

Our shared values in the Carpentaria region

We acknowledge all of the Traditional Owners of the Southern Gulf lands and coastal plains. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Residents and visitors of the Carpentaria region have long and enduring connections to this region. This fact sheet shares what our communities have told us they value most about the coast, their memories of the events and factors that can shaped the coastline, as well as issues of concern. This information was collected as part of the development of the Our Resilient Gulf program and the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy during various discussions and engagement activities in 2020.

Value	Description	Image
<p>'The Outback by the Sea' Tourism and destination assets</p>	<p>The amazing fishing, stunning sunrises sunsets over the ocean, great food and laid-back atmosphere have been attracting adventurers and those looking for a quieter life for decades. Many came for a visit and never left. In 2018/19 the total tourism and hospitality sales in Carpentaria was more than \$11.5 million. The Carpentaria Shire Tourism Strategy 2020 -2023 identifies the following unique destination assets and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only beaches accessible by sealed roads in the Gulf • Fishing in the Gulf waters, rivers and creeks • Unique nature and wildlife • Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre • Sunset experiences along the foreshores • Fishing and crab charters by boat and helicopter • Fishing Classic and other local festivals, such as Outback by the Sea • Caravan and camping facilities. <p>The main tourist season is the dry season from April to October each year.</p>	<p>Photo: architectureau.com</p> <p>Photo: Alluvium</p> <p>Photo: Alluvium</p>

Connection to Country and Traditional Owners values

There are nine Traditional Language Groups in the Southern Gulf region including (in alphabetical order) – Gangalidda, Garawa, Gkuthaarn, Kaiadilt, Kukatj, Kurtijar, Lardil, Waanyi, Yangkaal.

For the Traditional Owners, what we know today as the Carpentaria region is their cultural and spiritual home. Their songlines, storylines, totems, sacred sites and cultural artefacts still exist today in this region.

The legal recognition of their rights and interests comes the opportunity to pursue a range of business and economic development opportunities for local Traditional Owners. They are a critical part of an economically sustainable and prosperous future. The waters and coastal environments are core to many of these activities including for cultural tourism, rural and industry-based enterprises, and arts.

The highly regarded Normanton Land and Sea program is coordinated by the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and comprises Rangers from three language groups - Kukatj, Gkuthaarn, and Kurtijar. Their activities include feral animal and weed control, turtle and dugong management, protection of cultural sites and knowledge sharing.



<p>Fin fish, crab and prawn fisheries</p>	<p>Karumba is known as the ‘fishing frontier’, and many visitors make an annual pilgrimage to the region.</p> <p>Commercially, the region is best known for its barramundi and prawn fisheries with the Northern Prawn Fishery being valued at \$65 million (2011-12). Both the barramundi and prawn fisheries are now carefully managed, dependent on a healthy environment, including the estuaries and seagrass meadows required for breeding. The region also has the only hatchery in the world to breed the Southern Gulf strand of Barramundi.</p>	<p>Photo: travelling-australia.info</p>
<p>Pastoral industry And live cattle exports</p>	<p>The Carpentaria region is home to a thriving pastoral industry, dating back to the early 1900s with a number of stations across the vast plains of the region. The main station is Delta Downs, owning and operating Delta Downs, Karumba Downs and Magieville Outstation, with a herd of approximately 45,000 head. The station is owned by the Kurtjar people, the Traditional Owners of the land over which the stations are located. The station is a key employer of aboriginal workers and youth from across the region. The station is strategically located close to Karumba, where the live export terminal for the Asian markets is located.</p>	<p>Photo: Hailey Renault, ABC</p>
<p>Unique wetland ecosystems</p>	<p>The region comprises significant diversity of coastal ecosystems including vast saltpans and wetlands which attract thousands of migratory wader birds each year and provide breeding, feeding, moulting and drought refuge for many other residents including sarus cranes, brolgas, pelicans and jabirus. Places such as the 9,000ha Mutton Hole Wetlands have cultural significance as well as ecological.</p>	<p>Photo: Alluvium</p>

<p>Habitat for turtle and dugong</p>	<p>Their greatest threats include climate change, lack of nesting, breeding and feeding sites, as well as marine pollution. Turtle and dugong are significantly important traditional food sources for local Aboriginal peoples.</p>	<p>Photo: Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation</p>
<p>Early European history</p>	<p>The Gulf's European history dates back to the late 1800s evidenced today by the decade old remnants of wharf's and buildings. This early infrastructure highlights the region's pioneering history by European explorers Burke and Wills, its proximity to strategically important sites in both World Wars, early commercial fishing industry and 'prawn rush', and home of the Empire Flying Boats. Much of these sites are located along foreshores of Karumba town and Point Karumba.</p>	