



Kwinana Community Climate Action Plan

August 2026



Kaarta Gar-up, Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar



Authors

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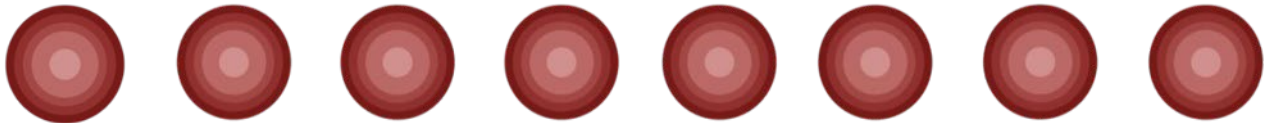


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Dedication to the Kwinana community

This document is dedicated to the Aboriginal families living in and around Kwinana Country. It is informed by the stories of climate change over many years through the eyes of local Nyoongar people living on Whadjak Boodja bordered with Binjareb Country.



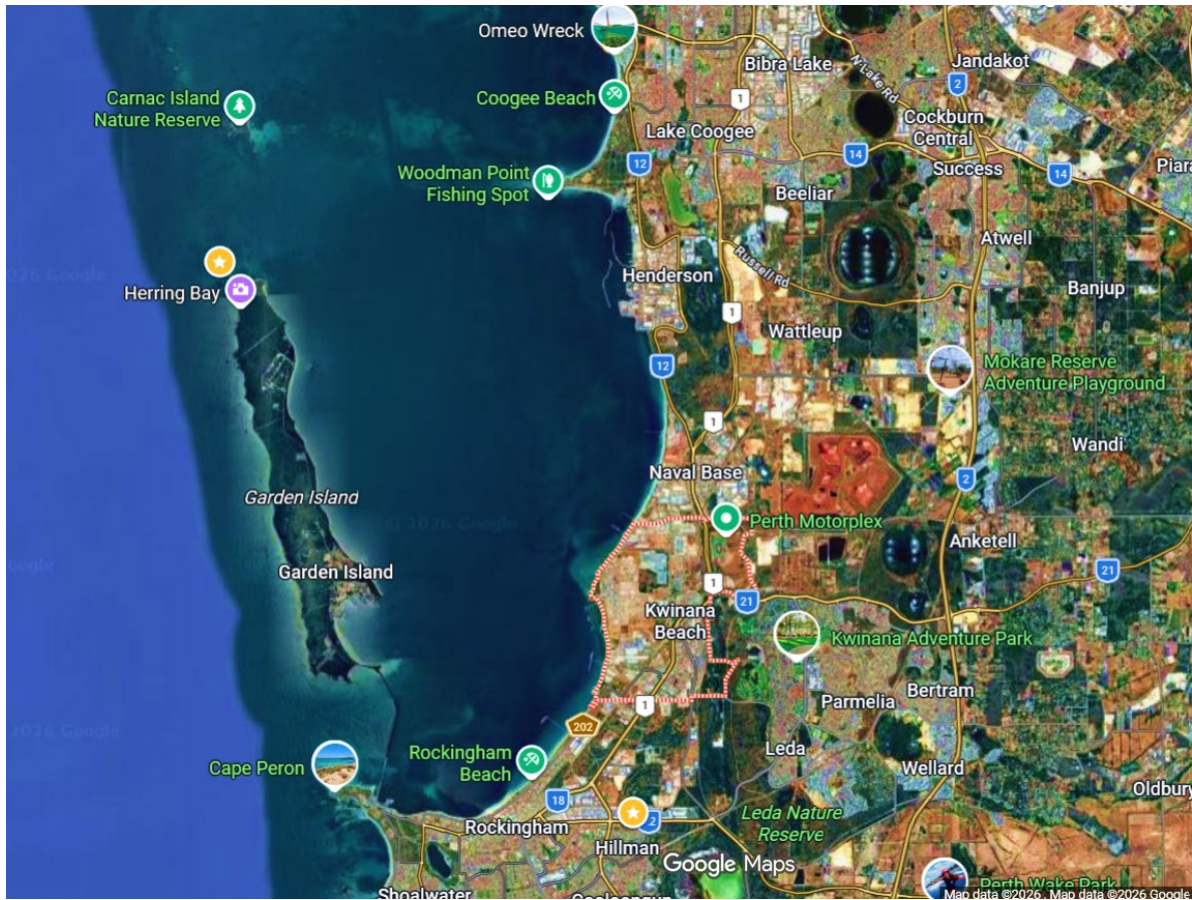
The Healing Country project is funded by the Australian Research Council (#IN220100084) and NSW Health.

All community resources and more information on the Healing Country Project is available online at:
www.healing-country.com.au

Acknowledgement of People and Country

This community resource has been developed through the heart of the WA Cultural Expert Group for the Healing Country Project.





Map showing Kwinana Area

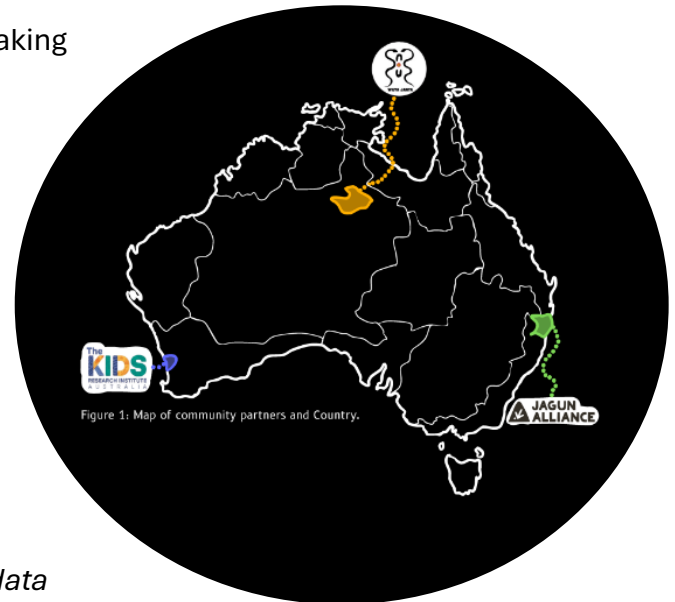
The Healing Country Project

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have cared for Country over millennia. Knowledges and caring practices have been impacted by colonisation and now further by our changing climate.

Healing Country is a community-led research project taking place across 3 diverse Aboriginal communities – Warumungu in NT, Bundjalung in NSW and Whadjuk Noongar in WA – and aims to weave together local Knowledges with environmental and health data to help community's develop solutions and advocate for climate actions.

This action plan is a way community members of Kwinana in WA want to share their cultural knowledge, history and changes to Country to all Kwinana residents.

This resource is complementary to the projects *Story-data Maps* website & the *Kwinana Community Booklet – Yarning through the Years*.



Developing our Aboriginal Community-led Climate Action Plan

Engagement with community members and community organisations took place early in the project, from 2022, to develop relationships amongst researchers and community members. Following staff recruitment, the project's Aboriginal governance group was established through existing connections of lead researchers, Aunty Lynette Dimer and Prof Brad Farrant. The Healing Country WA Cultural Experts Group (CEG) is made up of community Elders with lived experience and interest in community health, wellbeing and the health of Country.

After the formation of this group, key stakeholder organisations as well as community Knowledge Holders and Elders were identified as potential participants. This participant recruitment was guided by the Cultural Expert Group and started with community consultations led by Aunty Lynette Dimer and supported by Jacob West and Jack Collard, who then undertook qualitative data collection through Indigenous yarning methods. Over 20 participant yarns were conducted. Collective data analysis was undertaken through four iterative rounds using the Indigenous Storywork approach. Between these rounds, interim findings were provided to the CEG to provide guidance and input on the analysis. Overall findings were then translated into an arts-informed design through engagement of local Aboriginal artist, Erika Fernendaz.

This climate action plan has been developed out of the solutions identified by the community from these yarns about local climate challenges and ideas of how we can make things better.

This is a community resource - *for our mob, by our mob*.

The purpose of this plan is to seek support and partnerships with community stakeholders to work together on these climate adaptations and advocate for change to help our community and our Country.



The climate challenges and solutions identified by community through the Healing Country yarns



Spirituality through Yarning - Our Stories for Healing kin, community and Country

As told by Aunty Lyn Dimer - Yamatji

This artwork shares the key themes that have impacted the Noongar community of Kwinana through their storytelling of local changes to climate.

The outer red circle designs show the negative impacts on our people and Country, and what that means to us as Aboriginal people.

As we move into the centre of the circle, we can see that there is healing that needs to occur and the purple designs show how can we move towards healing. This is through the reconnection of family and kin to land and culture, and environment. In having the healing and reconnection, it enables Elders from our communities to actually provide better cultural teaching and cultural ways.

The inner white designs show the way we can work towards engaging our community better to return to culture, reconnection and healing with our mob. To look after each other and care for our land and Country, so that we maintain our bush foods and medicines to help us on our journey of healing and reconnection.



Principles for our Kwinana Community Climate Actions

From our yarns, we have come up with these principles – these are the important aspects that any of the community actions need to address.

All community climate actions need to:



Empower community leadership – returning to cultural ways and leading our own change



Support community coming together through a shared vision of the future



Teach young ones cultural ways



Respect community Elders and Knowledge Holders



Have **health of Country** at its centre



Use old ways of knowing, being and doing – reigniting culture, language and practice



Advocate for real change for our local community and Country

Proposed Climate Actions for the Kwinana Community



- **On Country trips** – include intergenerational knowledge sharing, teaching young ones culture and cultural practices, reconnecting community to Country, language and our Old People's ways. These activities will need money and people's time to organise, so requires resourcing and time to plan. We can learn from what others are already doing, such as the women's camps that Aunty Lynn is running locally and cultural camps with young men run by Uncle Noel.
- Reconnecting mob together through:
 - **Family fun days** with free activities for kids, music, dance and plenty of food. This will allow for everyone to come together, connect with family, and have fun – for example holding an annual event at Apex park.
 - **Family reconnecting support** - Linking those who are looking for their family, to services that support members of the stolen generation. Will help mob to learn who they are, where they belong, and reconnect to family, community and culture.
- **Engagement with primary and/or high schools to learn more about Aboriginal culture** through:
 - Incursions at school grounds with local Elders sharing knowledge about culture and old ways through learning activities with school kids, for example about the 6 Noongar seasons. Aimed at helping young ones connect and be proud of their past and their culture, and help local non-

Indigenous kids learn about the area's history and value of Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing.

- Excursions to local places of natural interest, to give the opportunity for school kids to learn from Elders about their culture and to practice cultural activities such as gathering bush foods, hunting, fishing, cooking, learning stories and dances, for example having visits to the Spectacles with Kwinana Elders.



Improve the financial literacy of young people, either at high schools or in a community setting, to help develop life skills to become financially independent young adults.



Develop clear messages for community on how to keep safe when air quality is poor, such as during bushfires, high pollen or dust levels, making sure people with poor health know how best to keep themselves safe.

