

Aboriginal Cultural Water Values

– Galilee subregion

A report for the Bioregional Assessment Programme

Researched and prepared by Corporate Culcha for the Department of the Environment



Corporate Culcha

Corporate Culcha is an Aboriginal owned and operated consultancy practice specialising in engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities. Corporate Culcha works with a range of Indigenous and non-Indigenous consultants, many of whom are leaders in their individual fields. Access to this pool of expertise, allows Corporate Culcha to deliver a diverse range of services to their clients including research and evaluation, cultural capability programs and education, mentoring and capacity building.

About the Authors

Janis Constable is a well-regarded Indigenous research consultant with extensive social research and program evaluation expertise, built on senior policy and research roles for federal and state governments. Janis has been a senior advisor to two federal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioners on Indigenous human rights issues where she led a number of national research projects. As a freelance research consultant Janis has undertaken a number of key strategic research projects focussing on improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Karen Love has extensive experience in ecological restoration, specialising in high conservation areas with bio-diverse vegetation. Her roles have incorporated advanced flora and fauna monitoring, ecological assessments and spatial mapping. Working alongside state and within local government agencies Karen has delivered a range of services, including scientific monitoring, program evaluation, strategy development and water education advice. Karen is a proud Maori woman, now an Australian citizen living on the North Coast of NSW.

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Cover photograph

Alice River, Queensland (Source: Love, K. 2014)

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Acknowledgement is paid to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples past, present and future. We acknowledge the unique relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with their traditional lands and waters, as well as their history and diverse cultures and customs. We thank all Aboriginal people who have shared their knowledge and time so generously, without their participation this report would not have been possible. Particular thanks are given to James Hill, Gerry Fogarty, Sheryl Lawton and Floyd Robinson for graciously sharing their extensive knowledge with us.

Terms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

For the purposes of this report, the terms 'Aboriginal people', 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' and 'Indigenous' are used interchangeably to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia. However, we recognise that this approach is not without contention. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people generally prefer the use of Aboriginal as opposed to Indigenous. Indigenous is deemed a formal term often used by governments as inclusive of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As this report is focussed on the relationship of Aboriginal people of the Galilee basin, we will refer to either Aboriginal people or their distinct groups i.e. Yirendali. The report also employs the term Indigenous when referring to relevant government programmes, policies or resources.

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1. Introduction

Aboriginal water values is a term used to describe the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and water. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's relationship with water is intrinsic in nature, with water not only being fundamental for survival, but an indivisible, interwoven and intrinsic element of cultural and spiritual life.

Tom Calma, the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner wrote:¹

Indigenous peoples are connected to and responsible for our lands and waters and in turn, Indigenous peoples obtain and maintain our spiritual and cultural identity, life and livelihoods from our lands, waters and resources. These cultural and customary rights and responsibilities include:

- *a spiritual connection to lands, waters and natural resources associated with water places*
- *management of significant sites located along river banks, on and in the river beds, and sites and stories associated with the water and natural resources located in the rivers and their tributaries, and the sea*
- *protection of Indigenous cultural heritage and knowledge associated with water and water places*
- *access to cultural activities such as hunting and fishing, and ceremony.*

As the custodians of water resources on country, Aboriginal people have a significant interest in the way water is shared and used on country, and an important role in monitoring potential impacts of activities that may effect water quality and/or the health of flora and fauna that rely on specific water resources.

This report provides the data collected through community consultation for the Aboriginal Water Values Project, which will be used to inform the bioregional assessment for the Galilee subregion. The report includes an overview of the Indigenous population of the Galilee basin and surrounds; description of the methodology employed; description of the data collected, including narratives associated with identified water assets. An Asset Register, providing asset characteristics, including spatial data accompanies this report.

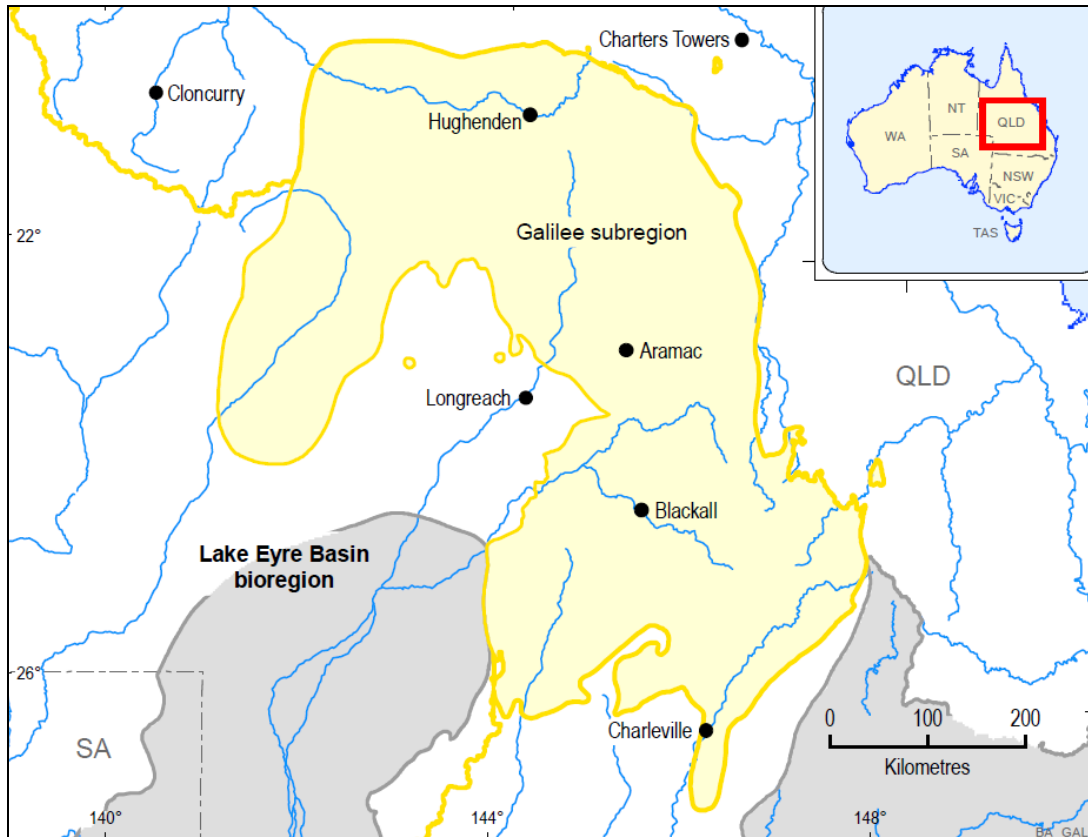
The Australian Government is undertaking a programme of bioregional assessments in order to better understand the potential impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining developments on water resources and water-dependent assets. The Bioregional Assessment Programme draws on the best available scientific information and knowledge from many sources, including government, industry and regional communities, to produce bioregional assessments that are independent, scientifically robust, relevant and meaningful at a regional scale.

The Programme is a collaboration between the Department of the Environment, the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and Geoscience Australia. The Programme is seeking input from the Aboriginal community on water-dependent cultural values (also referred to as assets). For more information, visit <http://www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au>.

¹ Calma T. (2008) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Native Title Report 2008, Chapter 6 – Indigenous Peoples and Water, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Sydney.

1.1 Aboriginal people of the Galilee basin region

There are a number of Aboriginal groups whose traditional lands exist within the Galilee subregion. Those groups include the Yirendali, Wangan-Jagalingou, Bidjara and the Iningai peoples. The Iningai People, the Traditional Owners of the land surrounding the Thomson River, and beyond, have long since disappeared; renewed efforts are currently underway to try to find their descendants (Desert Channels Queensland).²



Map 1: Galilee subregion (Bioregional Assessment Programme, Commonwealth of Australia, 2014)

The number of Aboriginal people inhabiting the area prior to European colonisation is unknown. However, it has been estimated that at the time of settlement the national Indigenous population was somewhere between 500,000 to 1 million (ABS). As at the 2011 Census, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia is estimated at 669,900 people, or approximately 3% of the total Australian population (ABS).

The total Indigenous population of the Galilee subregion (including bordering surrounds) is 1276 or 8.2 per cent of the total population (15,422) of the region, with the largest populations residing in Charleville (530) and Longreach (287). The number of Bidjara, Wangan Jagalingou and Yirendali people included in these figures is unknown, as tribal identities are not counted in the Census. The diaspora of Aboriginal people post-colonisation has resulted in many Aboriginal people not formally residing on their traditional country, however many Aboriginal people maintain strong ties to their homelands.

² Desert Channels Queensland (2011) Searching for the lost, media release, 26 July, viewed 14 January 2015, www.dcq.org.au/searching-lost

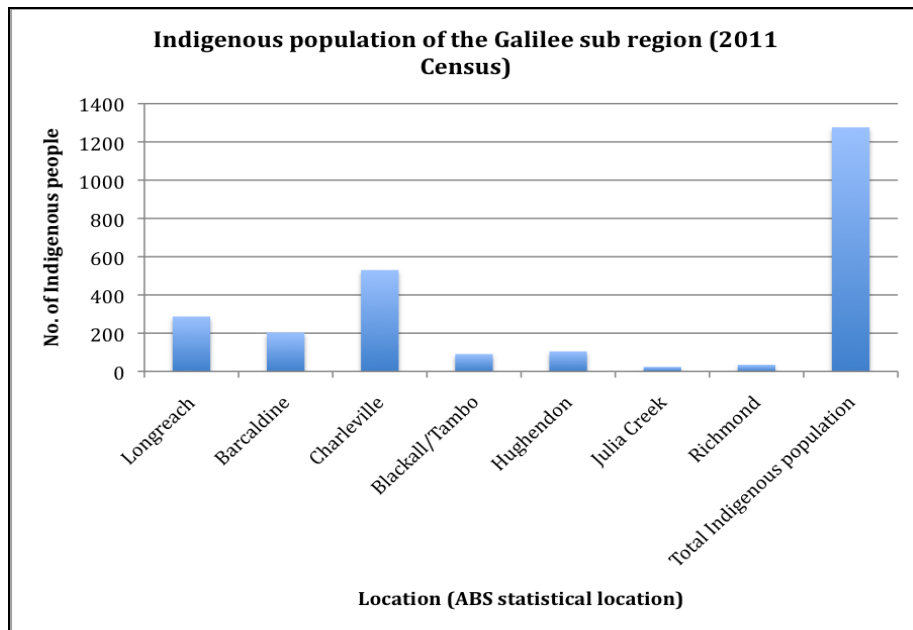


Chart 1 - Indigenous population Galilee subregion (2011) (Source: ABS)

1.2 Governance

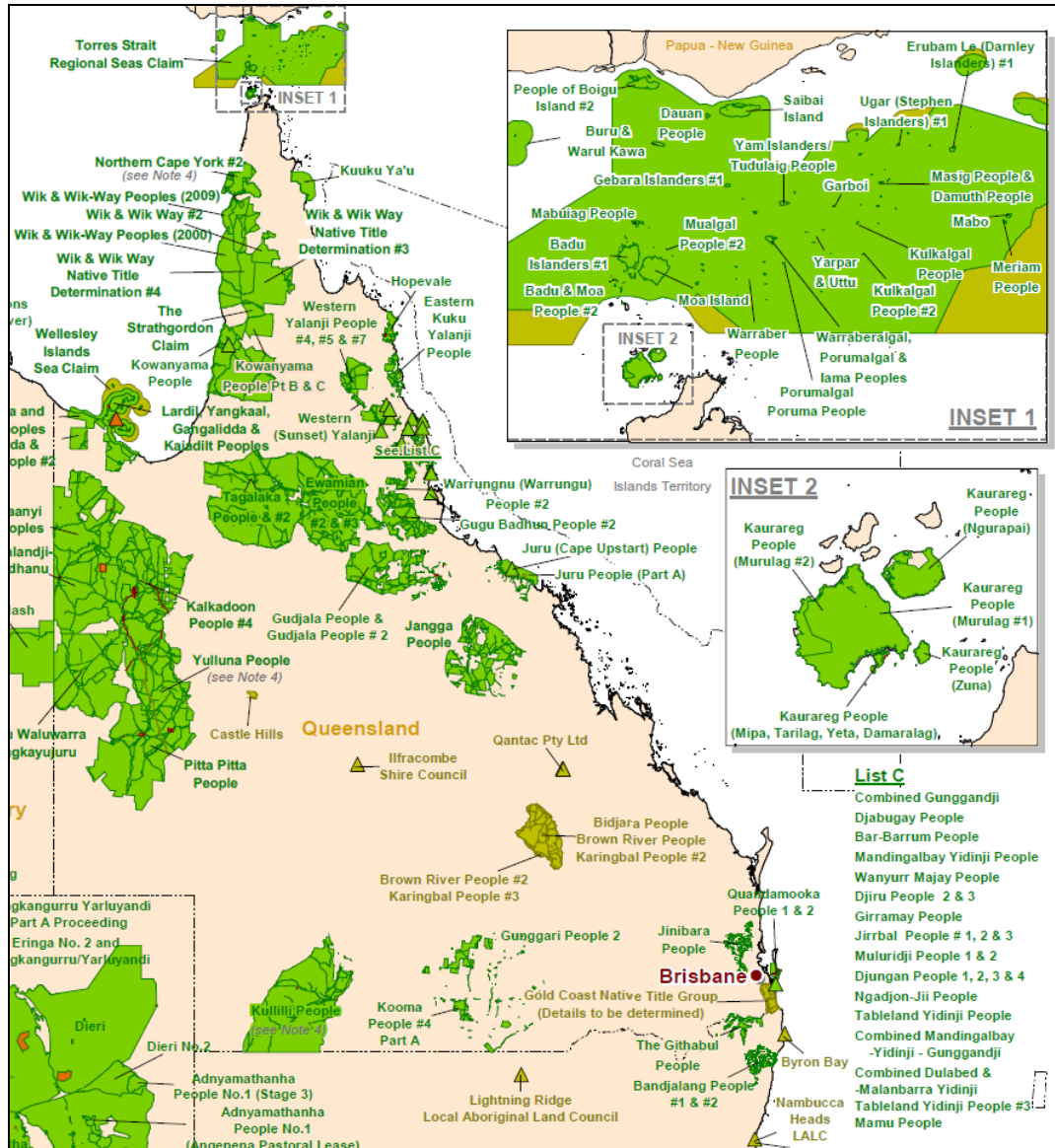
In Queensland, Aboriginal lands councils represent large regions, as opposed to New South Wales where most Aboriginal communities have local land councils which deliver a range of services to the community. Queensland Land Councils represent local communities mainly in matters of Native Title and Indigenous Land use Agreements. Some discrete communities in Queensland are represented by Aboriginal Shire Councils such as Hopevale, Palm Island, Cherbourg etc.³

Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS) also represent Aboriginal communities in the South East and Central Queensland, and were consulted as part of the research process, as several of the groups from the Galilee subregion are located within their jurisdiction. QSNTS assisted in identifying relevant individuals and groups, and, as stakeholder contact information was confidential, forwarded on our behalf, information about the project to those identified as potential research participants.

None of the groups in the Galilee subregion have Native Title over any of their lands (see map 2). Nor are there any Indigenous Land Use Agreements in place in the Galilee subregion⁴ (see map 3).

³ A discrete Indigenous community refers to a geographic location, bounded by physical or cadastral (legal) boundaries, and inhabited or intended to be inhabited by predominantly Indigenous people, with housing or infrastructure that is either owned or managed on a community basis. (Australian Institute Health and Welfare)

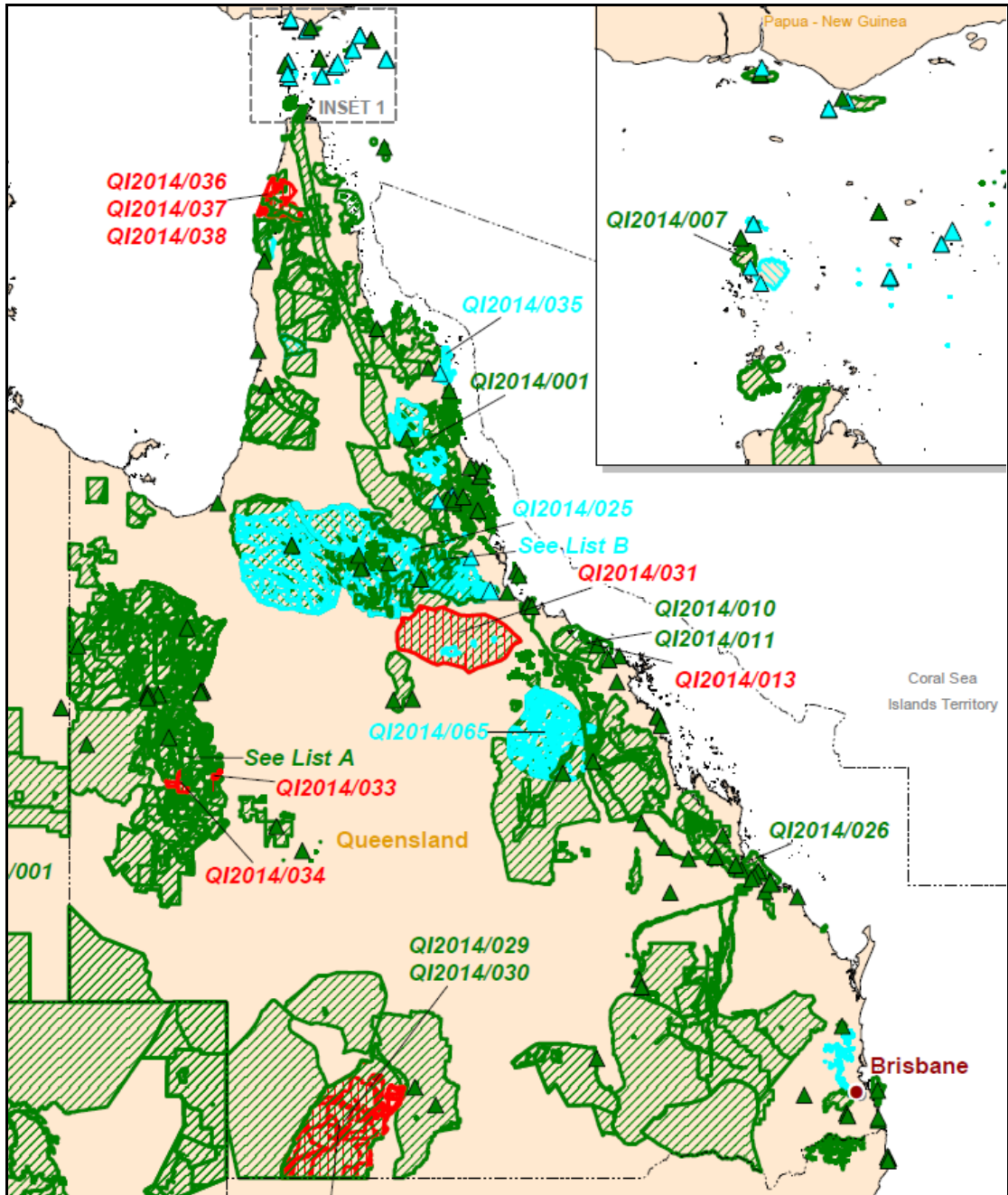
⁴ As at 31 December 2014



Map 2: Native Title Determinations Queensland (Source: National Native Title Tribunal)

Determination Outcomes

- ▲ Native title found to exist in the determination area
- ▲ Native title found not to exist in the determination area
- ▲ Areas not within the determination where native title found not to exist - s193(3)



Map 3: Indigenous Land Use Agreements - Qld (Source: National Native Title Tribunal)

- Registered Area Agreements
- Registered Body Corporate Agreements
- Area Agreements being considered for registration (where notice has been given)
- Body Corporate Agreements being considered for registration (where notice has been given)

Local Aboriginal organisations, delivering a range of services to their communities, play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of their communities. They also play an important role in matters of governance – providing advice on cultural matters and representing their communities on a range of non government organisation boards and local, state and federal government groups and forums.

Representative organisations identified for the region:

- Yirendali Aboriginal Corporation
- Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Bidjara Aboriginal Housing and Land Co Pty Ltd
- Central West Aboriginal Corporation (CWAC)

Organisations were approached and invited to participate in the research. Appropriate knowledge holders were identified by the organisations, and according to cultural protocols, meetings were set up to speak about Aboriginal water values with the research team.

2. Methodology

This section provides details on the following methodology employed throughout the project.

The methodology for this project included:

1. Desktop research:
 - a. Relevant reports
 - b. Investigate current discourse on Aboriginal Cultural Water Values
 - c. Identify relevant organisations
2. Contact by telephone individuals and organisations identified as being potential participants:
 - a. Introduce the project and the researchers
 - b. Discuss possibility of involvement in project
 - c. Arrange visit
3. Initial field visits:
 - a. Face to face discussions and provide information
 - b. Identify other potential participants (Elders, knowledge holders)
 - c. Arrange next visit
4. Second field visit:
 - a. Obtain consent
 - b. Commence data collection on site
 - i. Identifying locations of assets
 - ii. Record special data (GPS mapping)
 - iii. Interview knowledge holder
5. Third field visit:
 - a. Continue and finalise data collection on site
 - b. Record spatial data
6. Analyse data:
 - a. Record location data on asset register
 - b. Document associated narratives for assets
7. Write report and obtain endorsement from participants.

2.1 Desktop research

Desktop research was undertaken to gain an initial understanding of, and to identify:

- publically available data
- current discourse on Aboriginal cultural water values
- key stakeholders (organisations and individuals)

A range of publications were identified which assisted in understanding relevant issues pertinent to the region and Aboriginal cultural water values generally. The reports and websites sourced indicate significant activity in relation to Aboriginal communities and water – specifically in relation to conservation and water sharing plans. These resources are listed at Chapter 5 – References.

2.2 Community Engagement

Initial discussions were held with Traditional Owner groups, as identified with the assistance of the Queensland South Native Title Services and through Corporate Culcha professional and personal networks.

Initial meetings provided an opportunity to discuss the objectives of the project with key stakeholders. These meetings also provided an opportunity to obtain contact details for other significant community members, with face-to-face or telephone meetings being arranged with those people soon thereafter.

Stakeholders were assured the process for gathering the data would be undertaken respectfully and with cultural safety as a priority. Information about the impetus of the broader Bioregional Assessment Programme, and the proposed use of the data collected through it, including the Aboriginal cultural water values mapping, was described as forming but one layer, of many layers of baseline data that will be assembled, to develop a comprehensive map of the Galilee subregion. The results will enable improved decision making in relation to coal mining and coal seam gas. Stakeholders were advised that maps and reports developed, as a result of this research, would be available to them as a community resource.

Stakeholders were also advised their participation was voluntary and no adverse action would occur if the group chose not to participate, and they could withdraw consent at any stage of the research process.

Unstructured interviews were undertaken with participants, as well as note taking by the interviewer. In some instances photographs were taken, with permission, of the sites. The interview questions can be found at Appendix 2.

Aboriginal organisations and communities consulted:

- Yirendali Aboriginal Corporation (Hughendon)
- Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (Barcaldine)
- Bidjara Aboriginal Housing and Land Co Pty Ltd (Charleville)
- Central West Aboriginal Corporation (CWAC) (Barcaldine and Longreach)

Other key groups consulted about the research were:

- Desert Channels Queensland (Longreach)
- Georgina Diamantina Coopers Aboriginal Group (GDCAC) – consisting of representatives from:
 - Wankamana people
 - Mailwali people
 - Wongkamurra people
 - Boonthamurra people
 - Wangkanurru people
 - Waluwarra people
 - Mithaka people

- Indjiandji people
- Pitta Pitta people
- Yirendali people
- Koa people
- Iningai (custodian)
- Wongka yutjuru people
- Kalkadoon people
- Kungarri people
- Bidjara people

Many of the above groups are not traditionally located in the Galilee subregion, however they have interests in neighbouring subregions, and the Lake Eyre Basin. The Georgina Diamantina Coopers Aboriginal Group indicated an interest in learning more about the project extending an invitation to the project team to deliver a presentation at a scheduled forum to be held at Desert Channels Queensland in Longreach. The project team met with Diamantina Coopers Aboriginal Group again on 29 October 2014 to discuss the project further.

2.3 Mapping Methodology

In all instances mapping on country utilised Motion X-GPS and coordinates were cross-referenced with maps downloaded into the Avenza Maps PDF application. Maps used were a mixture of Geoscience Australia, State of Queensland Wetland Maps and Hema Maps. Remote mapping was done using the same system with GPS coordinates obtained on country as the reference point.

3. Consultation outcomes – values and assets

Overwhelmingly, the research was received with enthusiasm, and knowledge holders spent considerable time with the research team, discussing water values and taking the team on country to visit examples of water assets. While on-site, researchers recorded spatial coordinates of the assets, and documented the associated cultural values, which included dreamtime stories and songlines, and knowledge and uses of asset reliant flora and fauna.

The following section outlines discussions with Aboriginal people in relation to cultural water values. The water values identified largely pertain to customary and spiritual associations, ecological value - relating to fish and animal species, or economic value in terms of fishing and other water-reliant bush foods. However, there is an overarching value based on the principle that healthy water translates to overall wellbeing for everything – people, animals, plants, earth and air.

James Hill, Yirendali Elder writes:

Water is sacred and honoured as the life force that is an inherent property embodying our spiritual, social and emotional sense of belonging. This sense of belonging is culturally ingrained in our identity and way of life enhancing our compassion through thought, feelings, sight, smell, taste, touch and sound. These sensations are a part of our make-up and biological relationship attaining a sense of being one and the same.

It is because of this sense of belonging that any adversity or stress to any creatures, land and sea country is felt by Aboriginal people causing social and emotional unwellness.⁵

It is through this spiritual and cultural connection with land and water that bestows Aboriginal people with the role of custodian. As custodians of water, Aboriginal people develop ways to conserve and protect important assets. As one Elder stated:

“That’s why the tribes moved around, so you never stripped the land. We always moved around to each waterhole following the rivers and came back later once it was replenished”. (Floyd Robinson)

Dreamtime story of Moonda Nurra as told by Jim Hill (Yirendali Elder)

One example of water and dreamtime is the story of *Moonda Nurra*. This story comes from the female rainbow serpent aka *Moonda Nurra* who created the Yirendali landscape. *Moonda Nurra* used her breath to blow the winds, the *Barrookka*, which spewed up the fish, animals, insects, plants and everything that belong to country. Her tongue is the lightning that we see, flashing in anger as her tears, flow down her face and onto country, and her tear drops are the rain water or *Kooma*, and her colours are seen in the *Woggurree* rainbow.

⁵ This obligation to custodianship is reiterated in the Charter Of Yirendali Cultural Value And Pattern, James Hill; Yirendali, Ngawun, Waluwarra 2007.

Moonda Nurra also travelled across *Ngawun* country, down the Flinders River and across into *Mitakoodi* country, and down the Gilliat Channels, resting in the water hole near where the main highway crossing is. She went in search for a mate, until she finally came across a *Pitta Pitta* serpent, from the Burke River. He stood tall, and wore red and white warrior paint markings and had long white whiskers. She met him at a place near Tooleybuc station in *Yalanna* country. This is where they made love, and she tried to persuade him to come home with her to Yirendali country, but he refused and left. And in spite, *Moonda Nurra* spat out her eggs along the way home - these eggs are the big round rocks we see along country from Julia creek, Richmond and Hughenden country.

Moonda Nurra was angry because her lover did not want to marry her and she could not find her people. Her anger, heard as the hard rumble of *Koro* (thunder) and *Pilmunno* (lightning) – is seen in the wet season when *Moonda Nurra* spits out her lightning tongue and cries in sadness for her family and her lover.

Ecological Cultural Water Assets

There are two noteworthy plant species used in ceremony as they are critical to creation stories. As both plants are equally important to Yirendali and Bidjara people, a regional significance is implied. In addition to being creation stories, *Gumbi Gumbi* and False Sandalwood are used medicinally.



Pic 1: Gumbi Gumbi mural on Charleville and Western Areas Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Limited (Source: Love, K. 2014)

As shown above at Pic 1, *Gumbi Gumbi* is the emblem of the Charleville and Western Areas Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Limited (CWAATSICH) and is used as their logo as well as representing the health centre.

3.1 Categorising cultural assets

The assets identified here are of cultural significance to the Aboriginal people of the Galilee subregion, the values, purpose and meaning attached to each asset has been identified through consultation. Most assets have more than one value attached, for example a creek bed being a place of ceremony as well as a place where food can be harvested.

The purpose and meaning of cultural water assets have been categorised into the following groups:

- Customary – ceremony, meeting place, men’s business, women’s business, totems, dance, rites, song, birth, death)
- Spiritual (dreaming, stories, songlines)
- Ecological (flora and fauna)
- Economic (trade routes, food source – fishing/hunting, employment/income – tourism, farming)
- Recreational – family gatherings, swimming holes

The total number of Aboriginal cultural water assets in the Galilee subregion detailed in this report is not exhaustive. The data collated is a sample of the most significant cultural water assets, as identified by the relevant Traditional Owner groups, within specific areas of the subregion.

The data collection undertaken in the subregion has been limited by:

- Extensive geography of each subregion, and time required to cover extensively (within the time constraints of the project);
- Elders and other knowledge holders availability to undertake field work (within the time constraints of the project);
 - It is a necessary requirement of the data collection that an Elder or knowledge holder accompany researchers in the field so as to identify water assets and convey their associated cultural value.

Traditional Owners participating in the research have expressed interest in undertaking further cultural mapping work on country so as to provide a detailed and comprehensive understanding of cultural values associated with water.

3.1.1 Cultural Heritage Sites

Registered assets for the Galilee subregion include thirty two cultural heritage sites, of which ten are managed by Queensland National Parks (QNP), and one by Bush Heritage Australia. The on-going management of these sites is critically important to the Yirendali and Bidjara people as most of them are valued as important customary sites, with creations stories connected to them. It is envisaged that further sites identified during this project will also be listed in the near future or are currently in the process of listing.

3.1.2 Yirendali words for Water

Water is associated with the *Moonda Nurra* or *Moond Gurra*, the rainbow serpent that created our water, plants, animals and landscape.

- ~ Water or rain in Yirendali is traditionally called *Kamoo* or *Paggury*
- ~ Rainbow is traditionally called *Woggurree*
- ~ Lightening is traditionally called *Pilmunno*
- ~ Thunder is traditionally called *Koro*
- ~ Clouds (new cloud) is traditionally called *Mur rarra utchee ummoo*
- ~ Rain Clouds is traditionally called *kamoo oondookoopakka*
- ~ Wind is traditionally called *Barrookka*

(Source: James Hill, Yirendali Elder)

3.1.3 Bidjara words for Water

Yunnabae – Deep Water
Gamoo – Water or rain
Woggurree - Rainbow
Wanganwangan – Running water

(Source: Floyd Robinson, Bidjara Elder)

3.2 Cultural Water Assets Identified

The following tables contain the data collected through consultation with Aboriginal people with knowledge and connection to the Galilee subregion. The tables have been divided by group i.e. Customary (Table 1), Spiritual (Table 2), Economic and Recreation (Table 3) and Ecological (Table 4). Table 4 contains different headings from Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1: Aboriginal Cultural Water Assets, Galilee basin - Customary

Identifier	Name	Traditional name	Type	Country	Value	Explanation
GA1	Prarie Creek		Creek	Yirendali	Customary	Yirendali creation story/Duck Story/Birth of Yirendali
GA2	Torrens Creek	Booraman	Creek	Yirendali	Customary	Birthplace of Yirendali people/Burial place
GA7	Wowra	Wowra	Spring	Yirendali	Customary	Healing place
GA9	Butterbush	Gumbi Gumbi	Plant	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Significant across all groups/medicinal plant/relates to Yirendali creation story/brown snake and goanna
GA10	Roys Camp	Roys Camp	Site	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story for Yirendali
GA11	Narkool	Narkool	Waterhole	Yirendali	Customary	Central Camp site/Ceremonial Site/Burial site/Scar Tree
GA12	False Sandalwood		Plant	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Ceremonial plant used by all groups in the region for smoking Ceremonies/medicinal
GA14	Pilmunny	Pilmunny	Waterhole	Yirendali	Ceremony	Ceremony site
GA21	Aberfoyle	Fishes Water Hole	Waterhole	Yirendali	Customary	Survival site/last known water in drought/crucial food, medicinal, ceremony/massacre
GA25	White Mountains National Park	White Mountains	Headwaters	Yirendali	Customary	Storyline of "Pilmunno"/Creation story/headwaters of Torrens, Bullock, Warrigal Creeks

GA31	Alice River	Alice River	River	Bidjara	Economic	Major river/resources/hunting/soaks
GA36	Lake Nuga Nuga	Lake Nuga Nuga	Lake	Bidjara	Customary	Rainbow serpent creation story/principles and customary
GA37	Carnarvon Range	Carnarvon Range	Springs and Creeks	Bidjara	Customary	Creation story for Bidjara/Woman's place/Carpet Snake Mountain/White Cockatoo
GA38	Carnarvon Gorge ⁶	Carnarvon Gorge	River	Bidjara	Customary	Woman's first law/Creation story/Headwaters of the Warrego River
GA39	Carpet Snake Mountain	Gubbilgubbilgorgarra	River	Bidjara	Customary	Carpet Snake Mountain story/Art work depicting carpet snake going down the creek
GA40	Sandy Creek	Sandy Creek	Creek	Bidjara	Customary	Ceremony place/Meeting place/
GA41	Carnarvon Creek	Carnarvon Creek	Creek	Bidjara	Customary	Men's Business/Where it meets Moolayember Creek
GA42	Carnarvon Station	Seven Springs	Springs	Bidjara	Customary	Seven springs relates to the Seven sisters.
GA43	Warrego River	Warrego River	River	Bidjara	Customary	Pinnacle Rocks are initiation rocks/Men's business
GA45	Black's Palace	Black's Palace	River	Bidjara	Customary	Women's business/meeting place at confluence
GA48	Dingo	Kobbera	Mammal	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA49	Brown Snake	Brown snake	Reptile	Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA50	Carpetsnake	Carpetsnake	Reptile	Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA51	Curlew	Curlew	Bird	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story

⁶ While not located in the subregion, the Gorge is located just to the east of the subregion, and is associated with Warrego River.

GA52	Wombat	Weareah	Mammal	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story
GA53	Eucalyptus microtheca s. lat	Coolibah	Plant	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story/healing
GA54	Split Jack		Plant	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story
GA55	Desert Bloodwood	Dooloo kamboona	Plant	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story
GA56	Grevillia Sp.	Grevillia	Plant	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story/healing/food
GA57	Goanna	Pyeburra	Reptile	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA58	Galah	Bankarra (Galah)	Bird	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story
GA59	White Cockatoo	Tiggery (Yirendali) Tiggardi (Bidjara)	Bird	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA60	Willy Wagtail	Teegungra (Willy Wagtail)	Bird	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story
GA61	Banded grunter/trumpet fish		Fish	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story
GA62	Silver Perch/Black Bream		Fish	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA63	Crayfish	Karkoora or Munya	Crustacean	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA64	Red Kangaroo	Tiggera (Yirendali) Boda (Bidjara)	Mammal	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA65	Possum	Kuttera	Mammal	Yirendali	Customary	Creation story
GA66	Echidna	Bubbera	Mammal	Yirendali and Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
GA67	Fresh Water Mussell	Bidgee	Crustacean	Yirendali	Customary	Women's business
GA68	Tawny Frogmouth Owl	Mopo	Bird	Bidjara	Customary	

GA69	Emu	Goalberry	Bird	Yirendali Bidjara	Customary	Creation story
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Table 2: Aboriginal Cultural Water Assets, Galilee subregion - Spiritual

Identifier	Name	Traditional name	Type	Country	Value	Explanation
GA3	Kookoorinya	Kookoorinya	Waterhole	Yirendali	Spiritual	Spirit place/"Yarraby" lives there. No swimming
GA4	Baroota	Baroota	Waterhole	Yirendali	Spiritual	Blue Lily (Wondooobra)/Birthplace
GA22	Moorinya National Park	Moorinya National Park	Waterholes	Yirendali	Spiritual	Critical resource site/medicinal plants/grinding stones
GA23	Moorinya National Park	Moorinya National Park	Channels	Yirendali	Spiritual	Ceremonial resource site/food/water
GA24	Cape River	Boorala	River	Yirendali	Spiritual	Storyline place/created by serpent 'Moonda Nurra' or 'Moond Gurra'
GA26	Porcupine Gorge National Park	Porcupine Gorge	Headwaters	Yirendali	Spiritual	Masscare site/headwaters of Prarie Creek/Galah Creek
GA27	Landsborough Creek	Landsborough Creek	Creek	Yirendali	Spiritual	Storyline of emu "Goolberri"/Joined by Towerhill Creek and meets the Thomson River/three significant waterholes
GA28	Dunraven	Dunraven	Creek	Yirendali	Spiritual	Stewart Creek - Burial site and main camp site
GA29	Towerhill Creek	Towerhill Creek	Creek	Yirendali	Spiritual	Waterholes individually mapped along Towerhill Creek/Joins Landborough becoming Thomson River
GA30	Lloyd Jones Weir	The Weir	Creek	Bidjara	Spiritual	"The Farm" - spirit place/teaching/resources and family place

GA33	Aramac Springs	Aramac Springs	Springs	Bidjara	Spiritual	All springs near Aramac are critical/good water source for the local area/rock art - Heritage sites
GA46	Hoganthulla	Caroline's Crossing	Creek	Bidjara	Spiritual	Crossing at Chesterton Creek (Caroline's Crossing)/Camp ground/Massacre site/Burial site/Birth site

Table 3: Aboriginal Cultural Water Assets, Galilee subregion - Economic

Identifier	Name	Traditional name	Type	Country	Value	Explanation
GA5	Lake Buchanan	Lake Buchanan	Lake	Yirendali	Economic	Resources including Timber/Habitat - Birds, Black ducks
GA6	Lake Galilee	Mucka Mucka	Lake	Yirendali	Economic	Resources – Timber/Habitat Birds, Black ducks
GA8	Webb Lake	Boburra aka Koburra	Lake	Yirendali	Economic	Dingo Story/Resource site
GA13	Newjenna	Newjenna	Waterhole	Yirendali	Economic	Garden area for food
GA15	Narrkooroo	Narkooroo	Waterhole	Yirendali	Economic	Water and resource site
GA16	Turrumminna	Turrumminna	Waterhole	Yirendali	Economic	Water and resource site
GA17	Mattamundukka	Mattamundukka	Waterhole	Yirendali	Economic	Water and resource site
GA18	Teekalamungga	Teekalamungga	Waterhole	Yirendali	Economic	Water and resource site
GA19	Teekaloonda	Teekaloonda	Waterhole	Yirendali	Economic	Water and resource site
GA20	Bogunda	Bogunda	Waterhole	Yirendali	Economic	Water and resource site
GA31	Alice River	Alice River	River	Bidjara	Economic	Major river/resources/hunting/soaks
GA 32	Barcoo River	Barcoo River	River	Bidjara	Economic	Annual Indigenous Regional Fishing Comp/Several waterholes (Moodberri and Omar)/always has water/survival

GA34	Lake Dunn	Lake Dunn	Lake	Bidjara	Economic	Always has water in the middle/gathering place during holidays/recreation/feeds Reedy Creek
GA35	Moonderri	Moonderri	Waterhole	Bidjara	Economic	Historic waterhole/Fishing and camping/important for survival/always has water.
GA44	Ward River	Ward River	River	Bidjara	Economic	Food and water source for survival-never dries up.
GA47	Augathella	Augathella	Soak	Bidjara	Economic	Always has water /food

Table 4: Aboriginal Cultural Water Assets, Galilee subregion - Ecology

Identifier	Scientific Name	Common name	Traditional name	Language Group	Value	Explanation
GA9	<i>Pittosporum angustifellium</i>	Butterbush	Gumbi Gumbi	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Creation/Brown snake and Goanna
GA12	<i>Eremophila mitchellii</i>	False Sandalwood	Budda	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Ceremony/ Smoking
GA48	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	Dingo	Kobbera	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Creation story
GA49	<i>Pseudonaja nuchalis</i>	Brown snake		Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Creation story
GA50	<i>Morelia spilota metcalfei</i>	Carpet snake		Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Creation story
GA51	<i>Burhinus grallarius,</i>	Curlew		Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA52	<i>Lasiornhinus krefftii</i>	Wombat	Weareah	Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA53	<i>Eucalyptus microtheca s. lat</i>	Coolibah	Coolibah	Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA54	<i>Capparis lasiantha</i>	Split jack		Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA55	<i>Corymbia opaca</i>	Desert	Dooloo kamboona	Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem

		Bloodwood				
GA56	<i>Grevillia Sp.</i>	Grevillia	Grevillia	Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA57	<i>Varanus gouldii</i>	Goanna	Pyeburra	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA58	<i>Cacatua roseicapilla</i>	Galah	Bankarra	Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA59	<i>Cacutua galerita</i>	White Cockatoo	Tiggery/Tiggardi	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Creation story
GA60	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Willy Wagtail	Teegungra	Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA61	<i>Amniataba percoides</i>	Trumpet fish		Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA62	<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	Perch/Bream		Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem/fishing
GA63	<i>Cherax destructor</i>	Crayfish	Karkoora/Munya	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem/food
GA64	<i>Macropus rufus</i>	Red Kangaroo	Tiggera / Boda	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Creation story
GA65	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	Possum	Kuttera	Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA66	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Echidna	Bubbera	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA67	<i>Velesunio ambiguous</i>	Fresh water mussell	Bidgee	Yirendali	Ecology/Ceremony	Women's business
GA68	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	Tawny Frogmouth owl	Mopo	Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Totem
GA69	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Emu	Goalberry	Yirendali and Bidjara	Ecology/Ceremony	Creation story

3.3 Accompanying narratives

The following stories were provided by community members, when describing each asset. Each story is aligned with an identification number cited in the above tables.⁷

3.3.1 Torrens Creek (GA2)

Torrens creek is traditionally called 'Boorooman', the name for a deep soak. Torrens Creek runs out of the White Mountains and it flows in to a significant water hole near the old Aberfoyle homestead.

Torrens Creek is a significant occupational site. It is the birth site of my great-great grandfather Richard Hill, and my grandfather Bunji Hill. My grandfather's parents are buried not far from the river. It is also significant to many other Yirendali who were born here. (James Hill, Yirendali Elder)

3.3.2 Fishers Waterhole (GA21)

The Aberfoyle waterhole is called the 'Fishers waterhole'. It holds very strong significance as the last place of water during a long drought. It provides water, fish, bush-tucker and bush-medicine and is also a place of ceremony.

Fishers waterhole holds a terrible history, as a place of conflict between Yirendali and western settlers. The early settlers tried to chase Yirendli away from the waterhole. The Yirendali refused and retaliated resulting in the death of several settlers. The government troopers were called in to deal with the Yirendali people, and a punitive raid in reprisal was sanctioned. The troopers attacked the Yirendali people at Bannockburn station, and chased them to Uanda, the main campsite about eight miles from Torrens Creek, and killed all members of the group that were present that night.

3.3.3 Cape River (GA24)

Cape River is traditionally called 'Boorala'. Cape River is the eastern boundary and it is the story line place for 'Borrommo', the butterfly. This river is created from the serpent 'Moonda Nurra', who lives at a place called the 'Native Well' on Gorge Creek.

3.3.4 Tower Hill Creek (GA29)

Tower Hill Creek is a significant water resource for Yirendali people. It has many important cultural water sites:

- Pilmunny - near Ironbark camp, it is a traditional ceremony ground
- Barootta - is the place of the blue water lilly which is traditionally called 'Wondoobra'.
- Marrikanna - is a traditional waterhole
- Narkool – a main camp waterhole, 'Lammermoor' belonging to King Narkool aka King Barney
- Newjenna - is a waterhole down from Narkool, which is the old homestead garden 'Turraminna' which is next to a sand hill, just above the waterhole

⁷ Appendix 1 contains full list of narratives provided.

- Teekalamungga: is a traditional waterhole
- Teekaloonda - a traditional waterhole
- Kooroorinya - is known as the falls, which is eight miles down from Lammermoor homestead it is the home of the 'Yarraby' or spirit.
- Bogunda - is a traditional waterhole
- Woodeooroorina - is also known as Gardiners Creek

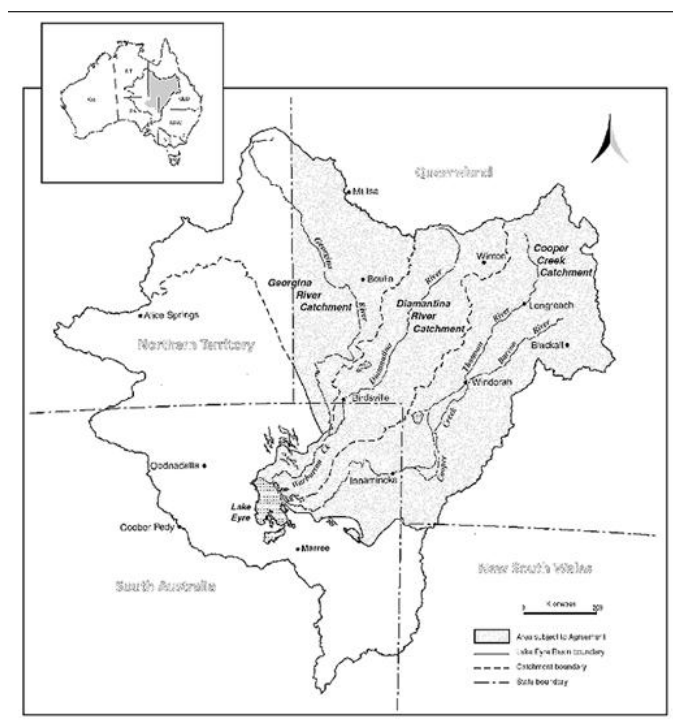
3.3.5 Kuttaburra, the Black Duck story - Landsborough (GA27), Tower Hill (GA29) and Torrens Creek (GA2)

The black duck is traditionally called 'Kuttaburra'. The wood duck is traditionally called the 'Now Now', or "Now Wow".

The waterways of the Galilee subregion– the Tower Hill and Torrens Creek (and their tributaries) come together as a part of the 'Kuttaburra story', or 'Duck story'. The Duck story is also associated with the Thompson and Cooper Rivers, which run into KatiThanda /Lake Eyre. These stories (songlines) run on top of the ground and disappear underground and then come back up, from under the ground springs to feed into KatiThanda /Lake Eyre.

The Duck story originates from the big dreamtime story out of Kati Thanda/Lake Eyre and travels north to Yirendali country and into Fink River country, then into my Mother's country on the Georgina River basin. This river system is the last duck hunting site and freshwater turtle hunting site before you get to the Thompson River. The importance of this Duck story is witnessed by Arente Elder Uncle Felix Armstrong as the same story line that connects his country to Kati Thanda /Lake Eyre and Yirendali water country. (James Hill, Yirendali Elder)

The map below shows the rivers of Yirendali country and south Arunta country and how they connect with Kati Thanda/Lake Eyre.



Map 4: Kati Thanda/Lake Eyre basin (Source: Department of Environment)

3.3.6 Lloyd Jones Weir and Alice River (GA30 and GA31)

The weir is very important to our family's culture. We spent a lot of time there as kids, going out with our parents and grandparents fishing and hunting. It was built in 1952 and before it was built the river was mostly dry but now the water goes 3-4 km back so it's a good fishing hole. We also have a 'spirit place' out there called "the farm" where we take the kids and teach them about culture, hunting and fishing – tell them stories about our people and camp there. So the Alice River is very important to us and our culture. It starts on the other side of Jericho and runs into the Barcoo River which joins the Thomson at Windoura going all the way to Lake Eyre. Our water stories tell us that even when there is no water running, when the river is dry, we can still get water from the Alice. You just dig a hole about 3-4 ft deep, and then there is water. It's underneath, we used to drink that water. (Gerry Fogarty, Bidjara Elder)



Pic 2: Lloyd Jones Weir and Alice River (Source: Love, K.)

3.3.7 Barcoo River (GA32)

The Barcoo is a very significant water asset for the Bidjara people. Located near Isisford there are several waterholes that are used for fishing and camping. The Moonderri waterhole (half way between Barcaldine and Blackall) and Omah waterhole (near Isisford) is about four kilometers long and six meters deep.

These waterholes never go dry so they would have always been used. We have a big fishing competition at the waterhole near Isisford, it's been going for about eight or nine years. There is usually around 1000 people and we catch "yellow belly". (Gerry Fogarty, Bidjara Elder)

3.3.8 Aramac Springs (GA33)

Several natural springs are located at Aramac. There are also carvings and paintings in the area. The springs are an important water source for the Bidjara and Wangan and Jagalingou. Gerry Fogarty advised that some of the springs are a habitat for a rare fish, which should be protected by heritage.

3.3.9 Lake Dunn (GA34)

Lake Dunn is located just south of Lake Galilee and 60 kilometers north of Aramac. It is important as it feeds Reedy Creek. Water can always be sourced at Lake Dunn, even when seemingly dry there is water to be found in the middle. At the time of the field visit it was approximately 80 per cent full. Lake Dunn is an important recreational source for Aboriginal people used for camping and fishing.



Pic 3: Lake Dunn (Source: Love, K.)

3.3.10 Lake Nuga Nuga (GA36)

Lake Nuga Nuga is the resting place of the rainbow serpent 'Mundagudda' who created country. It is creation story place of the Bidjara people where lores and principles come from.

'Mundagudda' - Rainbow Serpent

The rainbow serpent represents water in our country, the core of our country, bringing the lores and principles. There is a creation story from Carnarvon (Home of the Rivers) about the Rainbow Serpent "Mundagudda" who came from the stars and we came with him and landed in Carnarvon and now rests at Lake Nuga Nuga. Uncle Rusty Fraser told me we were birds before we were people so there are a couple of mountains up there, a place of the Wedge-tailed Eagle (Gooldathalla), Carpet Snake Mountain and Red Kangaroo Mountain. (Floyd Robinson, Bidjara Elder)

3.3.11 Carnarvon Range and Carnarvon Gorge (GA 37 and 38)

Creation Story - a place of woman's business. The story tells of a little girl lost. Her mother could not find her, but she could hear her. The land is alive and is represented by a stone spirit, which relates to men's lore in Bidjara cultures. The gorge used to be a creek – but the land rose, with the woman and became the gorge (Carnarvon). When the woman saw her little girl - the girl turned into a white cockatoo. The lore story is about keeping your children close when travelling on country. There's a place called 'Balloon Cave', which is a burial place that is also associated with this story and the carpet snake story.

3.3.12 Ward River (GA44)

This river has never dried up and is important for fishing. There are big waterholes there that always have water. When it goes down you can see big caves in the side of it and this is where the fish are so you know where to come back to fish for yellow belly, catfish and cod. There are scar trees there that point to men's and woman's business. At this place on the Ward River the m en's tree points east to west, and the Women's tree points up the river. (Floyd Robinson, Bidjura Elder)



Pic 4: Ward River (Source: Love, K.)

3.3.13 Black's Palace (GA45)

On the Ward River there is a marker pointing to a place of women's business. Everyone comes from all over to meet there. The picture below shows a marker indicating the way up the river. It also has a pointer indicating up the river to Woman's business. (Floyd Robinson, Bidjura Elder)



Pic 5: Marker tree (Source: Love, K.)

3.3.14 Hoganthulla - Carolines Crossing (GA46)

Hoganthulla is the birthplace and burial place for many Bidjara people. One story tells of a big camp on the banks where two Bidjara men fought to the death and are buried under an Ironbark tree there (Floyd Robinson, Bidjura Elder).

4. Summary

This report provides rich examples of Aboriginal water values existing in the Galilee subregion. The information was collated with the generous assistance of the Yirendali, Wangan Jagalingou and Bidjara people. However, although rich it is not exhaustive, as documenting water values for the entire region will require more time than was permitted for this research project. It is the expressed hope of the participants, that the project can continue, and a thorough mapping for the region can be undertaken for water resources and their associated cultural values.

Nevertheless, what is provided here is exemplary of the relationship the Yirendali, Wangan Jagalingou and Bidjara people have with water, in what is mostly an arid environment. There are water resources, known to only a few, that continue to nourish and provide Aboriginal people with an ongoing connection to their cultural traditions. Water is an intrinsic part of creation, the story of Lake Nuga Nuga as the resting place of the rainbow serpent 'Moondagadda' who created Yirendali country, is a fine example of the importance of water in spiritual and cultural life.

Another story illustrating the importance of water in the region, is the creation story of 'Kuttaborra'. Three main rivers of the Galilee basin – the Landsborough, Tower Hill and Torrens Creek (and their tributaries) come together as a part of the 'Kuttaborra story', or 'Duck story'. These stories and songlines, run on top of the ground, then disappear underground, then come back up from under the ground springs to feed into Kati Thanda /Lake Eyre. The story originates from the big dreamtime story out of Kati Thanda/Lake Eyre and travels north to Yirendali country and into Finkel River country. The river system is also the last duck hunting site and freshwater turtle hunting site before you get to the Thompson River.

The Yirendali and Bidjara also spoke of the importance of water to the life of flora and fauna. For example, scar trees, that point to the places of men's and woman's business, rely on the water of the creeks and rivers, to sustain their life, and hence sustain cultural knowledge of the local people. Elders also told of waterholes that always have water, and even when the water subsides, the surrounding caves still have water in them, *"this is where the fish are so you know where to come back to fish for yellow belly, catfish and cod."*

There was concern expressed by some participants about the impact on water of coal seam gas and other mining activities. One Elder said, he had been told by an Elder (from another region), that water levels had dropped as a result of coal seam gas exploration. He knew this as it had only happened since exploration had commenced. Participants expressed optimism that the process of mapping water values will provide some knowledge that will help decision makers understand the value of water to remote Aboriginal communities. The communities involved in this research look forward to the outcomes of the project.

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6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Complete list of narratives provided by participating Elders.

Identifier	Narrative	Author/Source
GA1	Prairie Creek - The Plains Homestead water hole on the Prairie river, is the creation place for the Yirendali people, it is associated with the ceremonial bush medicine, common name gumbi gumbi . It is the story about the gumbi gumbi bush spirit, a women who lived alone by the water hole, and one day while out gathering food, she came across a male bush spirit. They courted and fell in love, and when the gumbi gumbi spirit lady fell pregnant, she gave birth, and the baby came out of the seed pod. This was the birth of the Moongaburra people, of the Yirendali people.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA2	Torrens Creek - Torrens Creek is traditionally called Boorooman name for deep soak. Torrens Creek run out of the White Mountains and it flows in to a significant water hole near the old Aberfoyle homestead. Torrens Creek is a significant occupational site, and it is the birth site of my great-great grandfather Richard Hill, and my grandfather Bunji Hill. My grandfather's parents are buried here not far from the river. It is also hold significance; to many other Yirendali family members who were born here. Nine mile waterhole is a significant waterhole north of Torrens creek town site is marked with significant engraving/art.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA3	Kooroorinya is known as the falls, which is 8 miles down from Lammermoor homestead it is the home of the Yarraby or spirit.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA4	Barootta is the place of the Blue water Lilly which is traditionally called Wondoob	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA7	Lake Galilee is traditionally called Mucka Mucka .	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA8	Lake Webb is traditionally called Coboro or koboro .	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA9	This dreamtime story is about the Brown Snake (Boonga) and Goanna (Duckungs) and they had a fight and brown snake got a bite on the Goanna, so the Goanna is staggering away and goes over to a plant and eats some of the leaves and then drops to the ground. So the Brown Snake thinks he's dead. But after a couple	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)

	of minutes he gets back up, shakes himself and goes back to the Brown Snake and kills him. So that's how we know about Gumbi Gumbi. It's the symbol for the health centre.	
GA11	Narkool is a main camp waterhole, Lammermoor , belong to King Narkool aka King Barney .	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA13	Newjenna is the waterhole down from Narkool , which is the old homestead garden.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA14	Pilmunny - is near Ironbark camp, it is a traditional ceremony ground.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA16	Turraminna is next to a sandhill just above the waterhole.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA17	Mattamundukka is known as the 4 mile.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA18	Teekalamungga is a traditional waterhole.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA19	Teekaloonda is a traditional waterhole.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA20	Bogunda is a traditional waterhole.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA21	<p>The Aberfoyle Waterhole is also known as the Fishers Waterhole. It holds very strong significance as the last place of water during the long drought. It provides water, fish, bush-tucker and bush- medicine and place of ceremony.</p> <p>It holds a terrible history, as a place of conflict with western settlers, who fought over the waterhole. The early settlers tried to chase the Yirendali people away from the waterhole. The Yirendali people retaliated and some of the settlers were killed in conflict. Government troopers were called in, to deal with the Yirendali people, and a punitive raid in reprisal was sanctioned. The troopers attacked the Yirendali people at Bannockburn station, and chased them to Uanda the main campsite about eight miles from Torrens Creek, and killed them. The rest of the Yirendali family group got away from the troopers and fled up the Torrens creek to a place called the 12 Mile Creek, north of Torrens Creek Town site. The troopers eventually tracked them down, and massacred the group.</p>	James Hill (Yirendali)

GA24	<p>Cape River - traditionally called Boorala. Cape River is the eastern boundary and it is the story line place for Borrommo the 'Butterfly' This river is created from the serpent Moonda Nurra who lives at a place called the native well on Gorge Creek.</p>	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA25	<p>White Mountain is the story place for the Pilmunno the Lightning story. This story comes from the female rainbow serpent aka Moonda Nurra, who created the Yirendali landscape, and she used her breath to blow out the winds, Barrookka which spewed up the fish, animals, insects, plants and everything that belong to country. Her tongue is the lightning that we see, flashing in anger as her tears, flow down her face and onto country, and her tear drops are the rain water or Kooma and her colours are seen in the Woggurree rainbow. She also travelled across Ngawun country down the Flinders River and across into Mitakoodi country and down the Gilliat Channels, resting in the water hole near where the main highway crossing is, she went in search for a mate, until she finally came across a Pitta Pitta serpent from the Burke River. He stood tall, and he wore red and white warrior paint markings and had long white whiskers. She met him at a place near Tooleybuc station in Yalanna country.</p> <p>This is where they made love, and she tried to persuade him to come home with her to Yirendali country, but he refused and left. And in spite Moonda Nurra spat out her eggs along the way home, these eggs are the big round rocks we see along country from Julia creek, Richmond and Hughenden country. Her anger, heard as the hard rumble of koro (thunder) and Pilmunno (lightning) - is from not finding her people and because her lover the serpent from the Pitta Pitta country down on the Burke River, did not want to marry and live with her. This is why we see her in the wet season spitting out her lightning tongue and crying in sadness for her family and her lover.</p>	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA26	<p>Porcupine Gorge /Galah Creek Moonda Nurra created this country leaving in her trail the gorge, and rivers and gullies in search for her mob. There is many recorded evidence of her markings and records that celebrate and honour her.</p> <p>There are many significant waterholes on, and connected to this gorge, and there are many stories mapped and etched in stone. Her picture is painted on the walls of the White Mountains.</p>	James Hill (Yirendali)

GA27	<p>Landsborough Creek - The Emu who is traditionally called Goolberri came across the plains to the Landsborough, and then travelled up the river and across to the table top of Mt Walker. Mt Walker is traditionally called Coo Burri.</p> <p>Coo Burri or Mt Walker is a ceremonial site, with a significant waterhole at the bottom of the hill. The Goolberri emu then travelled to a small river site, near where the Hughenden rodeo ground is. This small river flows into the Flinders River and main waterhole is the emu's track.</p>	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA27	<p>Landsborough Creek - The Landsborough water system has several significant waterholes. Yantibobbery, Booroonsoolganna and Harri-Unga.</p> <p>Landsborough, Tower Hill and Torrens Creeks and tributaries come together as a part of the Duck Story.</p> <p>The black duck is traditionally called Kuttaborra. The wood duck is traditionally called the Now Now, or Now Wow.</p> <p>The Duck story runs together to form the Thompson River, along Cooper River and then into Lake Ayr, these story run on top of the ground and disappear underground and then come back up, from under the ground springs to feed into Lake Eyre. On this same river system is the last duck hunting site and freshwater turtle hunting site before you get to the Thompson River.</p> <p>The importance of this Duck story is witnessed by senior lore man - Elder Uncle Felix Armstrong (Southern Arunta, Northern Territory) as the same story line that connects his country to Lake Eyre and Yirendali water country.</p> <p>Uncle Felix is boss man for his country – his nephew Harry Armstrong is married to my sister Fiona Hill. Uncle Felix told my Brother Paul, a big story, of how the Duck story is the same like his story, in South Arunta country and how we as countrymen, family and story are connected to Lake Eyre as one mob.</p> <p>The Duck story runs along the Finke River and then the also run along under the ground and comes back up through the springs, and also comes back up into Lake Eyre. The Duck story comes from the big dream time story out of Lake Eyre and travels north to Yirendali</p>	James Hill (Yirendali)

	country and to Fink river country and also into my Mothers country on the Georgina River basin.	
GA28	Dunravin Station, Stewart Creek - This is a significant burial site and main camp site, where ancestral remains were taken by unknown source, and given to the University of Queensland.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA29	Birricania Station, Towerhill Creek - This is a significant burial site and main camp site, where ancestral remains were taken by unknown source, and given to the University of Queensland.	James Hill (Yirendali)
GA30	Lloyd Jones Weir and Alice River The weir is very important to our family's culture. We spent a lot of time there as kids, going out with our parents and grandparents fishing and hunting. It was built in 1952 and before it was built the river was mostly dry but now the water goes 3-4 km back so it's a good fishing hole. We also have a ' spirit place ' out there called " the farm " where we take the kids and teach them about culture, hunting and fishing – tell them stories about our people and camp there. So the Alice River is very important to us and our culture. It starts on the other side of Jericho and runs into the Barcoo River which joins the Thomson at Windoura going all the way to Lake Eyre. Our water stories tell us that even when there is no water running, when the river is dry, we can still get water from the Alice. You just dig a hole about 3-4 ft deep, and then there is water. It's underneath, we used to drink that water.	Gerry Fogarty (Bidjara and Wangan Jagalingou)
GA32	Barcoo River The Barcoo is also very important, just near Isisford there are several waterholes we still go to for fishing and camping. There's Moonderri waterhole (half way between Barcaldine and Blackall) and Omah waterhole (near Isisford) which is about 4kms long and 20ft deep. These waterholes never go dry so they would have always been used. We have a big fishing competition at the waterhole near Isisford, it's been going for about 8-9 years. There is usually around 1000 people and we catch yellow belly .	Gerry Fogarty (Bidjara and Wangan Jagalingou)
GA33	Aramac Springs There are lots of good natural springs around Aramac, some have carvings and paintings around them and should be listed on the heritage list. The springs are really important and we are worried about the mining because Donny Rowlands told me the ones down near	Gerry Fogarty (Bidjara and Wangan Jagalingou)

	the border (SA and QLD) a lot of springs have dried up because of CSG, there's no water in them anymore. So we are really concerned about what will happen here with the springs. There is a property near Aramac that has springs with a rare fish, a little fella and it has heritage.	
GA34	Lake Dunn – is 60km north of Aramac which feeds Reedy Creek. It's a fresh water lake just south of Lake Galilee. There is always water in the middle of it and it's about 80% full right now. Lots of people go there in the holidays and there is some fish. It's about 7-8ft deep.	Gerry Fogarty (Bidjara and Wangan Jagalingou)
GA35	Moonderri Waterhole This waterhole never runs dry and is important historically. We go there for fishing and camping.	Gerry Fogarty (Bidjara and Wangan Jagalingou)
Entire region and GA36	Lake Nuga Nuga is the resting place of the rainbow serpent ' Mundagudda '. Creation story of the Bidjara people where lores and principles come from. Mundagudda created country. Overlooks the Carnarvon Gorge. Nuga Nuga means look there. Rainbow Serpent The rainbow serpent represents water in our country, the core of our country, bringing the lores and principles. There is a creation story from Carnarvon (Home of the Rivers) about the Rainbow Serpent " Mundagudda " who came from the stars and we came with him and landed in Carnarvon and now rests at Lake Nuga Nuga (GA36). Uncle Rusty Fraser told me we were birds before we were people so there are a couple of mountains up there, a place of the Wedgetail Eagle (Gooldathalla), Carpet Snake Mountain and Red Kangaroo Mountain.	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA37 and 38	Carnarvon Range and Carnarvon Gorge Creation story - a story about woman's business/lore; told to me by my cousin (Patricia Fraser) who was told by Aunty Book; There was a little girl lost and her mum couldn't find her but could hear her. The land is alive and represented by a stone spirit in Bidjara culture. So the land rose with the woman and they became the gorge (Carnarvon). It used to just be a creek at this time, but when the land rose with the woman it became a gorge. When the woman saw her little girl the girl turned into a white cockatoo. So there are some laws about keeping your children close when travelling on country. There's a place called ' Balloon Cave ' that's a burial place associated with this story and the carpet snake story.	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)

	<p>The carpet snake is also connected to the rainbow serpent and is illustrated by the white dots you see up there in the sandstone country. He starts in the Carnarvon range and he follows the rainbow serpent and connects the lands to the north of us, also the tribes south and west. He relates to my great grand pop John Fraser who was Gurraguilla but his totem was the Red Kangaroo, what we call Boda.</p>	
GA39	<p>Carpet Snake Mountain Near Carnarvon station at the head of the Warrego River, beside that mountain there are caves with art that depict the carpet snake going down Carnarvon Creek following the rainbow serpent.</p>	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA40	<p>Sandy Creek There is a story about the 'Lost City' on Sandy Creek and it relates to ceremony all to do with the little girl (White Cockatoo) which we call Diggardi. At Goat Rock there is lots of art, footprints, lots of footprints coming from the west and the south so lots of people would have come there. They would have all related to the red kangaroo or carpet snake or the white cockatoo and birds.</p>	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA41	<p>Carnarvon Creek Where Moolayember Creek meets the Carnarvon Creek is related to men's business and where the water comes together in a 'V' that's what the Bidjara man would wear. A 'V' signifies water coming together.</p>	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA42	<p>Carnarvon Station The white dingo story brings the story of the seven sisters who came from the stars and passed down the stories. The seven sisters were protected by two white dingos and the seven springs above Carnarvon station relate to that. The springs were last looked after by Clara Houghton who lived up there in the caves and she always had the best fruits.</p>	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA43	<p>Warrego River Warrego River is the 'River of Sand' and the pinnacle rocks relate to men's business. The square cut rocks is where initiation ceremony was held. This happens during the dingo mating time so during the day there would be hunting and at night you can hear the dingo.</p>	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA44	<p>Ward River This river has never dried up and is important for fishing. There are big waterholes there that always have water. When it goes down you can see big caves</p>	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)

	in the side of it and this is where the fish are so you know where to come back to fish for yellow belly, catfish and cod. There a scar trees on the Ward that point to men's and woman's business . Men's tree points east to west, women's tree points up the river.	
GA45	Black's Palace On the Ward River there is a marker pointing to where the women have woman's business . Everyone comes from all over to meet there. This is a marker on a tree showing the way up the river. It has a pointer pointing up the river to woman's business.	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA46	Hoganthulla (Carolines Crossing) Lots of Bidjara people born there and died there. There was a big camp there and a story where two Bidjara men fought to the death and are buried under an Ironbark tree there.	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA47	Augathella (Tumbuthalla) We used to go out there for the whole day and never have to worry about water because there was always water if you dig down. Those soaks (Warrego River) are connected to the rainbow serpent .	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)
GA48	White Dingo and Red Dingo Story The white dingo came to the people and said, <i>"Everytime the red dingo eats the white dingo he gets bigger, he must be a spirit dog."</i> So we said, <i>"bring him our way"</i> and when he came our way the land rose and we trapped him. So now the white dingo helps the Bidjara people. If you come on country without permission the white dingo will get you. The white Dingo is associated with women's business and is a protector of woman's business. That's why the seven sisters , when they came here had two white dingo's with them	Floyd Robinson (Bidjara)

Appendix 2: Interview questions for participants

Aboriginal Water Values Project

Interview Questions for Traditional Owners

1. What is the traditional use of this particular water resource?
2. How is it connected to other water resources?
3. Is it significant to the whole of your people, or just a particular group or family?
4. Do you know if other language groups have a relationship with this particular water resource?
5. Does it hold special meaning to:
 - a. Women
 - b. Men
 - c. Old people
 - d. Young people
6. Is the water resource important or significant to any particular flora or fauna species?
 - a. If so, what are they?
7. Is there any economic value (or potential economic value) associated with this water resource? i.e. fishing, aquaculture, tourism, bush food etc.
8. Are there any particular Dreamtime stories associated with this water resource?
9. How does the knowledge of this water resource get transferred from one generation to the next?
10. In your opinion, what impact would it have on the community if this water resource was damaged by mining or other development?

Appendix 3 – Consultation participants

Galilee Subregion Consultation List	
James Hill	Yirendali Aboriginal Corporation
Gerry Fogarty	Bidjara Elder and representative of Wangan and Jagalingou Aboriginal Corporation and Board member Desert Channels Queensland
Members general	Central West Aboriginal Co-op (Barcaldine)
Sharon McAvoy	South Qld Native Title Services
Geoff Doring	South Qld Native Title Services
Floyd Robinson	Bidjara (Charleville)
Sheryl Lawton	Bidjara (Charleville)
Barry Miller	Upper Cooper Wankamarra
John Maris	Murrawurri, Northern Rivers
Vol Norris	Bidura group (Charleville)
Jocelyn Eattes	Winton
Tanya Willis	Dugalunji Organisation (Camooweal)
Kylie Dalzell	Desert Channels (Longreach)
Simon Wiggins	Hydrologist - Desert Channels
Keith Marshall	Waluwarra (GDCAC Forum)
Dot Gorring	Mithara (GDCAC Forum)
Natalie Mogg	Wang kamurra (GDCAC Forum)
Judith Harrison	Mailwali (GDCAC Forum)
Ramona McIvor	Kungarri (GDCAC Forum)
Martina Jacobs	Yirendali (GDCAC Forum)
Elizabeth Jacobs	Koa (GDCAC Forum)
Don Rowlands	Wankangurru (GDCAC Forum)
Waylon Punch	Waluwarra (GDCAC Forum)
Jarrod Slater	Waanyi (GDCAC Forum)
Frederick Ah-one	Waluwurra (GDCAC Forum)
Dylan Quinlan	Kalkadoon (GDCAC Forum)
Sophie Gilbay	Aylwarra (GDCAC Forum)
Barbara Olsen	Boonthamurra (GDCAC Forum)