enabling factors need to co-occur:

- Native Title Rights for Yinhawangka people need to be determined to ensure that traditional rights are considered in the present legal and business context;
- Strong leadership and governance processes need to be in place to ensure that Yinhawangka People act as one to assert our Native Title rights and create livelihood opportunities;
- Skills and funding are required to enable Yinhawangka People to build the capacity to manage a Ranger Group; and
- The ability to spend time on country - temporary or permanent, through visits or habitation of outstations - is required.

Yinhawangka People currently maintain two outstations on country: Bellary Springs and Wakathuni, which were established during the homelands movement. Already established outstations could be potential bases for a Yinhawangka Ranger Team to reduce investment costs in larger infrastructure. Regular trips on Country by family groups or larger groups of several families can provide more opportunities for the knowledge of Elders to be passed on to younger people, and to ensure that the rights and responsibilities for looking after places and customs are passed on. More Yinhawangka People might be encouraged to spend more time on country with their families if we had some basic facilities for our use in agreed places.

Table 7: Health of People on Country across Management Zones

<i>Nyimili Range and West Side</i>	<i>Karjini National Park</i>	<i>Pastoral Stations (excluding Rocklea)</i>	<i>Unallocated Crown Land</i>	<i>Rocklea Station</i>	<i>Towns, mine sites</i>	<i>Overall</i>
<i>Fair</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>

THREATS

Threats are the problems that are affecting the health of the Targets. We identified Threats to each of the Targets, and considered how much they affect those Targets. Then we rated the Threats for each Target and for the project area as a whole. We used three criteria to do these ratings:

- Scope of the Threat, i.e. does the Threat occur everywhere that the Target is, or only in some areas where the Target is located?;
- Severity of the Threat, i.e. where the Threat occurs, is it likely to destroy the Target or to damage it a bit, or a lot?; and
- Reversibility, ie Can the Threat or the damage it does to the Target be reversed? For example, loss of cultural or *yinda* places because the area has been mined can't really be reversed, but the damage from cattle getting into a special place can often be reversed by fencing them out.

We then combined these scores to give overall Threat ratings, as shown in Table 8. Some Threats may be occur mostly in certain Management Zones while other Threats might be across all of Yinhawangka Country. For example, mining and mine dewatering is mostly within the Minesites and Townsites Zones, whereas Climate Change induced drought can be expected across all zones. We had very little information to use in making the ratings, so additional work is needed as the Healthy Country Plan is implemented to check these ratings.



Figure 13: Charred landscape after a Late Dry Season Fire

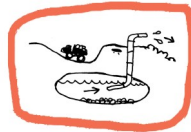
Threats/Targets	Yinda - Water	Bush food and medicine plants	Native animals	Cultural Sites	Lore, Culture, Customs	People on Country	Overall
Climate change/Drought	Very High	High	High			Medium	High
Mine dewatering and bore fields	Very High	Medium	Medium	Medium		Medium	High
Mining	High	High	High	High	Medium	High	High
Lack of management capacity	High	Medium	High	High	High	High	High
Unresolved Native Title	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High
Restrictions on access to Country	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High
Lack of effective governance processes	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High
Loss of knowledge				High	High	High	High
Traditional Owners not living on Country				High	Medium	High	High
Social issues				Medium	High	High	High
Invasive herbivores	High	Medium	Medium	Medium			Medium
Wrong fire regimes		Medium	High	Medium			Medium
Invasive carnivores			High				Medium
Invasive plants (weeds)	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium			Medium
Recreational activities	Medium			Medium			Medium
Roads and railways	Medium			Medium			Medium
Overgrazing		Medium	Medium				Medium
Summary	Very High	High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

Table 8: Threat Rating Overview



Climate change-induced drought

Climate change is likely to affect surface and subsurface waters, the structure of vegetation, and might cause some species of plants or animals to disappear, but the exact nature and the size of these impacts are not yet clear. The hot summers and periodic destructive cyclones and severe storms already impose some limitations on working conditions at some times of the year. These will need to be considered and factored into potential Yinhawangka ranger work programs.



Mine dewatering and bore fields

The drawdown of water levels as a result of mine dewatering or bore fields supplying water for mine and town sites can have an impact on ecological and cultural values through the reduction of flows in springs and creeks, and the loss or damage of vegetation around them. This then leads to less birds, fish and other native animals that depend on the water. There are concerns too about discharges from the mine dewatering into creeks and what this does to the water quality.



Mining

There are currently four major mines within Yinhawangka Country, all operated by Rio Tinto Iron Ore (RTIO): Greater Paraburdoo (includes Paraburdoo, Channar and Eastern Range) and West Angelas. Although in recent times there has been a significant reduction in the price received for Australian iron ore, increased production targets and the cost reduction measures of the major mining companies operating in the Pilbara, including RTIO, has meant mining activity is increasing and additional mines on Yinhawangka Country are likely. Both BHP Billiton Iron Ore (BHPBIO) and RTIO have significant future expansions currently being strategically assessed under both the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act and the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) assessment process. BHPBIO has indicated an anticipated maximum direct footprint of 110,000ha in its Pilbara Strategic Assessment proposal released in March 2016, not including any activities already approved. RTIO is still preparing their strategic assessment documentation. Mine sites impacts include direct loss of flora and fauna through alteration and fragmentation of habitat. Indirect impacts result from the construction of roads, railways and infrastructure, growing use of water resources and altered hydrological regimes and contamination of water and soil resources.

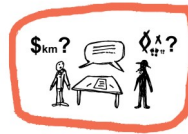


Figure 14: Rock face of a disused Mine Site



Lack of management capacity

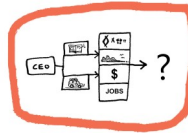
Maintaining healthy country has always required people to be present and actively managing country. With the many changes that have happened it is not possible for people to participate in this as they once did. The capacity to do this has changed and reduced. Yinhawangka People don't currently have the resources and skills to effectively manage their country, especially important with the additional threats to cultural and natural values that have emerged in recent decades. Yinhawangka People need access to the right resources and equipment and the relevant traditional and modern knowledge and skills. To fulfil their cultural responsibilities, now and for all time, it is important that Yinhawangka People have secure, recurrent funding and develop the capacity to work with landholders, stakeholders and partners to create an enabling environment to look after country.



Unresolved Native Title

Yinhawangka People filed the Yinhawangka Claim Part A (WC2010/016) and Yinhawangka Claim Part B (WC2010/011) in August and November 2010 respectively across their Traditional Lands, which have now been combined in a single claim. For these claims, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation is the Legal Native Title Representative Body. Upon determination of Native Title, the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation will act as the PBC for the Yinhawangka People.

Without the Native Title Determination, Yinhawangka People are hindered in their legal abilities to undertake many of the activities needed to reduce other threats or management issues and to make Yinhawangka Country healthier. The process of obtaining Native Title is long and arduous, and can increase frustrations and tensions within the community, making it difficult to work together effectively.



Lack of effective governance processes

Hand in hand with Native Title Determination, strong governance processes that people perceive as fair and equitable are essential if Yinhawangka People are to manage their Country effectively. Without strong processes in place, people can become frustrated with decisions that are made in the absence of clear policy frameworks, and a lot of time and energy can be wasted on dealing with conflicts that needn't occur. Strong governance processes are especially important when more people need to be employed and organisations are working across a lot of legislative and other requirements.



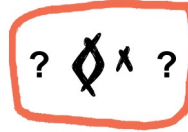
Restrictions on access to Country

One of the significant impacts of mining on Yinhawangka People is the restrictions on free access to parts of their country. A Land Access Protocol has been completed for the Greater Paraburdoo mines and Protocols are in development for the West Angeles mine and for Rocklea Station.

Once Native Title is obtained an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with pastoralists will address access. During the period of development of the Healthy Country Plan Yinhawangka People have suggested that a Yinhawangka Ranger Team, where the Rangers act as liaison between Yinhawangka People and pastoralists and miners, would be a positive outcome for all parties.



Figure 15: Locked gates near Marandoo Mine Site



Loss of knowledge

One of our biggest threats is the lack of transfer of cultural knowledge to the next generation. It has been difficult to pass on and learn language in the western school system. With many Yinhawangka people living far away from country, it is problematic to pass on knowledge without travelling through and visiting country regularly. Our youth nowadays are growing up in both worlds - the traditional world and the modern world, which means that passing on traditional knowledge competes with other distractions. A cultural learning program and creating more regular opportunities to visit country will help the transmission of knowledge in the future.



People not living on Country

From the arrival of Europeans in the Pilbara to the more recent mining boom and downturn of pastoralism, Yinhawangka people have been pushed out of their traditional country and nowadays often live far away in coastal communities. It is important that Yinhawangka Traditional Owners live on their country to maintain Yinhawangka culture and look after our natural and cultural values. Addressing this threat means for some of us to have opportunities to more frequently visit country, for others who want to be permanently on country it means the need to create opportunities for livelihoods on country.



Social issues

Not living on our traditional lands, our youth grows up more in the modern world without learning about their traditional roots. The modern world poses many distractions which stops our young generation from learning about our traditional values and having a healthy lifestyle. Sometimes our young people are exposed to alcohol and drugs at an early age. This can mean they lose respect for themselves, their families, elders and their culture. It is important for Yinhawangka to strengthen our culture and provide opportunities to re-engage with culture as much as it is vital to work with other health and community organisations on ways to promote healthy lifestyles and give the next generation a future through career-pathways and livelihoods on country.



Figure 16: Roma Butcher explaining the traditional use of Bush Plants



Invasive herbivores

Cattle, horses, camels, donkeys, rabbits, pigs and the house mouse all occur in the Pilbara Region, although pigs and rabbits are not considered a large problem in Yinhawangka Country. Cattle are a problem when they escape from pastoral stations, or are unfenced and trample and degrade yinda or disturb cultural sites. Cattle, horses, camels and donkeys can all cause soil erosion and compaction, disturb waterways and cultural sites, reduce native plant cover and can cause or contribute to the loss of certain plant species through concentrated or selective grazing on them. Loss of native vegetation means that habitat for the native animal species is lost, while soil compaction can lead to loss of habitat for burrowing animals.



Wrong fire regimes

Fire regimes have changed significantly since European settlement and particularly within the last decades. The small scale burning done by Aboriginal people for hunting and other purposes when they were living on country has been largely displaced by pastoralism, mining and tourism. Fires appear now to be larger, to occur in drier and hotter conditions and to therefore have a much greater and often detrimental impact on ecological and cultural values. Much of the vegetation is adapted to fire, but too frequent or too intense fire such as fires late in the dry season can lead to loss of vegetation cover. In turn, this reduces the habitat for native animals, reducing their food resources and exposing them more to predators. The small scale mosaic burning formerly practiced by Yinhawangka and other Aboriginal people kept the fuel loads down and limited the extent of fires caused by lightning strikes.

Changed fire regimes are believed to be a major factor in the loss or reduction in populations of many of the semi-arid and arid area mammal species. Yinhawangka People have also noticed less kangaroos and other bush tucker animals because of too much of their Country is either burnt severely or is not being burnt at all.

The railways network and the increased number of tourists travelling through the area may have also increased the risk of accidental ignition sources.



Figure 17: Trampling damage from Cattle and Horses

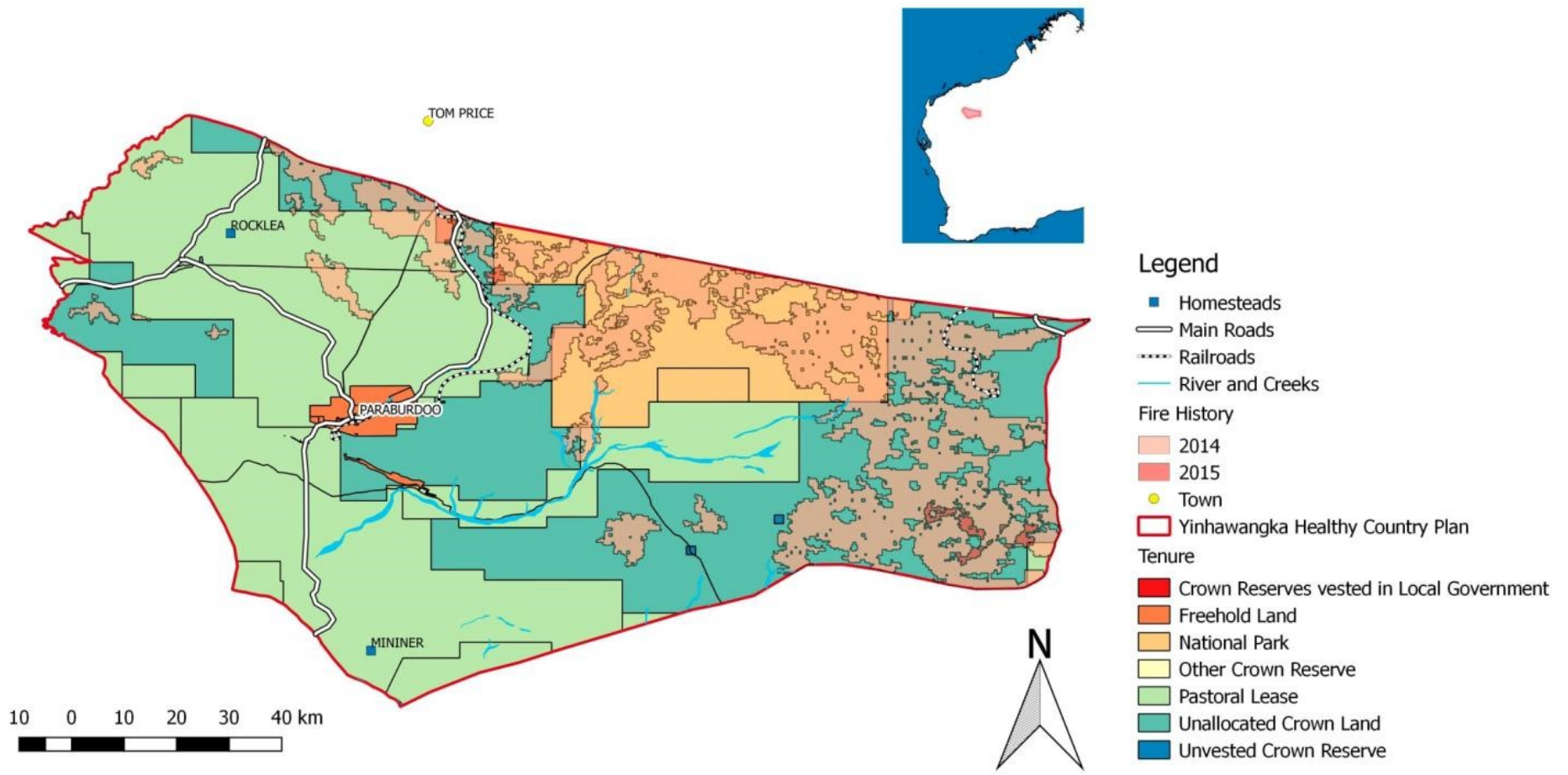


Figure 18: Fire History 2014/15 across Tenure



Other invasive animals

These include cats, European foxes and dogs. Cats are widespread across the Pilbara and are very hard to control although new baiting methods are under study and in experimental use. Foxes are less common in the Central and inland Pilbara, but may move along watercourses. As well as their direct effects in predating small mammals, birds and reptiles, cats and foxes, they are eating the prey of the Pilbara Olive Python and could cause problems for their populations.

In Western Australia, dingoes are classed as vermin and regular dog baiting of dingoes and wild dogs is carried out in Yinhawangka Country. Yinhawangka People do not consider the dingo a pest, and there is some evidence that reducing their populations will increase the feral cat problem.

Cane Toads are a serious potential threat. Feral bees are also a problem and may be outcompeting the native bees for hives and possibly as pollinators. It is not clear if this has serious implications for pollination of medicinal and food plants.



Weeds

Weeds of National Significance (WONS) that are found in the Pilbara region include Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.), and Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*). Parkinsonia and Salvinia have not yet been identified in Yinhawangka Country. Buffel Grass, while not yet listed as a WONS, is included in the EPBC Act as “other introduced plants that are considered by the States and Territories to pose a particularly significant threat to biodiversity” and does occur in Yinhawangka Country.

Terra Rosa Consulting (2016) reported a small number of Mesquite plants along creek lines to the south of Nyimili Range; Stinking Passion Flower in Tulip Gorge; Ruby Dock and Buffel Grass. These are mostly small infestations which can be readily eradicated, but if unmanaged have the potential to become major problems in future.

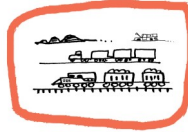


Recreational activities

Traditionally visitors to Yinhawangka country asked for permission to access country. As custodians we feel responsible for the well-being of visitors, but it is as well a way to show respect to our country and culture. At many sites we see this lack of respect from uncontrolled visitation in rubbish left lying around or people damaging our rock-art and engravings with graffiti. People don't just normally walk in the backyard of others, mucking the place up. We expect the same respect for our traditional country. Through signage and visitor services like permits and tours we want to ensure that visitors enjoy their time on our country, learn about Yinhawangka culture and respect Yinhawangka people as Traditional Owners.

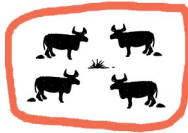


Figure 19: Damage from Graffiti at Palm Springs



Roads and Railways

With settlement and mining development many roads and railway lines dissect our country. The issues around roads and railways are manifold: some roads give people access to culturally sensitive parts of our country, but roads and infrastructure dissect habitat and create barriers for our creeks or pose a threat to some of our animals trying to cross them. Roads and railways are sometimes as well the source of ignition for wildfires and can affect large parts of our country.



Overgrazing

Our country and its use changed over the last decades. Climate change has brought about a drier climate and pastoral activity has changed from sheep to cattle grazing. From time to time some pastoral properties will have too many stock for the available natural vegetation and water, causing overgrazing and damage from trampling. Some pastoral practices seem to contribute to damage to water places by letting cattle, donkeys and horses trample the river banks near spring and water holes, spread weeds and polluting the water.

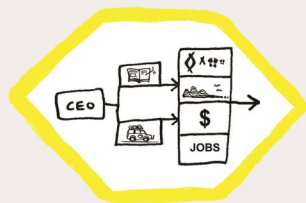


Figure 20: Railroad dissecting Yinhawangka Country

YINHAWANGKA HEALTHY COUNTRY PLAN - STRATEGIES



The highest priority **strategies** are those that develop the enabling environment or other on-ground conservation and land management activities to be carried out. These strategies are required to build capacity across all of Yinhawangka Country.



Capacity Development Governance and Native Title



Relationship and Partnership Management



Capacity Development Land Management



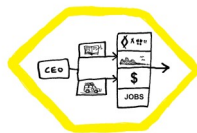
Cultural Heritage Program



Invasive Species Management



Burning Program



Capacity Development – Governance and Native Title

Objective: Within one year the consent Native Title for Yinhawangka Part A+B application is determined and effective governance arrangements for the Prescribed Body Corporate are in place.

The determination of the Native Title application by the Yinhawangka People is imminent and will give clarity to the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation as the Prescribed Body Corporate about management rights and responsibilities across exclusive and non-exclusive Native Title determined areas. The determination will also establish areas with extinguished Native Title, which will help to identify priority areas for additional agreements to manage land in accordance with the Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan.

Once Native Title has been determined, clear governance arrangements and processes can be put in place to ensure decision making follows traditional cultural responsibilities. Cohesive decision making and dispute resolution processes across the Native Title holders will establish a position of strength for Yinhawangka People. This will ensure that in dealing with external interests, Yinhawangka aspirations are understood, respected and implemented. Projects that will give guidance to decision making include the undertaking of a cultural mapping project and the establishment of sub-committees with relevant Yinhawangka People (e.g. a Senior Cultural Advisory Committee).

Actions

- Gain and assert Native Title: Resolve remaining Native Title issues and establish Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation as the PBC for the Yinhawangka People.
- Prepare a Cultural Map of Yinhawangka Country to identify areas of traditional responsibilities and ensure decisions are made centrally through the PBC, incorporating custodial rights.
- Participate in the Heritage Knowledge Repatriation Project.
- Implement improved governance arrangements and decision making processes so the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation, and future PBC, can react to external opportunities and processes in a timely manner.
- Recruit and/or engage relevant expertise to review environmental monitoring data in relation to development assessments and projects on Yinhawangka Country.



Relationship and Partnership Management

Objective: Within five years, Indigenous Land Use Agreements with landholders and strategic partnerships with relevant agencies are contributing to improved management of cultural and natural values on Yinhawangka Country.

Large tracts of Yinhawangka Country are managed by other landholders: the pastoral property lessees on Rocklea, Mininer and Turee Creek Stations (and the smaller areas of Cheela Plains, Ashburton Downs and Mt Vernon Stations that are within Yinhawangka Country); the mining companies on mine sites; and the Department of Parks and Wildlife who manage Karijini National Park. Once Native Title is resolved Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation can build relationships with these stakeholders. This can be achieved through the establishment of Indigenous Land Use Agreements and Joint Management arrangements to ensure current management practice aligns with the aspirations of Yinhawangka People in this Healthy Country Plan. These agreements will establish access to areas for different purposes, develop management arrangements for collaborative cultural and natural resource management and specify rights, obligations and processes for Healthy Country Management.

Aside from Landholders, other State and Commonwealth Agencies and non-government organisations have an interest or obligation to manage certain aspects of Yinhawangka country. Regular stakeholder engagement and good partnership management will unlock opportunities to collaboratively and strategically undertake land management activities. This will increase Yinhawangka People's capacity and resourcing for cultural and natural resource management.

Actions

- Build working relationships with key stakeholders and strategic partners through regular formal and informal meetings to communicate and build understanding of Yinhawangka's Healthy Country Plan goals and objectives.
- Negotiate Indigenous Land Use Agreements with Pastoral Lease holders to establish management rights and responsibilities of pastoralists and Yinhawangka People.
- Establish Joint Management arrangements with the Department of Parks and Wildlife for Karijini National Park for the part of the Park that is in Yinhawangka Country.
- Mining company agreements: Negotiate with Rio Tinto Iron Ore and BHP Billiton Iron Ore to include recognition of Yinhawangka People's goals and objectives for Healthy Country in current and future agreements.
- Identify and build on opportunities to engage in land management activities, such as flora and fauna surveys, fire planning and management and other monitoring with key stakeholders and strategic partners.



Figure 21: Relationships and partnerships



Capacity development – Land Management

Objective: Within five years a Yinhawangka Ranger Program has the capacity and resources to manage Yinhawangka Country using traditional and scientific knowledge and in accordance with the goals and objectives in the Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan.

To effectively manage Yinhawangka Country, including the provision of land management services to other land-holders on a fee-for-contract basis, the establishment of a Yinhawangka Ranger Team is essential.

Building blocks for the program are full-time, part-time and casual employment, with the opportunity for clearly developed career paths. This will be complemented by accredited training in conservation, land management and cultural management to increase Yinhawangka People's opportunities for meaningful employment caring for their Country.

The annual work plan of the Yinhawangka Rangers will be guided by this Healthy Country Plan with day-to-day guidance and leadership through the Ranger Coordinator and the Yinhawangka Healthy Country Advisory Committee.

Actions

- Source funding, equipment, vehicles and accommodation for a Yinhawangka Ranger Team.
- Establish a Yinhawangka Healthy Country Advisory Committee to give guidance to Yinhawangka Rangers and ensure the Ranger Program is able to work effectively.
- Develop Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) and employment policies to ensure compliance with all statutory requirements and a safe and risk-free working environment for the Rangers.
- Recruit a Ranger Coordinator and recruit an initial team of Yinhawangka People as Rangers, and enrol them in Certificate 2/3 Conservation and Land Management course.



Figure 22: Land Management



Cultural Heritage Program

Objective: Within three years a cultural learning program is engaging Yinhawangka youth to learn about Yinhawangka Lore and Culture and to pass on Traditional Knowledge.

A large proportion of Yinhawangka people live away from their traditional lands in urban communities closer to the coast. A cultural learning program for Yinhawangka youth and young families increases the opportunities to learn about and pass on traditional knowledge to the next generation. Traditional knowledge will be collected, collated and translated into different formats, including through cultural mapping projects, so that the wealth of Yinhawangka knowledge is available for young families and the younger generation.

Using two paths, cultural learning can take place on country through cultural camps and back-to-country trips with elders and youth attending. A second pathway aims at developing resources and coordinating events to create opportunities to learn about Yinhawangka country and culture at home or in town.

Actions

- Undertake at least three Return to Country trips annually with elders and youth to visit priority places and cultural sites on Yinhawangka Country.
- Conduct annual cultural camps on Yinhawangka Country for young Yinhawangka People (male and female) to facilitate the passing on of traditional knowledge by Elders and to increase the awareness of Yinhawangka culture.
- Consider establishing basic camping facilities in culturally appropriate places, especially at some of the Exclusive Native Title Rights areas, for Yinhawangka use.
- Establish and maintain Yinhawangka Cultural Heritage Database.
- Use database and other knowledge to develop and distribute appropriate Yinhawangka traditional knowledge in relevant formats as resources for youth, young families and schools in Paraburdoo and Tom Price.
- Organise cultural activities during NAIDOC week and school holidays to foster cultural learning of youth and young families.
- Work with community and health organisations to increase awareness of healthy lifestyles and their importance in maintaining cultural values in Yinhawangka communities.



Figure 23: Return to Country Trips



Invasive species management

Objective: Within five years, the Yinhawangka Ranger Team has the capacity to undertake invasive plants and animals management programs, and within ten years the health of priority natural and cultural sites is being improved.

Yinhawangka country has a long-standing pastoral history. Introduced animals like cattle, horses, donkeys and camels can have a negative impact on places that are important to Yinhawangka People. Invasive animals compete for freshwater in a dry landscape causing significant damage to the riparian zone from trampling and subsequent erosion and siltation. They are also likely to spread weeds.

Cultural sites, like rock-art sites, artefact scatters and burial places are also disturbed by trampling and rubbing by invasive herbivores. Exclusion of cattle, horses, camels and donkeys through fencing off priority sites will reduce the pressures on river banks and other sites and allow impacted places to be rehabilitated.

Actions

- Survey West Side, Nyimili Range, Rights Reserved Areas and the main creek systems to identify and document disturbance from invasive plants and animals, and use this to develop a priority list for action.
- Fence priority cultural sites significantly impacted by invasive animals in the Nyimili Ranges and West Side to protect sites from invasive animals.
- Fence priority water places significantly impacted by invasive animals to prevent trampling and erosion, and manage invasive plants within the fenced area.
- Collaborate with DPAW, Rangelands NRM, Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group, land owners and managers including neighbouring Indigenous Ranger Groups to implement regionally-based invasive species management.
- Monitor feral animal impact, weed infestations and water quality at identified priority sites.



Figure 24: Roy Tommy and Cecil Parker assessing the state of riverbanks



Burning program

Objective: Within four years fires on Yinhawangka country are smaller, cooler and more frequent, and natural and cultural values are being improved.

Different land-owners and land-uses together with communities and assets spread across country, make a coordinated approach to fire management essential. By jointly undertaken fire-planning, Yinhawangka people and other land-holders ensure that fire management and risk-management is coordinated and complementary.

In collaboration with land-owners Yinhawangka Rangers will implement asset-protection burns around communities, other assets and important natural and cultural priority areas. This will limit the damage from uncontrolled late-dry season fire. Yinhawangka People's traditional burning practice consisted of a mosaic pattern of patch-burns: By breaking up large tracts of land into smaller parcels and they improved the habitat for native animals and bush-tucker plants.

Actions

- Work with DPAW, The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), the Shire of Ashburton, RTIO and pastoral lessees to develop a Yinhawangka Fire Management Plan that documents an agreed approach to fire management within Yinhawangka Country.
- In collaboration with land-owners, implement an Early Dry Season Fire Management program across a defined proportion of Yinhawangka country each year to create a mosaic of burned and unburned country.
- Maintain fire breaks around communities, assets and priority sites identified in the Yinhawangka Fire Management Plan to reduce the risk of damage from unplanned fires.
- Develop relevant OH&S and other employment policies to ensure compliance with all statutory requirements and a safe, risk-free working environment for Yinhawangka Rangers.



Figure 25: Fire Management

What needs to be done first?

The steps below show how the implementation of the Healthy Country Plan needs to be staged to build up the capacity to implement all the strategies effectively, and then to expand the work once the initial establishment phase is progressed.

Strategy	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Resolve Native Title and build governance capacity	Native Title issues resolved within YAC	Governance processes in place	Ongoing review and improvement of processes	Ongoing review and improvement of processes	Ongoing review and improvement of processes
Relationship and partnership management	Building, negotiating	Building, negotiating	ILUAs and Joint Management arrangements in place	Ongoing review and improvement of agreements	Ongoing review and improvement of agreements
Build capacity in land management	Build organisational capacity to manage Ranger program/ recruitment of Ranger Coordinator and Rangers	Resources obtained: vehicles, equipment, accommodation / Ranger training commenced	Ranger program commenced	Ongoing review and improvement; expansion as resources and capacity allow	Ongoing review and improvement; expansion as resources and capacity allow
Cultural heritage program	Cultural database in place and repatriation of information commenced	Cultural learning and return to country trips established	Cultural learning and return to country trips continue, with annual review	Cultural learning and return to country trips continue, with annual review	Cultural learning and return to country trips continue, with annual review
Burning program	(Build organisational capacity)	Ranger fire training, equipment	Ranger fire training, Fire management plans negotiated	Burning program commenced	Ongoing; review annually
Invasive species program	(Build organisational capacity)	Ranger invasive species control training, equipment. Initial priority sites for management identified	Initial priority sites managed	Ongoing review and improvement; expansion as resources and capacity allow	Ongoing review and improvement; expansion as resources and capacity allow
Monitoring plan progress	Build capacity, including through partnering with other organisations to build skills in survey and monitoring. Monitor implementation progress.	Resources obtained, partnerships built, training in methods, data collection and analysis methods developed. Monitor implementation progress.	Monitoring of implementation and effectiveness	Monitoring of implementation and effectiveness	Monitoring of implementation and effectiveness. Review monitoring plan.
Review plan	Annual review	Annual review	Annual review	Annual review	Mid-plan (external) review

Table 9: Timing of Yinhawangka Healthy Country Strategies

Where will the Strategies be carried out?

The highest priority strategies are those that develop the enabling environment for other on-ground conservation and land management activities to be carried out. These strategies are required to build capacity across all of Yinhawangka Country.

As the Yinhawangka Ranger Team is established and skills are developed, the initial land management activities are to be focused mainly in the zones for which Yinhawangka Rangers will be providing the main on-ground capacity; i.e. Nyimili Range, West Side and parts of the UCL. The southern part of Karijini National Park will also be an early focus, depending on the successful negotiation of joint management arrangements with DPAW. Joint management will allow some “on the job” training and building of conservation management knowledge and experience.

Specific priority areas within pastoral stations, including Rocklea, may also be a focus for land management in the early years of the Ranger Program. As skills are built and confidence established, the Yinhawangka Ranger Team will be in a position to expand its capacity and scope of work by potentially contracting to pastoral stations and mining companies for land management work, including but not limited to fencing, invasive species management, prescribed burning and rehabilitation of damaged sites. Table 11 below shows which management zones are the focus of different strategies in years 1-5.

Strategy	Management Zone					
	Nyimili and West Side	Karijini National Park	Pastoral stations	Unallocated Crown Land	Rocklea	Mine sites
Capacity development –Native Title and governance	√	√	√	√	√	√
Capacity Development - Land Management	√	√		√		
Managing partnerships and relationships	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cultural heritage program	√	√	√	√	√	√
Burning program	√			√		
Invasive species management	√		√	√	√	√

Table 10: Yinhawangka Healthy Country Strategies across Management Zones, Years 1-5

Learning and Sharing

The Monitoring and Evaluation Program attached to all our strategies will be implemented to achieve ongoing, adaptive management of Yinhawangka country.

The fundamental question facing any team is: "Are our strategies working?" To answer this question, we will periodically collect data on a number of indicators that gauge how well our strategies are keeping the critical issues in check and, in turn, whether the health of our Targets is improving.

When we talk about Reporting, we are looking at reporting on 3 things:

- Implementation – are we using the plan?
- Effectiveness – are the strategies working?
- Status – are our targets improving?

Figure 20 shows how these three things are linked together.

Figure 21 provides a general calendar to follow for when these would be done over the life of the plan.

Implementation monitoring and reporting is the simplest and done most often. Implementation monitoring simply answers the question "Are we using the plan?", and is a regular review of the Actions in the work plan to see if they are being done, and check their progress.

Effectiveness monitoring focuses on strategies and objectives, and whether we are seeing change that shows we are being successful. Effectiveness monitoring builds on implementation monitoring, but in addition to simply recording an activity, we look at all the information we have collected from our completed work and think whether it is showing us that we achieve a change.

Status monitoring is on the Targets and their ongoing health. It tells us whether, with all the activities and successes in our strategies, we are actually seeing improvement. Status monitoring is typically the most difficult of all three levels of monitoring and requires the greatest investment in time and resources data-capture and analysis. Because natural targets often respond to change only over time, status reporting is undertaken at the time when the Healthy Country Plan gets typically reviewed.

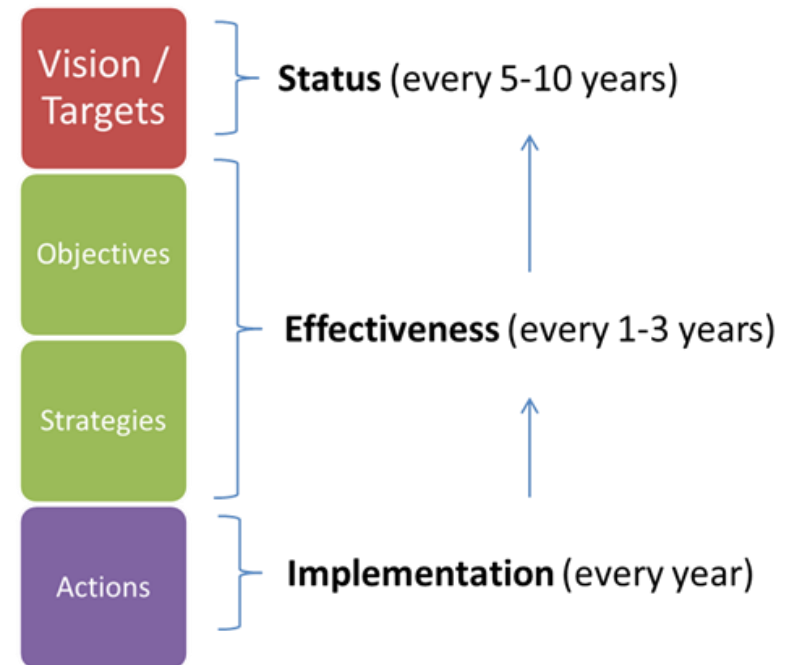


Figure 26: Monitoring Hierarchy

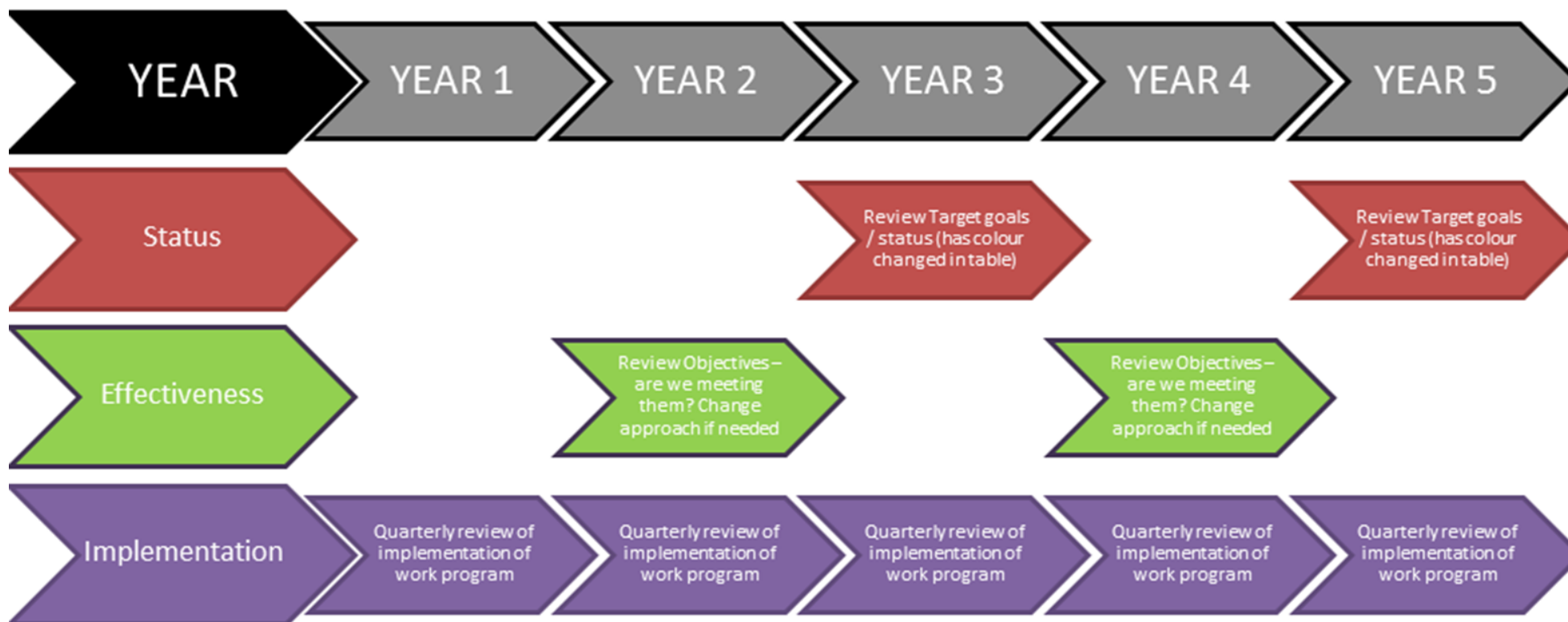


Figure 27: Calendar of events for Monitoring and Evaluation

Adapting

Adapting the plan is an ongoing process of regular review, and is not left to the end of the proposed plan time. Creating a "culture" of review is important to ensure that work being done in the plan is as effective as possible, and requires the following key elements.

1. Regular quarterly review of implementation by the Operational team
2. Effective learning also depends on being able to review previous work, outcomes and results.

It is essential that a simple approach to information be established to keep track of all records relating to implementing the plan. A simple "folder" approach is cheap and easy to implement, storing any materials, reports, photographs, Cyber tracker logs etc., in folders under project or asset names. Supported by simple record keeping the small regular reviews will feed up into larger midterm and full plan reviews as shown (see Figure 24).



Figure 28: Review and Adaption Hierarchy

Abbreviations

BAM	Biosecurity and Agricultural Management (Act)	WWF	World Wildlife Fund
BHPBIO	BHP Billiton Iron Ore	YAC	Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation
CDEP	Community Development Employment Program	YMAC	Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs		
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Western Australia		
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services		
DoEE	Department of Environment and Energy		
DPAW	Department of Parks and Wildlife		
EPA	Environment Protection Authority		
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Act)		
HCP	Healthy Country Plan		
NGO	Non-Government Organisation		
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal		
NRM	Natural Resource Management		
NTA	Native Title Act		
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate		
PEC	Priority Ecological Community		
PGA	Pastoralists and Graziers Association		
RJCP	Remote Jobs and Community Program		
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate		
RTIO	Rio Tinto Iron Ore		
RTO	Registered Training Organisation		
TRaCK	Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge		
UCL	Unallocated Crown Land		

Appendix 1. Species of conservation significance

Target	Matters of National Environmental Significance (EPBC)	
Native Animals	Night Parrot (<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>)	Endangered
	Australian Painted Snipe (<i>Rostratula australis</i>)	Endangered
	Northern Quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>)	Endangered
	Greater Bilby (<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>)	Vulnerable
	Pilbara Leaf-nosed bat (<i>Rhinionictes aurantia</i> (Pilbara form))	Vulnerable
	Olive Python (Pilbara subspecies) (<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i>)	Vulnerable
Bushplants - Food and Medicine	Hammersley Lepidium (<i>Lepidium catapycnon</i>)	Vulnerable
	Mt Augustus Foxglove (<i>Pityrodia augustensis</i>)	Vulnerable
	Mountain Thryptomene (<i>Thryptomenewittweri</i>)	Vulnerable

WA state-listed species of conservation significance

Native Animals	Eastern Great Egret (<i>Ardeamodesta</i>)	International agreement
	Rainbow Bee-Eater (<i>Meropsornatus</i>)	International agreement
	Red-necked Stint (<i>Calidrisruficollis</i>)	International agreement
	Wood Sandpiper (<i>Tringaglareola</i>)	International agreement
	Sharp tailed Sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>)	International agreement
	Long toed Stint (<i>Calidris subminuta</i>)	International agreement
	Glossy Ibis (<i>Plegadisfalcinellus</i>)	International agreement
	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Other specific. protected fauna
	Grey falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>)	Vulnerable
	Striated Grasswren (<i>Amytornisstriatusstriatus</i>)	Priority 4: Rare, near threatened
	Shark Bay variegated fairy wren (<i>Maluruslambertibernieri</i>)	Vulnerable
	Dirk Hartog black and white fairy wren (<i>Malurusleucopterusleucopterus</i>)	Vulnerable
	Long tailed dunnart (<i>Sminthopsislongicaudata</i>)	Priority 4: Rare, near threatened
	Ghost Bat (<i>Macrodermagigas</i>)	Vulnerable
	Short tailed mouse, Karekanga (<i>Leggadinalakedownensis</i>)	Priority 4: Rare, near threatened
	Western Pebble-mound mouse (<i>Pseudomyschapmani</i>)	Priority 4: Rare, near threatened
	Pilbara barking gecko (<i>Underwoodisaurusseorsus</i>)	Priority 2: Poorly known species

Appendix 1. Species of conservation significance (continued)

WA state-listed species of conservation significance		
Bushplants - Food and Medicine	<i>Alutaquadrata</i>	Threatened
	<i>Dicrastylismitchellii</i>	1
	<i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Canga (P.J.H. Hurter & J. Naaykens 11013)	1
	<i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Mt Brockman (E. Thoma ET 1354)	1
	<i>Rhodantheascendens</i>	1
	<i>Aristidalazaridis</i>	2
	<i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. Pingandy (M.E. Trudgen 2662)	2
	<i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708)	2
	<i>Oxalis</i> sp. Pilbara (M.E. Trudgen 12725)	2
	<i>Acacia effusa</i>	3
	<i>Dampieraanonyma</i>	3
	<i>Dampierametallorum</i>	3
	<i>Eremophila coacta</i>	3
	<i>Grevillea saxicola</i>	3
	<i>Nicotianaumbratica</i>	3
	<i>Olearia mucronata</i>	3
	<i>Ptilotussubspinescens</i>	3
	<i>Sida</i> sp. Barlee Range (S. van Leeuwen 1642)	3
	<i>Swainsonathompsoniana</i>	3
	<i>Acacia bromilowiana</i>	4
	<i>Eremophila magnifica</i> subsp. <i>magnifica</i>	4
	<i>Eremophila youngii</i> subsp. <i>lepidota</i>	4
	<i>Ptilotustrichocephalus</i>	4
	<i>Aristidajerichoensis</i> var. <i>subspinulifera</i>	3
	<i>Eragrostis</i> sp. Mt Robinson (S. van Leeuwen 4109)	1
	<i>Eremophila appressa</i>	1

WA state-listed species of conservation significance

Bushplants -
Food and Medicine

<i>Eremophila</i> sp. Hamersley Range (K. Walker KW 136)	1
<i>Eremophila</i> sp. Snowy Mountain (S. van Leeuwen 3737)	1
<i>Eremophila</i> sp. West Angelas (S. van Leeuwen 4068)	1
<i>Gunniopsispropinqua</i>	3
<i>Indigoferagilesii</i>	3
<i>Lepidiumcatapycnon</i>	4
<i>Oldenlandia</i> sp. Hamersley Station (A.A. Mitchell PRP 1479)	3
<i>Pilbara trudgenii</i>	3
<i>Ptilotusmollis</i>	4
<i>Rhagodia</i> sp. Hamersley (M. Trudgen 17794)	3
<i>Rostellulariaadscendens</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	3
<i>Scaevola</i> sp. Hamersley Range basalts (S. van Leeuwen 3675)	2
<i>Solanum kentrocaule</i>	3
<i>Tetrathecafordiana</i>	1
<i>Teucriumpilbaranum</i>	2
<i>Themeda</i> sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431)	3
<i>Triodia</i> sp. Karijini (S. van Leeuwen 4111)	1
<i>Triodia</i> sp. Mt Ella (M.E. Trudgen 12739)	3
<i>Vittadinia</i> sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4684)	1

Priority Ecological communities

Brockman Iron Cracking Clay Communities of the Hamersley Range	P1
West Angelas Cracking Clays	P2
Coolibah-Lignum Flats (subtype 1)	P3

Threatened fauna and flora may be listed under Section 178 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) in any one of the following categories:

- Extinct
- extinct in the wild
- critically endangered
- Endangered
- Vulnerable
- conservation dependent

Source: [Department of Environment](#)

Under Western Australia's Wildlife Conservation Act (1950), species can be listed as:

- Threatened
- Critically endangered
- Endangered
- Vulnerable
- Presumed extinct
- Migratory Birds protected under an international agreement
- Conservation Dependent Fauna
- Other specially protected fauna
- Priority species (Priorities 1-4)

Source: [Department of Parks and Wildlife](#)

Appendix 2. Glossary of Traditional names used in the Plan

<i>bajarri</i>	Big kangaroo	Joyce Injie in Olive, 1997
<i>bajiwana</i>	Plains kangaroo	Joyce Injie in Olive, 1997
<i>bunkurra</i>	goanna	Joyce Injie in Olive, 1997
<i>jalhparrpa, jalhpaorkarlumpu</i>	Bush tomato	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>jankurnha, kayatpu</i>	Emu	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>jarparri</i>	Black Mulga	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>jilkuru</i>	Kurara (Acacia tetragonophylla)	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>jilpukarri</i>	Wild passionfruit, split jack	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>jirparli</i>	Kanji bush (Acacia pyrifolia)	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>kajawarri</i>	Wild orange	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>karnti</i>	tree	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>kartapirangu</i>	Snappy gum	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>kukatarri</i>	A yam	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>kunti</i>	tickweed	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>kurartu</i>	digging sticks	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>malpanhangu</i>	honeydew	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>marliya</i>	bush honey	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>marndamalu</i>	Bush turkey	Joyce Injie in Olive, 1997
<i>marralha</i>	River gum	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>marrkan</i>	Crinkled Cassia	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>minjawarri, minjarri</i>	Vicks bush	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>mirrrudu</i>	baby carriers	Terra Rosa Consulting 2016

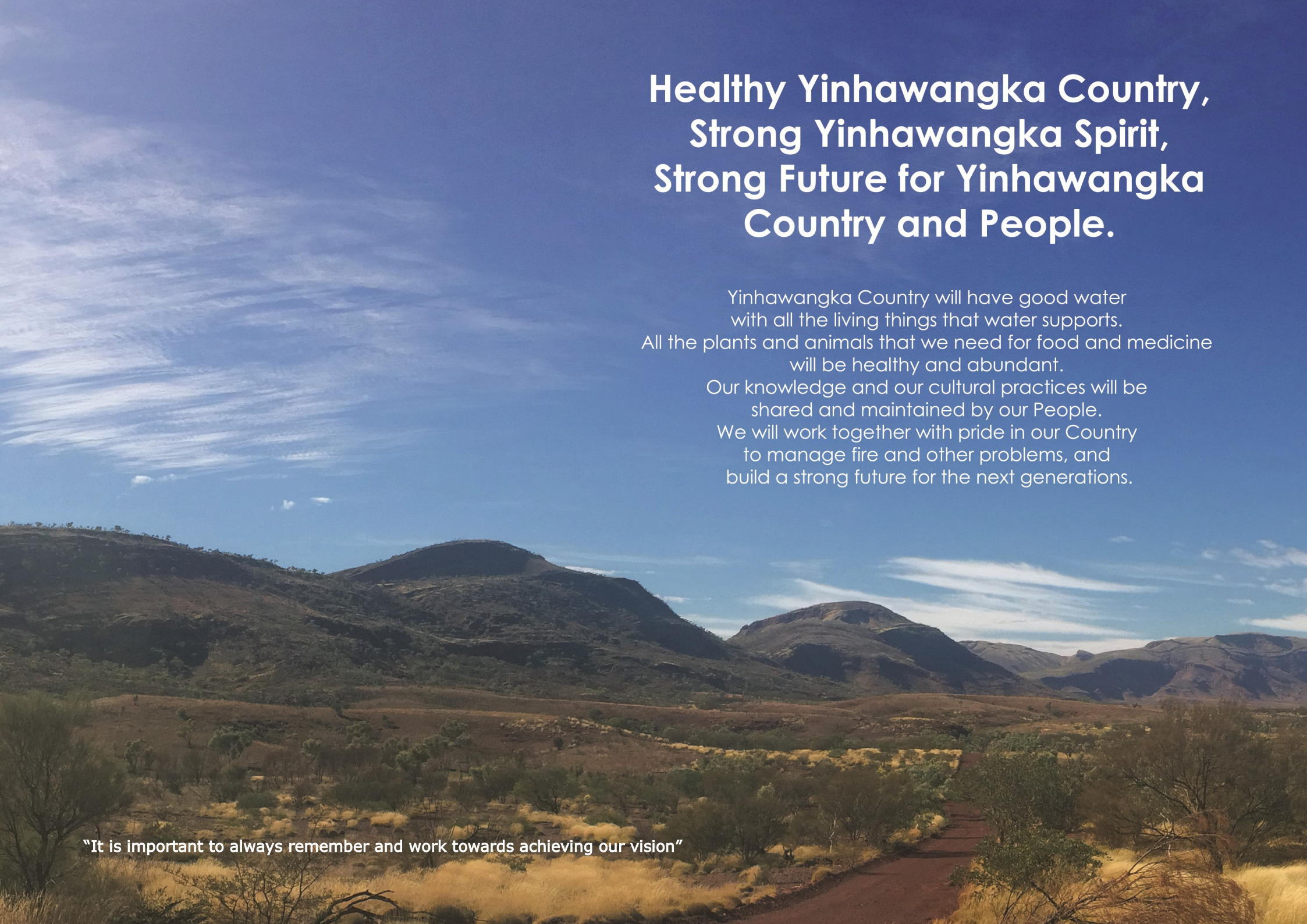
Appendix 2. Glossary of Traditional names used in the Plan (continued)

Traditional Name	Common name	Source
<i>ngarlku</i>	Bush onion	Dulcie Condon in Olive, 1997
<i>Nhirti</i>	Emu bush	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>nyirilyi</i>	Saltbush	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>Pajila</i>	Caper bush	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>partirri</i>	Camel bush	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>paru</i>	Hill Spinifex	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>patharra</i>	Native currant or plum	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>pirtingmarra</i>	Ierp	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>thurlayilku</i>	Snake vine	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>walbarra</i>	spear thrower	Terra Rosa Consulting 2016
<i>wanalja</i>	Wild currant	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>wantijirri</i>	shields	Terra Rosa Consulting 2016
<i>warkunti</i>	boomerangs	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>wintamarra</i>	Mulga	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>wirlu</i>	Smooth-barked coolabah	Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>yandi, yanti</i>	Dish, bowl	Terra Rosa Consulting 2016, Young and Vitenbergs 2007
<i>yinda</i>	Freshwater	Yinhawangka Directors (at Pre-planning meeting)

Olive, Noel (1997). *Karijini Mirlimiri. Aboriginal Histories of the Pilbara*. Fremantle Arts Centre Press

Terra Rosa Consulting (2016). Short report of the archaeological, ethnographic and environmental findings from the Nyimili Project, Stage Two field season, conducted with Yinhawangka Traditional Owner participants and prepared for the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation

Young, Lola and Vitenbergs, Anna (2007) *Lola Young, Medicine Woman and Teacher* Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2007



Healthy Yinhawangka Country, Strong Yinhawangka Spirit, Strong Future for Yinhawangka Country and People.

Yinhawangka Country will have good water
with all the living things that water supports.
All the plants and animals that we need for food and medicine
will be healthy and abundant.
Our knowledge and our cultural practices will be
shared and maintained by our People.
We will work together with pride in our Country
to manage fire and other problems, and
build a strong future for the next generations.

“It is important to always remember and work towards achieving our vision”

Appendix 3. Key Attributes

Key Ecological Attributes and Indicators used for the Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan. Key Attributes apply to all Management Zones. Table 10 sets out the timing for doing Strategies, and Table 11 sets out where the work would be carried out. Monitoring of these Key Attributes would apply across all of the Management Zones to track the health of Yinhawangka Country.

Category	Attribute	Indicator	Rating			
			Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good
Landscape Context	Fire regime - (timing, frequency, intensity, extent)	Percentage of country managed by early Dry season fire management	0-20% of area managed by EDSFM	20-45% of area managed by EDSFM	45-70% of area managed by EDSFM	70-100% of area managed by EDSFM
	Hydrologic regime - (timing, duration, frequency, extent)	Amount of surface water in the dry season	No surface water at the end of dry season	Little surface water at the end of dry season	Some surface water at the end of dry season	A lot of surface water at the end of dry season
Condition	Health of riparian vegetation (trampling)	Rank of riparian assessment (TRaCK)	Low Rank: High impact of invasive plants / invasive animals - trampling/erosion	Medium Rank: Medium impact of invasive plants / invasive animals - trampling/erosion	High Rank: Low impact of invasive plants / invasive animals - trampling/erosion	Highest Rank: No impact of invasive plants / invasive animals - trampling/erosion
	Health of riparian vegetation (weeds)	Rank of riparian assessment (TRaCK)	Low Rank: High impact of invasive plants / invasive animals - trampling/erosion	Medium Rank: Medium impact of invasive plants / invasive animals - trampling/erosion	High Rank: Low impact of invasive plants / invasive animals - trampling/erosion	Highest Rank: No impact of invasive plants / invasive animals - trampling/erosion
	Intactness of cultural sites	Disturbance	Much disturbance	Some disturbance	Little disturbance	No disturbance
	Water Quality	Turbidity / PH / Conductivity	High turbidity / PH levels very low/high / increased conductivity;			Low turbidity / PH levels average / less conductivity

Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) developed within the National Environmental Research Program ranking guidelines for Indigenous Rangers for condition assessment of riparian zones.

Category	Attribute	Indicator	Rating			
			Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good
Cultural	Cultural - Access to sites	Locked gates / unsuccessful permit requests	Site visits heavily restricted	Little site visits possible	Some site visits possible	Sufficient site visits possible
	Cultural - knowledge about places (names, stories, TEK)	Level of satisfaction of elders	Next generation has no cultural knowledge	Next generation has little cultural knowledge	Next generation has some cultural knowledge	Next generation has sufficient cultural knowledge
	Participation in Governance/ Cultural Business	# of TO-meeting attendants at AGM, lore, ceremony, meetings	Little of no Yinhawangka TO's attend AGM, lore, ceremony, meetings across a year	Few Yinhawangka TO's attend AGM, lore, ceremony, meetings across a year	Some Yinhawangka TO's attend AGM, lore, ceremony, meetings across a year	Many Yinhawangka TO's attend AGM, lore, ceremony, meetings across a year
	Time spend on HCP projects on country	# of people/days spend on country during HCP projects	Little of no people/days spend on country during HCP projects	Some people/days spend on country during HCP projects	Sufficient people/days spend on country during HCP projects	A lot of people/days spend on country during HCP projects
Size	Population size & dynamics	Number of kangaroos (scats, tracks, camera traps)	No sign of kangaroo	Little evidence of kangaroo	Some evidence of kangaroo	A lot of kangaroo
	Population size & dynamics	Presence of Western Pebble Mound Mouse at Monitoring Plot (Camera Trapping)	No sighting of Dasyrus	Little sightings of Dasyrus	Some sightings of Dasyrus	Many sightings of Dasyrus
	Population size & dynamics	Presence of Bush tucker Plant in season	No bushtucker available	Little bushtucker available	Some bushtucker available	A lot of bushtucker available
	Size / extent of characteristic communities / ecosystems	Ability to catch fish	No fish can be caught in season	Few fish can be caught in season	Sufficient fish can be caught in season	A lot of fish can be caught in season

RATING	MEANING
Very Good	<i>the target is viable and only requires monitoring for change</i>
Good	<i>the target is within the acceptable range of variation and only limited work is required for maintenance</i>
Fair	<i>some work is needed to maintain the target in the future</i>
Poor	<i>The Target needs immediate attention to protect it from disappearing</i>

Appendix 4. Key Stakeholders

Local, regional

Pastoral Station Lessees: Ashburton Downs, Cheela Plains, Mininer, Mt Vernon, Rocklea, Turee Creek

Rio Tinto Iron Ore

BHP Billiton Iron Ore

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation: Registered Native Title Representative Body for the Yinhawangka Native Title Claim.

Shire of Ashburton: Local Government Authority.

Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation: CDEP/RJCP provider / RTO.

Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group: Supports and coordinates weed and pest animal control programs.

State and National organisations, departments

Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW): Current Land Manager for Karijini National Park; DPAW has a statutory role for state listed threatened, endangered and other species of conservation significance.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA): Western Australian State Agency.

Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA): Management responsibility for declared pests under Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act & pastoral review section.

Rangelands NRM: Non-government organisation (NGO) supporting the sustainable use of natural resources through funding of projects.

WWF Australia: International environmental NGO with specific focus on state, national and international threatened species; Lobbyist with government.

Pew Foundation: Environmental NGO with a lobby function within State and Commonwealth Governments.

The Nature Conservancy: International environmental NGO which supports Indigenous Land Management Programs across Australia.

Greening Australia: Australian environmental NGO which provides conservation management support to landholders and community groups; coordinates the Pilbara Corridors Project (Fortescue Valley).

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC): Commonwealth agency currently managing the Indigenous portfolio - in particular the Indigenous Advancement Strategy which provides funding to service providers for Indigenous groups.

Department of Environment and Energy: Commonwealth agency with a responsibility for the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, threatened species and some environmental funding programs.

State and National organisations, departments (continued)

Department of Water: State agency managing water allocations and licensing in Western Australia.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA): Independent body that is governed by the Environmental Protection Act which endeavours to protect the environment and prevent, control and abate pollution and environmental harm.

Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA): Industry body representing pastoralists throughout Western Australia.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES): Coordinates emergency services, including fire. DFES has a program to support pastoral stations to develop fire management plans and can assist in prescribed burning.

This Plan prepared in consultation with Yinhawangka People
by Conservation Management in collaboration with
Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation (2016)



Healthy Yinhawangka Country, Strong Yinhawangka Spirit,
Strong Future for Yinhawangka
Country and People.

