



# Effective engagement with indigenous communities for Coastal Country

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**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL**

**NSW GOVERNMENT** **Planning & Environment**

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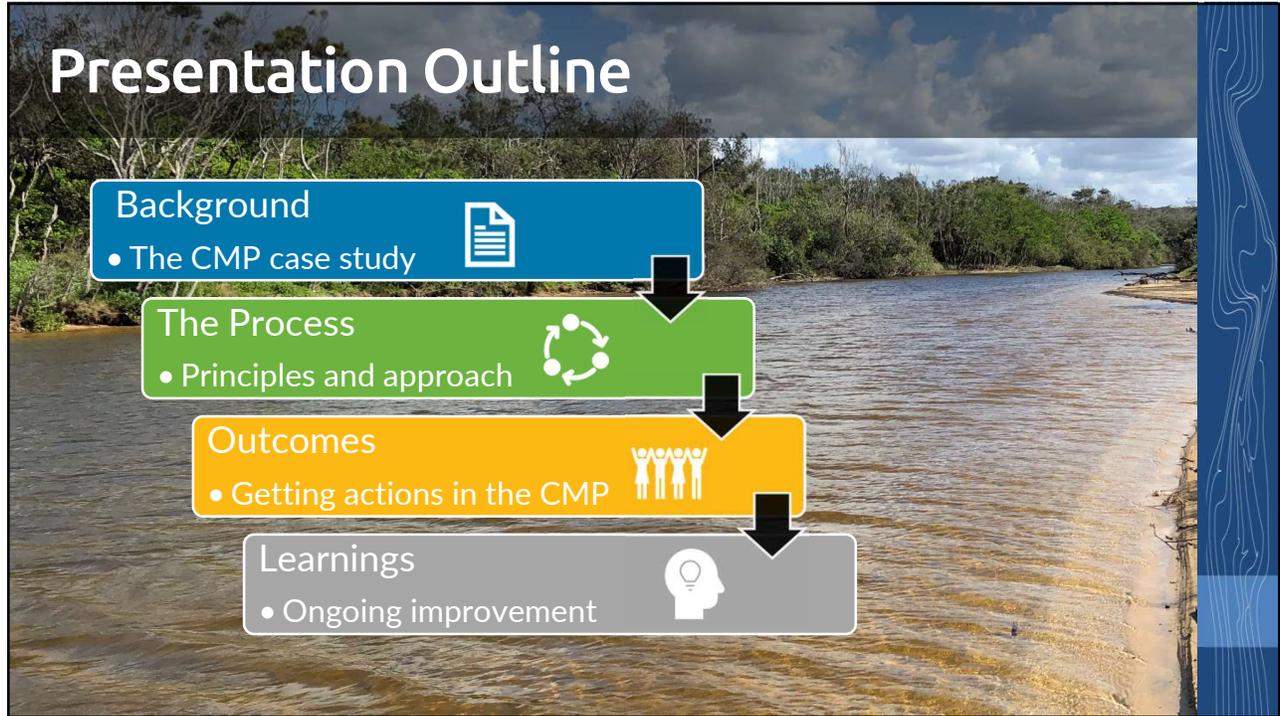


# Acknowledgement of Country

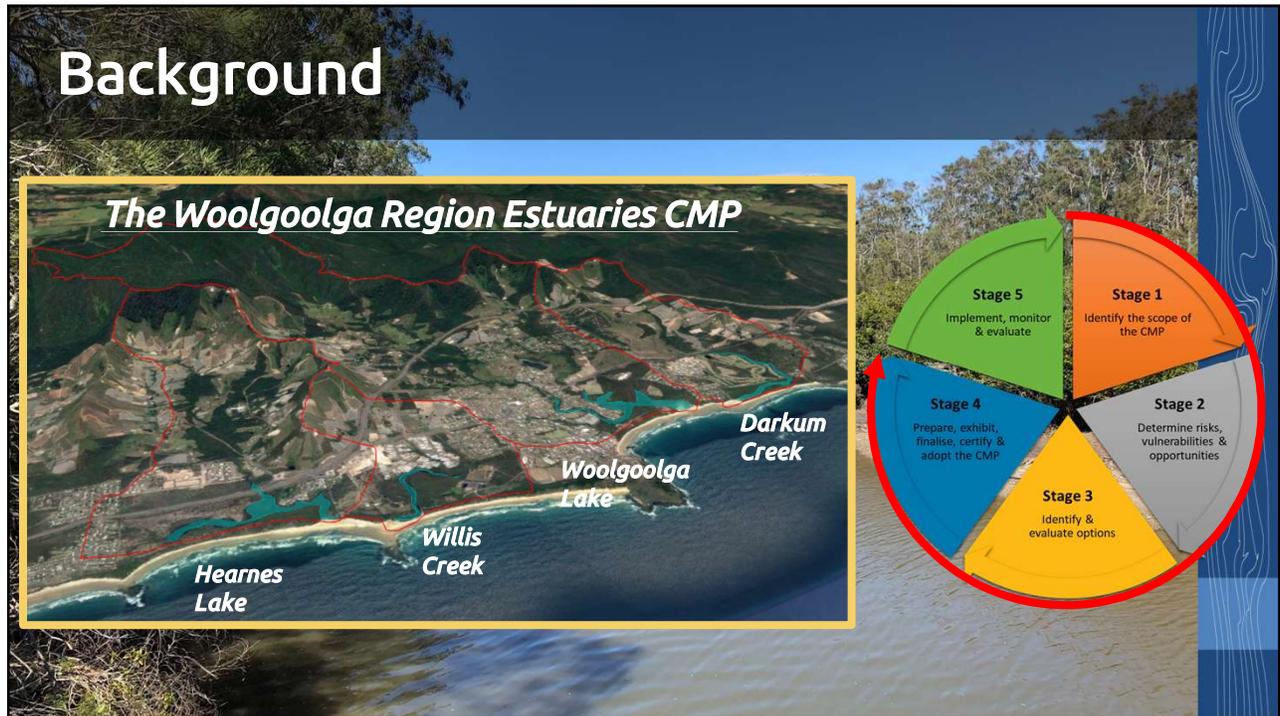
*In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.*

*We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.*

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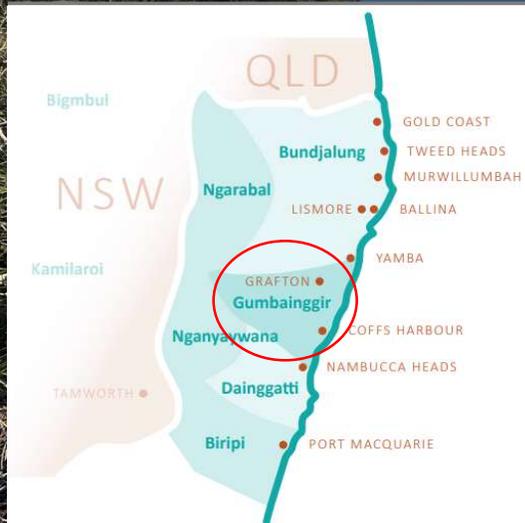


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## The Traditional Owners



Proudly a part of the  
Gumbaynggirr Nation



**Tribal Group:**  
The Garby Elders

Image source: Yandaarra: Shifting Camp Together: A guide for Aboriginal cultural awareness & engagement

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## The process – Principles of engagement

- The How and Where: The importance of face to face
- Learn about Country
- Scope indigenous groups – talk to all
- Respect and expectation setting
- Close the loop!

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# The process – Stages 1 and 2



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# The process – Stages 3



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# The process – Stages 4



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# Outcomes... some numbers

The infographic displays three key outcomes in colored boxes:

- 18** • Actions in total in the Woolgoolga Region Estuaries CMP
- 6** • Of these Actions were developed in collaboration with the LALC and the Garby Elders
- 100%** • Support for actions in the CMP from LALC and Garby Elders

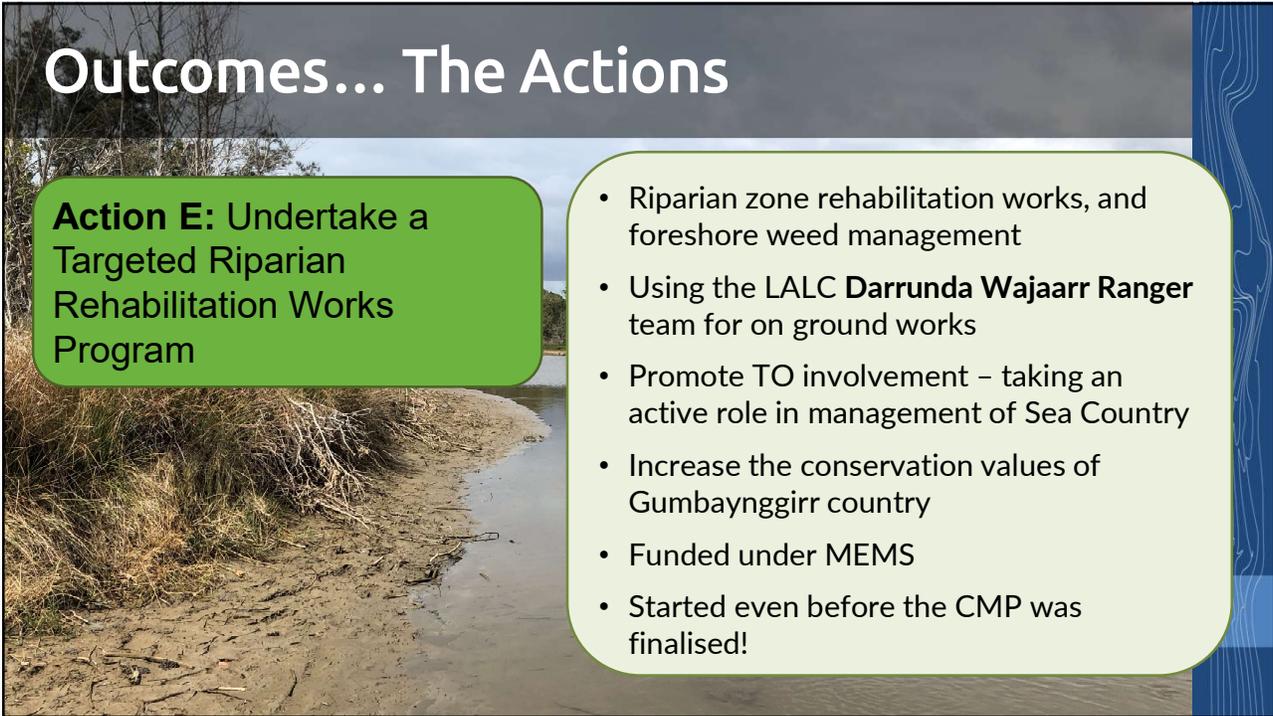
A callout box on the right states: **These actions align with Initiative #4 of the MEMS:** *“Working with Aboriginal communities in the management of Sea Country to reduce threats and risks to Aboriginal cultural heritage”*

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# Outcomes... The Actions

**Action E:** Undertake a Targeted Riparian Rehabilitation Works Program

- Riparian zone rehabilitation works, and foreshore weed management
- Using the LALC **Darrunda Wajaarr Ranger** team for on ground works
- Promote TO involvement – taking an active role in management of Sea Country
- Increase the conservation values of Gumbaynggirr country
- Funded under MEMS
- Started even before the CMP was finalised!



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# Outcomes... The Actions

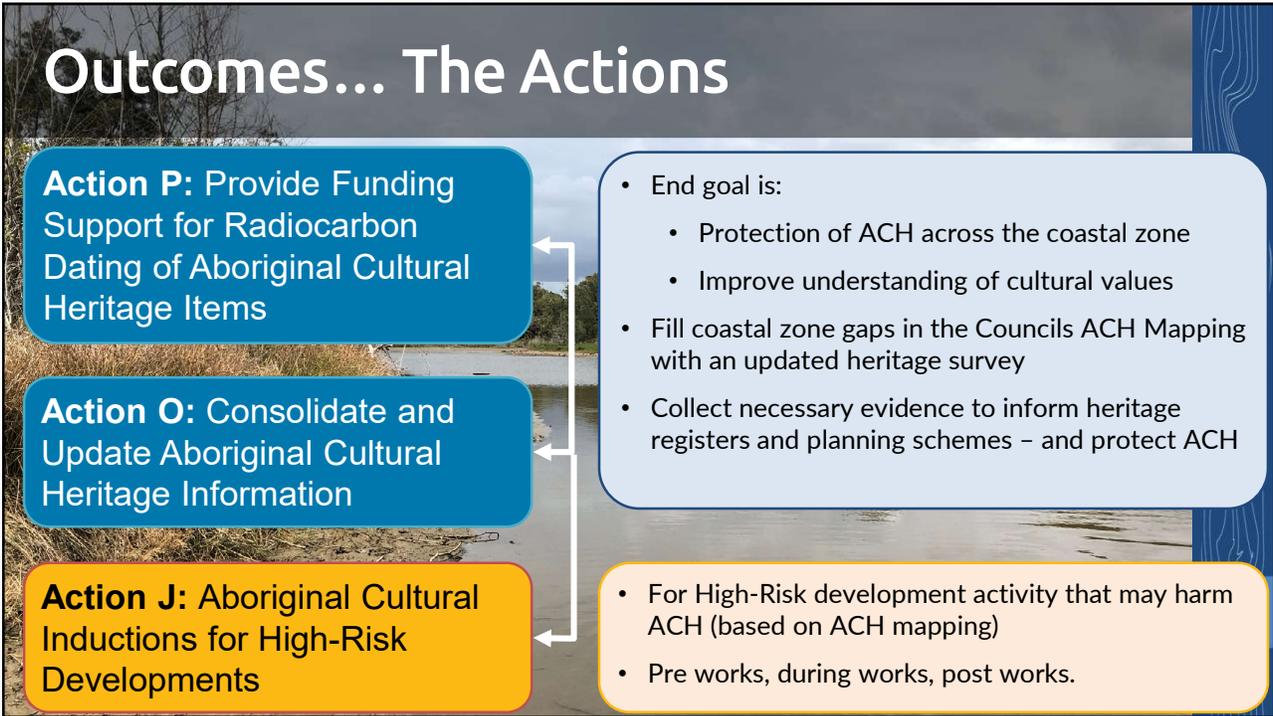
**Action P:** Provide Funding Support for Radiocarbon Dating of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Items

**Action O:** Consolidate and Update Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information

**Action J:** Aboriginal Cultural Inductions for High-Risk Developments

- End goal is:
  - Protection of ACH across the coastal zone
  - Improve understanding of cultural values
- Fill coastal zone gaps in the Councils ACH Mapping with an updated heritage survey
- Collect necessary evidence to inform heritage registers and planning schemes – and protect ACH

- For High-Risk development activity that may harm ACH (based on ACH mapping)
- Pre works, during works, post works.



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## Outcomes... The Actions

### Action I: Greater Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- Working with traditional owners to identify culturally appropriate ways to better acknowledge the ACH of the study area
- Improved signage, community education and community information
- Improve understanding amongst locals and visitors

### Action R: Dual Naming of Willis Creek to a Name of Local Significance to the Gumbaynggirr People

DPI Fisheries to lead this Action in partnership with TOs

- Acknowledges the significance of Aboriginal culture and represents a meaningful contribution to the process of reconciliation
- This action is consistent with the Draft NSW Mainland Marine Park Mgmt Plan 2021-2031
  - *Action 4.2c Work with Traditional Owners to identify traditional Aboriginal names for each marine park and include local Aboriginal language in marine park education material*

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## Key Learnings...

- Work hard to establish a connection
- Make an effort to understand the local dynamics
- The power of listening
- Great opportunities to link with other plans – such as the MEMS, and Marine Park Network MP

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# Acknowledgements



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- Coast & Environment Officer



**Coffs Harbour & District LALC**

- Matt Smith
- Programs Coordinator

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## Questions



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