



## Goal 4 Safeguarding cultural heritage on protected areas

Protect and present the cultural heritage in protected areas and forests.

### Why is this important?

All landscapes have natural and cultural values. Cultural heritage is the value people have given to items, places and whole landscapes and seascapes through their associations with them. Cultural heritage includes cultural practices, knowledge, songs, music, stories, beliefs, art, buildings, paths, landforms, landscapes, shipwrecks, places and objects. The management of natural landscapes and cultural heritage is therefore inextricably interwoven.

Protected areas play a particularly important role in protecting cultural values and the natural landscapes that embody them. QPWS has a legislative responsibility to protect and present this cultural heritage under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. QPWS work is also informed by the Queensland Heritage Strategy which recognises that retaining and conserving heritage places plays an important part in protecting the environment.

Indigenous cultural values are tightly connected with land and sea country. Culturally responsive protected area management will make a significant contribution to Indigenous cultural continuity, care for country and community health.

Queensland's protected areas also tell the story of a rich, shared, multi-cultural history; from the early European settlers whose farm houses and history remain, the goldfields where people from all nations toiled for instant wealth, to the thought provoking Teerk Roo Ra (Peel Island) lazaret.

Parts of Queensland's protected areas system are cultural heritage items in themselves, testament to a new social ethic of conservation and protection in the early 1900s and more lately in areas of World Heritage value like Fraser Island and the Daintree rainforest.

Cultural heritage on protected areas can make a substantial contribution to the cultural, social and economic health of communities. These benefits arise when a homestead is revitalised for heritage tourism, or when Traditional Owners and QPWS work together to interpret and present an art site for visitors.

Adaptive re-use of places on protected areas (the process of adapting old structures for new purposes) allows old structures to live and breathe again. It can provide new and different solutions to assist in the preservation of Queensland's culture and history.

▲ The Currawinya woolshed in Currawinya National Park.

▶ Rock art at Carnarvon Gorge National Park.



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## What is our approach?

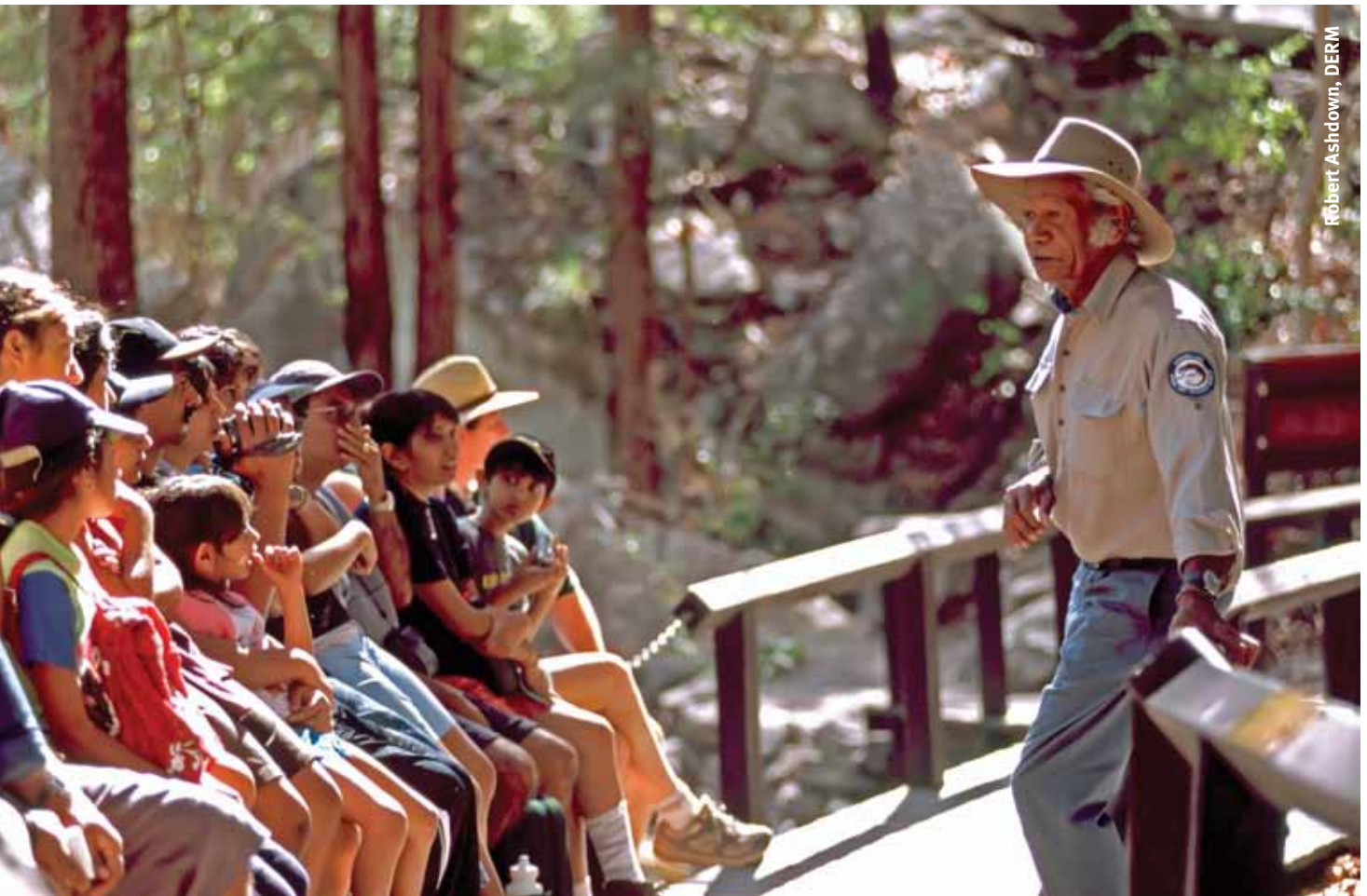
Cultural heritage values of protected areas and forests will be recognised, protected and presented. Facilitating community connection to and involvement with cultural heritage—understanding who we are and how we came to be—is an essential part of QPWS business.

Queensland’s protected areas and wildlife will continue to provide cultural enrichment for the community. Adaptive re-use and heritage tourism on protected area estate will become a cornerstone of sustainable cultural heritage management. QPWS will:

- work towards pro-active, focused, long-term conservation and management outcomes for cultural heritage.
- recognise, protect and respect places of local, state, national and international significance and the connectivity that the area may have with other places in the landscape.
- manage cultural heritage places and landscapes within an existing and changing legislative framework.
- manage cultural heritage places and landscapes as dynamic locations with opportunities for cultural tourism, recreation, education, commercial activities and community involvement.
- recognise the right of Traditional Owners to conserve and manage their heritage, to protect their privacy, and to present or constrain the presentation of cultural heritage and restricted information.
- manage cultural heritage places and landscapes for long-term conservation and selected re-use outcomes that are appropriate to the place and landscape.
- encourage greater awareness of social values and community involvement in the management of cultural heritage places.
- manage a selected range of representative or unique cultural heritage places and landscapes.



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## What we will do: priorities for 2020

### 4.1 Identify, protect and present cultural values.

- a) Develop guidelines for identifying, assessing, conserving and presenting cultural heritage on protected areas.
- b) Identify the relative significance of cultural heritage values through inventory and assessment to determine conservation and protection priorities.
- c) Include assessment of cultural heritage values, goals and threats in park folios and revise this assessment as appropriate every five years. Include this information in management planning and operational plans.
- d) Monitor the key cultural values defined in park folios, with an emphasis on protected areas with iconic and very high cultural heritage values. Establish regular programs for monitoring of cultural heritage places where necessary to detect any deterioration in the condition of values.
- e) Identify sites with potential for adaptive re-use. Support the development of these sites to enhance the conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage while providing heritage tourism experiences and economic opportunities to communities.

### 4.2 Conserve cultural heritage and aim to 'do no harm' to cultural values.

- a) Train all relevant staff in cross-cultural awareness, awareness of cultural values, and recognition of potentially significant sites and objects.
- b) Develop and implement a standard procedure for cultural heritage impact assessments to be carried out before any development works are initiated. This will be at a level relevant to the scale of the operation. Use the cultural heritage register and database prior to commencing works that may interfere with cultural heritage.
- c) Ensure relevant legislation is adhered to for maintenance standards of heritage registered infrastructure.

### 4.3 Respect living Indigenous culture.

- a) As per the duty of care guidelines established in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, consult and negotiate with Traditional Owners in relation to protected area management action which may affect their cultural heritage.
- b) Seek appropriate Traditional Owner involvement in protected area management.
- c) Manage cultural heritage information sensitively, involving Traditional Owners and other interest groups in the process.
- d) Respect Traditional Owner wishes and aspirations regarding cultural tourism including closing or restricting access to sensitive sites.
- e) Encourage Traditional Owners to assess and record Indigenous cultural values on new protected areas.

#### Target

- By 2020, 100 per cent of priority cultural heritage sites on protected areas have a cultural heritage statement, site management plan or are addressed in a park management plan.

### 4.4 Encourage visitors to respect culture on protected areas.

- a) Work with Indigenous people and acknowledge Traditional Owner connections to country when planning, preparing and delivering cultural interpretation.
- b) Include Indigenous language wherever possible when presenting Indigenous culture. Wherever possible recognise dual naming protocols with Traditional Owners for protected areas.
- c) Present historic heritage values through interpretation and information services. Consult with heritage experts and the local community when developing historic interpretation.
- d) Record oral histories of protected areas especially in relation to prior use and management. Consider presenting this information through park folios or other means.

▼ Old buildings from Queensland's first penal settlement on St Helena Island in Moreton Bay.

