



Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation

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Yolnguwu Monuk Gapu Wanga Plan of Management

Dhimurru Sea Country Plan

*A Yolngu Vision and Plan for Sea Country Management in
North-east Arnhem Land, Northern Territory*

DHIMURRU LAND MANAGEMENT ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

**Community-based indigenous natural and cultural
resource management agency**

Objectives:

- **Facilitate sustainable management and use of natural and cultural resources within Yolngu estates**
- **Promote Yolngu knowledge, tradition, and culture.**

Staffing:

- **11 Yolngu traditional owners employed 5 as placements under the Community Development and Employment Program**
- **4 non-indigenous staff in administrative and facilitator positions**

Dhimurru Programs

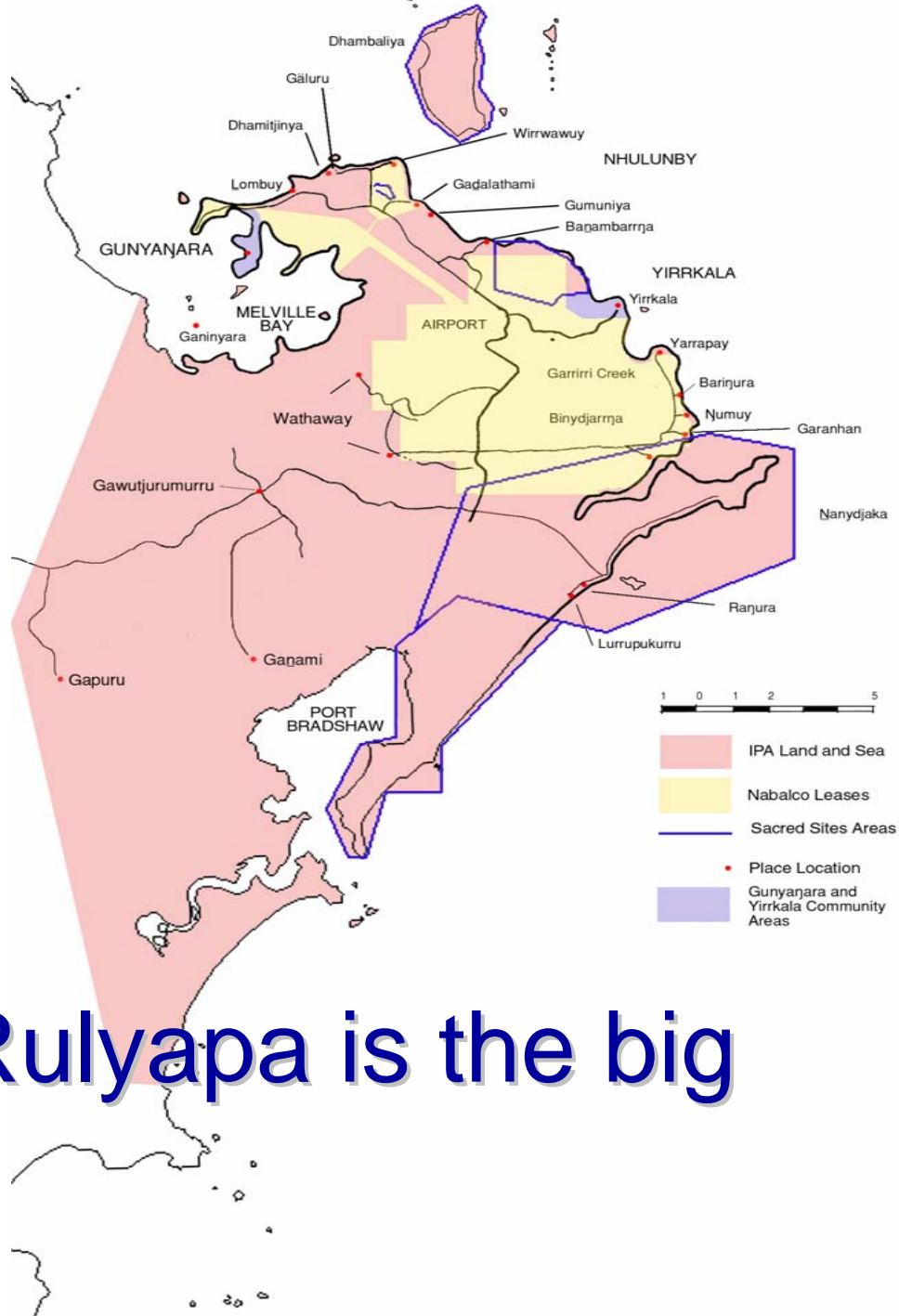
- Access Permits for Aboriginal Land
- Public Awareness and Education Programs
- Cultural and Heritage Site Maintenance and Protection
- Flora and Fauna surveys and research
- Ethno Ecological Survey – Melville Bay
- Feral Animal Control
- Marine Turtle Program
- Marine Debris
- Training and Skill Development

Dhimurru has drafted a sea country plan on behalf of Yolngu Traditional Owners and the Dhimurru Committee

Our sea country plan talks about how Yolngu care for sea country and what help we would like to continue to do this

**The Plan talks
about sea country
– the waters
coasts and
Islands – next to
and part of the
Dhimurru IPA**

**Manbuynga ga Rulyapa is the big
area**



What does our plan cover?

- Lets everybody know what our sea country means to us and how we look after it
- Makes Yolngu concerns clear
- Looks for partnerships to manage and share our sea country

What we hope our plan will achieve and why it is important

Our plan talks about:

- **What sea country means to Yolngu**
- **What our concerns are**
- **Working together**
- **Keeping sea country healthy**

We have said this many times before and now we want to make things happen

Our plan looks for partnerships

- Our plan talks about how we can share responsibilities (Yolngu and Ngapakai) for managing sea country
- For Yolngu, managing sea country is about our cultural survival and well-being as well as economic development and conservation

How we explain what our sea country means to us

We explain in the plan about:

Wangarr - Creation

Bunggul - Dance

Manikay - Song

Miny'tji - Art

Gurrutu – Kinship

We explain in the plan how these elements

give Yolngu both rights and responsibilities for sea country



We explain our traditional management responsibilities for sea country in the plan

- We have always known, cared for and managed our sea country according to Yolngu Rom
- Yolngu have rules for caring for sea country.

Both ways of managing sea country is important

- Yolngu and Ngapakiki knowledge is important in managing sea country
- We want to **develop** partnerships which respect Yolngu knowledge and involve Yolngu in all decisions about sea country

What are our concerns about our sea country?

- Respect for Yolngu interests
- Illegal fishing
- Unmanaged access
- Protection of sacred sites
- Environmental impacts and protection
- Protection of marine animals
- Research and monitoring

Who are our partners?

- Northern Territory Government i.e. Parks and Wildlife Commission, NT Fisheries
- Australian Government i.e. DEH, ICCs
- Northern Land Council
- Alcan
- Fishing industry (recreational & commercial)
- Tourism industry

Improving our sea country management is about

- Well trained, well resourced sea rangers.
- Sustainable working arrangements in marine management including monitoring, research, surveillance, enforcement, and illegal fishing
- Capability to manage impacts on the marine environment from mining, aquaculture and other development activities
- Providing a good model for sea country management