



'Mijirrikan' by Grace Mulligan

A Conservation and Management Plan for the National Heritage Listed Fitzroy River Catchment Estate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RiverOfLife Martuwarra

**A Report prepared for the
Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council**



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

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The development of this Plan depended on the generous contributions from the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council members who formed the project 'Think Tank', giving generously of their time to express their views, vision and aspirations, gracefully and forthrightly contributing their ideas which provides context as to why they believe a heritage conservation Plan of this nature is required. The Traditional Owner members of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council are Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, the Warrwa Registered Native Title Claim Group, Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation and the Yurriyngem Taam Native Title Claim Group as represented by the Applicant (Parties).

This 'Plan' document represents the shared views of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council who owns the Intellectual Property.

Authorship

The Martuwarra Fitzroy River is the lead 'author-ity' of this Plan. This established precedent acknowledges our sacred ancestral living serpent being, present in all of our meetings, workshop and guiding the human authors as they shape and represent the Martuwarra in their writing. Whilst we acknowledge the role of the 'lead' author Martuwarra RiverOfLife in bringing us together, the de-colonisation of publication needs to include a re-framing of authorship that truly values and reflects the shared knowledge, contributions and learnings between all authors. This process counteracts the 'Western' system of hierarchical ordering of authorship, ensuring sufficient room for the essential contribution that each author makes in a truly consultative and collaborative process.

Therefore, a collaborative co-authorial voice of the Martuwarra RiverOfLife frames this 'Plan' emanating from facilitatory processes in workshops and consultations which began in 2016. Through further background research and analysis, in addition to facilitatory workshops and consultations, this Plan was compiled by Jason Alexandra, Nadeem Samnakay and Dr. Anne Poelina, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow of Nulungu Institute for Research, University of Notre Dame, Broome WA. A final draft version also benefited from advice received by a cohort of independent peer reviewers whose generous efforts are graciously appreciated, summarised in the Appendix of this report.

Project reviewers and advisors included Kat Taylor, Judy Fisher and Ray de Silva who provided ongoing guidance and support through the development of this document.

Permissions

The Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council has authorised publication of this Report.

Inquiries

Requests and inquiries about this Report should be addressed to chair@martuwarrafitzroyriver.org or in writing to PO Box 2747, Broome, Western Australia 6725.

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“Our ancestor Woonyoomboo with our sacred ancestor serpent created the Martuwarra (Fitzroy River) and its tributaries”.

The Martuwarra is a gift to human and non-human beings, such as the birds, the fish, water creatures, animals and all the plants within this system... we advocate the protection of all river tributaries and wetlands which re-charge and connect the ancient aquifers and underground to surface water systems.

These Living Water systems are connected to the Martuwarra. First Law and custom that govern the River include Warloongarriy and Wunan Law. Since Bookarrakarra (the beginning of time) this First Law ensured the health and wellbeing of the living system of the Martuwarra. The importance of these laws is the principles that the law is in the land and not in man. It is framed around values and ethics of co-management and co-existence which continue to facilitate inter-generational relationships between the shared boundaries of all the River nations through ancient songlines, contemporary customs and practices.

Under Warloongarriy law, the Traditional Owners of the Mardoowarra regard the River as a living [sacred] ancestral being (the Rainbow Serpent), from source to seas, with its own “life-force” and spiritual essence. It is the ‘River of Life’ and has a right to live and flow.’

**Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation,
Research Committee**

Preface

It is a special honour and a privilege for me to be invited to write a preface for this unique and important document.

This is a conservation management plan (hereafter the Plan) like no other that I have read in at least three key ways. First, it puts the Martuwarra, the “River of Life” and a “sacred living ancestral being”, and also its tributaries, front and centre in terms of how water should be understood, valued and managed. Second, it places First Law, the “system of governance and law that Indigenous Australians have developed over tens of thousands of years” as the foundation for caring for country and the Martuwarra. Importantly, “Traditional Aboriginal law focuses on maintaining the balance of the earth so that all things can prosper”.



Professor Quentin Grafton

Third, the Plan is guided and informed by Traditional Knowledge and insights from six independent Indigenous Nations which have, in partnership, developed a framework of guardianship with accompanying rights, responsibilities and obligations.

From my perspective, the Plan is much, much more than simply a plan. It is a vision statement with key principles or position statements. It is not a detailed set of management rules, nor is it intended to be. The 15 position statements provide the foundational framework for devising the subsequent detail that will, in time, be needed. The ‘who, what, when and how’ of water will require the Martuwarra Council to “build effective alliances and strategic partnerships to implement its vision and objectives.”

Whichever partnerships the Martuwarra Council develops, the partners must respect the following statement:

“All the water that make up these flow regimes is already allocated to Traditional and environmental uses and values – it sustains people and places, plant, animal and fish populations and customary harvestable production, and community and spiritual connections” (Position Statement 6).

This is a statement of rights and it is a statement of life that must underpin any allocation rules around how water is extracted and used. The proposed model of co-governance of the Martuwarra is equally clear, namely, to have “... equitable and continuing models of governance that recognise cultural knowledge and build-on customary law” (Position Statement 10).

This is an invitation and a generous offer to others, including the Western Australian government, to “walk together into a better future” (Dr Anne Poelina and Chair of the Martuwarra Council).

These profound words capture the spirit of the 26 May 2017 *Statement from the Heart*, itself a generous invitation from all First Peoples to “a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination”.

Australia, and indeed the world, has a unique opportunity to conserve the sacred and to truly recognise the authority of the River of Life and the Traditional Owners. In my view, The Plan is a historic document that offers a just future for all who want to share with the Martuwarra in the region’s sustainable future. Let all who read it, act on it.

**Professor R. Quentin Grafton,
Australian Laureate Fellow,
Water Justice Hub, Australian National University.**

Quentin Grafton is Professor of Economics and Chairholder UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance. He is an Australian Laureate Fellow (2020-25), convenes the Water Justice Hub and is the Executive Editor of the Global Water Forum. His collaborative research, as part of the IWF, is focused on water valuation and water planning in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin.

The Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council

The Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council (Martuwarra Council) has prepared this document to engage widely and to articulate its ambitions and obligations to First Law, customary law and their guardianship authority and fiduciary duty to protect the Martuwarra's natural and cultural heritage.



Photo: Martuwarra Council, 2020.

This document outlines a strategic approach to Heritage Conservation and Management Planning, communicating to a wide audience, the planning principles, key initiatives, and aspirations of the Martuwarra Traditional Owners to protect their culture, identity and deep connection to living waters and land. Finer granularity of action items required to give effect to this Conservation and Management Plan for the National Heritage Listed Fitzroy River Catchment Estate are outlined in Chapter 7 and which will be more fully explored by the Martuwarra Council in the coming months and years.

Through the work of the Council in preparing this Plan, Native Title Holders in the Fitzroy River catchment, have agreed to 'Position Statements' as outlined below. When acted upon, these will begin the journey to maintaining First Law, customs and practices in order to achieve the cultural and heritage conservation objectives outlined in the body of this report.

Planning Objectives

The Martuwarra Council has defined eight (8) main **objectives** for this Plan as follows:

1. Recognition of First Law, customary law and the guardianship and authority of Martuwarra Traditional Owner's fiduciary duty to protect the Martuwarra's right to flow as a living entity;
2. Gain greater recognition of the Martuwarra Fitzroy's heritage values, including through achieving World Heritage Listing and recognition as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve or other national and international conservation models as determined appropriate by Martuwarra Traditional Owners;
3. Articulate Traditional Owners' interests, values and aspirations for the conservation and management of the River, Catchment Estate;
4. Enable the Martuwarra Traditional Owners to have stronger roles in determining decisions, participating in governance and ensuring greater influence on regional, state and federal planning processes;
5. Promote and strengthen the legal protections of Indigenous interests;
6. Articulate ambitions of Traditional Owners, including for sustainable economic and social development that protects cultural and natural values;
7. Serve as a framework to form alliances, partnerships and programs;
8. Investigate co-governance models.

Martuwarra Council Guiding Principles

The Martuwarra Council's operations will be guided by the following ethical principles:

- a) Recognise that traditional Indigenous law, custom, culture, natural and spiritual values are interrelated and that land and water are not separate resources but operate as a system critical for sustaining human wellbeing and environmental health.
- b) Adopt principles of Sustainable Development, including due application of the precautionary principle;
- c) Adopt a 'Do No Harm' principle that takes precedence, with the burden of proof to rest on developers;
- d) Implementation will be consistent with the aims and objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- e) Respective UN treaties will be respected including recognising that Free, Prior and Informed Consent³ is a specific right of Indigenous people (United Nations, 2007);
- f) Give weight to suitable negotiated Treaties with Indigenous People, recognising past injustices and promoting the intent of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and related priority areas that serve to achieve equity for Aboriginal people such as Closing the Gap;
- g) The legal rights and protections to Indigenous interests afforded under relevant legislation must be adhered to, including obligations on developers under the Natural Heritage Listing as per the EPBC Act (1999);

³ Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated.

Position Statements

These position statements summarise the Martuwarra Council's positions and intended actions that will be implemented over time and as resources permit. They also articulate the Martuwarra Council's intent to enter into partnerships and co-governance arrangements with a broad spectrum of interested and committed parties who are willing to engage with and assist in delivery of the Council's aims and vision.

POSITION STATEMENT 1: THE CONCEPT OF LIVING WATER IS CENTRAL TO SUSTAINING HERITAGE VALUES

The conventional approaches to cultural heritage conservation need to be broadened so that waters' place in First Law, sociality, sacredness, identity and life giving are better recognised. The Martuwarra Council seeks greater recognition of the centrality of Living Waters – *which link material and spiritual connections* - as being important to cultural and natural heritage in the region.

POSITION STATEMENT 2: NATURAL AND CULTURAL CARE ARE INTERLINKED

The Plan is based on the underpinning position that First Law (customary law), knowledge, culture, language and the ecosystems are intricately connected. Further, the health and vitality of these connections and relationships are critical to environmental, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing and therefore, to the capabilities for cultural-natural heritage restoration and conservation.

POSITION STATEMENT 3: FORMALISE THE MARTUWARRA COUNCIL STRUCTURE AND ESTABLISH A LEGAL ENTITY

The Martuwarra Council plans to form an incorporated body (a legal entity) with functions that include policy development, education, research and advocacy in order to advance capabilities and to develop and represent the interests of its members. It will also explore options to establish an enduring statutory river and catchment authority and a non-profit Think-Tank or Institute to undertake strategic research, policy development, and advance education opportunities and training and workforce development that gives effect to the aspirations of Traditional Owners.

POSITION STATEMENT 4: FORM PARTNERSHIPS AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

The Martuwarra Council seeks to build effective alliances and strategic partnerships to implement its vision and achieve its objectives. The Martuwarra Council welcomes discussions and dialogues with interested parties who wish to join in a journey of delivering regional co-governance and heritage conservation and restoration. The Plan serves as a document to invite interested parties to negotiate on these prospects.

POSITION STATEMENT 5: DEVELOP OPERATIONAL POLICIES ON INTERSECTING PLANS

To remain effective the Martuwarra Council must engage with, intersect and impact other policy and planning processes that influence natural and cultural heritage conservation outcomes. Policy positions need to be developed on a range of intersecting plans.

POSITION STATEMENT 6: MARTUWARRA FLOWS ARE INTRINSIC TO TRADITIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL USES AND VALUES

The Martuwarra Council seeks formal recognition that the River's variable flow regimes are an important feature of the cultural-natural heritage of the region. Therefore, any disturbance resulting from large scale irrigation extractions or other consumptive purposes is a threat to these nationally recognised heritage values and the Martuwarra's right to flow, as a living entity.

POSITION STATEMENT 7: ADVOCATE FOR A RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE

The Martuwarra Council proposes to formalise a buffer zone that delineates a spatial boundary, which protects the River and its floodplains and identifies their high cultural and social-ecological significance. The rationale for the buffer is to ensure that management and any proposed development strengthens cultural or ecological values. There is also a need to ensure any development does not impact on the shared, custodianship, guardianship and authority responsibilities of Traditional Owners to protect the standing of the cultural and natural values of the Barringtonia acutangula (Majala/Mudjulla Fresh Water Mangrove).

POSITION STATEMENT 8: PREPARE AND ENFORCE GUIDELINES FOR STRENGTHENING EXISTING HERITAGE PROTECTIONS

The Martuwarra Council will prepare guidelines and establish mechanisms including developing and promoting policies and protocols that advise third parties to better understand and comply with the aims and aspirations of Traditional Owners, including requiring mandatory consultation on cultural and natural heritage values.

POSITION STATEMENT 9: DEVELOP MEASURES OF SUCCESS ON MARTUWARRA COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

The Martuwarra Council will develop operational policies and use performance measures through the implementation phases. These will assist in an iterative process of monitoring progress and steering implementation. Overall, the success measures will be defined around core concepts like healthy cultures, healthy river systems, healthy people with a focus on healthy relationships.

POSITION STATEMENT 10: ESTABLISH EQUITABLE MODELS OF CO-GOVERNANCE

The Martuwarra Council recognises that heritage protection relies on having equitable and continuing models of governance that recognise cultural knowledge and build on customary law. The Council's proposed models of co-governance would formalise the respect and application of these peaceful and respectful systems of co-governing.

POSITION STATEMENT 11: ESTABLISH A CATCHMENT AUTHORITY COMPLEMENTED BY AN INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA

The Martuwarra Council is advocating for the establishment of a Martuwarra Fitzroy River catchment authority as a statutory body based on principles of co-governance and giving primacy to Indigenous knowledge, law and practice across the whole of the Martuwarra catchment including the King Sound. This should be complemented by gazettal of the catchment as an Indigenous Protected Area in accordance to the Fitzroy River Declaration.

POSITION STATEMENT 12: COMMISSION LEGAL RESEARCH TO ENTRENCH HERITAGE BASED CO-GOVERNANCE MODELS

To work towards achieving formal co-governance agreements, the Martuwarra Council is seeking:

- additional research on appropriate institutional arrangements and legal instruments to support co-governance; and
- establishing clear protocols for consultation and development with appropriately qualified persons, noting that these protocols will apply to all landowners including Indigenous communities proposing developments that may negatively impact or degrade heritage values.

POSITION STATEMENT 13: CONVEY A TRANSFORMATIVE VISION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Martuwarra Council seeks to implement appropriate economic development strategies that offer alternatives to the current exploitative mainstream vision for resource intensive, large-scale irrigation and mineral and energy resources development. The Martuwarra Council is critical of the development discourse that overstates the expected gains from such development. Rather it advocates a development discourse that supports or strengthens culture and ecosystem values and provides livelihood outcomes for Aboriginal people.

POSITION STATEMENT 14: DEVELOP A RESEARCH COMPENDIUM TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AND REGENERATIVE ECONOMIES

The Martuwarra Council will develop a compendium of research needs that will assist its vision of sustainable, restorative and regenerative development, building critical capabilities and strategic alliances for heritage conservation and fostering models of co-governance.

POSITION STATEMENT 15: DEVELOP A PROSPECTUS OF COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES ON ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION AND CULTURAL ECONOMIES

The Martuwarra Council seeks appropriate economic planning that:

- Sustains livelihoods while conserving the spiritual, cultural and environmental health and wellbeing of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River and its people;
- Promotes the significance of the region's cultural and natural values;
- Encourages ethical public and private investment in socially and ecologically appropriate economic development;
- Develops local Indigenous workforce for the new and emerging regional industries that conform to the values clarified in this document;
- Achieve higher employment and greater prosperity to the community through business and employment activities that are sympathetic to and consistent with heritage, cultural and ecological conservation.

Indicative Implementation Schedule

This section provides an indicative action plan and implementation schedule for the Martuwarra Council.






















This schedule takes the Martuwarra Council's position statements and converts these to intended 'Actions'.

- *Action 1.0:* Promote Living Waters concepts As central and interlinked to sustaining heritage, natural and cultural care;
- *Action 2.0:* Formalise the Martuwarra Council structure, functions & responsibilities;
- *Action 3.0:* (A) Form partnerships and strategic alliances; (B) Strategic Communications; (C) Data Management;
- *Action 4.0:* Formalise recognition that the Martuwarra's flows are intrinsic to Traditional and environmental use And values;
- *Action 5:* Create Riparian Buffer Zone;
- *Action 6:* Prepare and enforce guidelines for strengthening heritage protections;
- *Action 7:* Develop measures of success On Martuwarra Council functions;
- *Action 8:* Design And establish equitable models of co-governance and establish a catchment authority complemented by an Indigenous Protected Area;
- *Action 9:* A Transformative vision for conservation and cultural economies and research to promote sustainable regenerative economies.



















This provisional, three-year rolling action plan will be updated as required. The specifics of any of the proposed actions will be implemented over time and as resources permit. To achieve many of its goals the Martuwarra Council intends to enter into partnerships and co-governance arrangements with a broad spectrum of parties. It is anticipated that respective partnerships and projects will require tightly specified project plans and partnership agreements to be developed in due course.

Therefore this implementation schedule should be understood to be an outline of the priorities for implementing the Plan. The way these will eventually unfold will depend on the decisions the Martuwarra Council makes as the responsible decision-making entity and the degree of support it gets. Nonetheless, the indicative tasks and timelines, outlined below, are intended to complement the broad strategic directions expressed in the Plan.

ACTION 1.0: PROMOTE LIVING WATERS CONCEPTS AS CENTRAL AND INTERLINKED TO SUSTAINING HERITAGE, NATURAL AND CULTURAL CARE

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Scope and develop Living Waters case study projects and partnership proposals				
Seek partners and implement projects				
Investigate feasibility of establishing a Living Waters' network to facilitate exchange throughout and beyond the Kimberley that promotes alternative frameworks of conceiving of waters' place in landscapes and cultures				
Promote greater recognition of the central importance of Living Waters to cultural and natural heritage conservation and seek formal recognition from Governments and national and international heritage organisations				
Promote greater recognition of the relevance and legitimacy of First Law in contributing to contemporary water governance and cultural heritage conservation				
Promote greater recognition of the Martuwarra Fitzroy's heritage values, including through advocating for World Heritage Listing and/or recognition as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve				
Investigate and promote options to strengthen heritage protections under the EPBC Act (1999) and the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972)				
Commission legal scholarship to develop and promote model legislation designed to protect the Martuwarra Fitzroy catchment and its unique cultural and natural values				
Document and report outcomes				
 <i>Indicates activity schedule</i>				




























ACTION 2.0: FORMALISE THE MARTUWARRA COUNCIL STRUCTURE, FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Martuwarra Council develops and gains members agreement to a constitution that guides its structure, functions and capacity to evolve as required for future activities. It aims to become an incorporated body before December 2020				
Implement Martuwarra Council communication and engagement plan, launch and curate website, in line with agreed communication protocols				
Develop agreed protocols on Martuwarra Council policy development, including on responding to relevant plans and strategies				
Celebrate formalisation of the Martuwarra Council with a major cultural <i>paint the catchment</i> initiative where traditional elders from all groups collaborate on a major symbolic project that accommodates a touring exhibition of the Martuwarra painting				
Gain sufficient funding to engage a part-time Executive Officer and ensure effective administration, coordination and funds to enable continued consultations throughout the catchment				
Meet all legal compliance requirements including annual reports, audited financials etc.				
 Indicates activity scheduled				






























ACTION 3.0: (A) FORM PARTNERSHIPS & STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Strategically position the Martuwarra Council as a model for engaging in high level research and sustainable capacity building.		☀	☀	☀
Develop and communicate an annual prospectus – a statement of R&D and program partnership priorities.	☀	☀	☀	☀
Develop and adopt agreed principles for Research & Development and program partnerships that codify respect for Indigenous knowledge.		☀		
Seek business, government and investor support to develop and implement partnership programs focused on integrated approaches to natural and cultural heritage conservation		☀	☀	☀
Seek investments in land and biodiversity conservation and assessment programs that achieve catchment, heritage conservation and health outcomes		☀	☀	☀
Annual show case (or webinar) of partnership programs		☀	☀	☀
Investigate feasibility, merits and options for forming a philanthropic and NGO partners' roundtable		☀	☀	
Review and report annually on partnerships programs. Show case partnership achievements on the Martuwarra Council website	☀	☀	☀	☀
☀ Indicates activity scheduled				










ACTION 3.0: (B) STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Develop Martuwarra Council policy, protocols (internal and external), based on identified Plan priorities by engaging with community networks, partnerships and experts.				
Build awareness of cultural rights to water through communications that reinforce an Aboriginal spiritual and natural values governance model.				
Design and implement a strict permissions oriented <i>Production, Publication and Internet Communications</i> protocol, mediated by the Chair of the Martuwarra Council and operationally enforced by the Communications Strategist.				
Establish, articulate and apply a <i>Cultural Rights Charter</i> , conducting workshops to develop guidelines for Copyright, Intellectual Property and Attribution based on Free Prior and Informed Consent.				
Connect with key Stakeholders using the Philanthropic Prospectus or Communications Brief, adhering to standardised Council web and print protocols ie. synchronous (phone/web conference) & asynchronous (emails/documents) communications.				
Identify and engage target audiences through digital media and creative works (newsletter, website, social media services) showcasing stories from Community Storytellers, Researchers, Scientists, Cultural Leaders.				
Adjust email campaigns, promotions and procedures according to analysis of website statistics, surveys, focus groups and feedback gathered as documentary (film) data.				
Conduct regular Webinars and Podcasts with national and international target audiences (scientists, educators, NGOs, researchers, legal professionals) in addition to popular press.				
Host regular Think Tanks, Workshops and context specific Symposiums involving local, state, national and international guests.				
 Indicates activity scheduled				












ACTION 3.0: (C) DATA MANAGEMENT

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Consult with leading data management and information workflow experts to inform the development and implementation of the Martuwarra Council Data Management Policy.				
Develop strategic communications (internal and external contacts) with intelligence drawn from a centralised Client Relationship Management (CRM) database.				
Design and develop the Martuwarra Council Cultural Database (CMS) informed from case studies and detailed scenarios of data management.				
Select and maintain a Reference Management System (RMS) to ensure quality of information formatting and to maintain consistent citation standards across publications.				
Develop policy, which guides continued assessment and informs regulation and retention of data created by Contractors ie. Copyright, Intellectual Property, data reuse and standards of service delivery.				
Enforce secure administration and confidentiality of information for Martuwarra Council services ie. Website, Domains, Software Licences & Social Media				
Conduct Digital Stewardship workshops with Community Storytellers and Community Researchers, facilitating up-skilling through cultural rights mentorship, peer-review of digital creations and				
Engage key stakeholders continuously to conduct an assessment of data sciences and services (Zenodo, Figshare) which best leverage data awareness and citation of existing Martuwarra Council data.				
 Indicates activity scheduled				











ACTION 4.0: FORMALISE RECOGNITION THAT THE MARTUWARRA'S FLOWS ARE INTRINSIC TO TRADITIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL USE AND VALUES

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Seek agreement with WA government on a moratorium on issuing extractive water licences for at least five years				
Continue to document the ways in which traditional and customary connections and uses of water (and their ecological and social co-production are central in conserving and managing cultural-natural values)				
Develop, and test proposals for formal recognition that the Martuwarra's flows are intrinsic to traditional and environmental uses and values				
Draft and gazette legislation to ensure protection of flows against extractions				
Document and report on case studies and legal reviews				
 Indicates activity scheduled				











ACTION 5.0: CREATE RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Formal delineation of preferred buffer zone and its rationale				
Seek endorsement and support from external parties				
Seek funds to investigate and trial conservation-centric land management practices (e.g. cattle exclusion areas for priority floodplain wetlands)				
Martuwarra Council proposes WA legislation giving effect to the buffer zone proposal				
Martuwarra Council seeks resources to develop and implement a management plan and management actions for the buffer zone				
Review of buffer zone implementation				
 Indicates activity scheduled				














ACTION 6.0: PREPARE AND ENFORCE GUIDELINES FOR STRENGTHENING HERITAGE PROTECTIONS

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Develop draft heritage conservation guidelines				
Develop, and test consultation protocols				
Widely communicate guidelines and protocols				
Implement and evaluate guidelines and protocols				
Review and report on guideline use and effectiveness				
 <i>Indicates activity scheduled</i>				












ACTION 7.0: DEVELOP MEASURES OF SUCCESS ON MARTUWARRA COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Finalise the Plan				
Develop an evaluation strategy for the effectiveness of the Plan				
Apply and refine evaluation metrics and performance measures				
Report annually on progress and adjust action plan as required				
Evaluate Plan and its performance				
Prepare revised Plan				
 <i>Indicates activity scheduled</i>				

**ACTION 8.0: DESIGN AND ESTABLISH EQUITABLE MODELS OF
CO-GOVERNANCE & ESTABLISH A CATCHMENT AUTHORITY COMPLEMENTED
BY AN INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA**

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Seek philanthropic support to undertake legal research into preferred options for designing and establishing a co-governance model for the Martuwarra				
Propose initial governance model for consultation				
Invite the WA state, local and Commonwealth governments to partner in the co-governance model				
Develop and promote proposals for a gazettal of an Indigenous Protected Area				
In conjunction with Governments develop model legislation				
Review and refine governance model(s) based on feedback and feasibility				
Establish new co-governance entity - the Fitzroy Martuwarra Fitzroy River catchment authority - a statutory body based on principles of co-governance and giving primacy to Indigenous knowledge, law and practice across the whole of the Martuwarra River catchment including the King Sound				
 <i>Indicates activity scheduled</i>				

ACTION 9.0: A TRANSFORMATIVE VISION FOR CONSERVATION AND CULTURAL ECONOMIES & RESEARCH TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE REGENERATIVE ECONOMIES

Indicative Program Outline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Develop an annual statement of policy and economic research needed to realise the Martuwarra Council vision of sustainable, restorative and regenerative development				
Seek financial resources and professional support to undertake economic development research into preferred futures for the Martuwarra				
Articulate and test concepts (quantitative and qualitative assessments) of alternative cultural and conservation economy models, which aim to sustain the culture and ecosystem values and provides improved livelihood outcomes for Aboriginal people.				
Quantify and communicate employment, education and health outcomes				
Develop and implement training and education models suited to remote communities				
Investigate and undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of the Martuwarra Institute as an education, research and training provider				
 Indicates activity scheduled				



Martuwarra, Fitzroy River
Liveringa, Western Australia
Photo: Magali McDuffie