



piyura kitina

Management Plan

2020



*Tasmanian
Aboriginal Centre
Land Management
Program*

“Risdon Cove (piyura kitina) is our land. The secrets it holds and the spirits of our dead are our heritage and a message to white Tasmania that your two hundred years of history is like yesterday to us.”



piyura kitina

(pee yu rah) (kee tee nah)

Meaning: “little native hen’, which are numerous there.

Name chosen at the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Annual General Meeting, 2015.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 History – How we got to here

Prior to invasion, the Mumirimina people of the Great Oyster Bay nation had rights and responsibilities for the management and use of the country that encompasses piyura kitina, according to the lore of that country and its people. This included all the social and cultural interactions within the Mumirimina and between other Tribes, how and when resources were harvested and used, and how trade and social structures were established and maintained. Some of the riches in resources that the Mumirimina were responsible for included the abundant shellfish of the Pittwater-Coal River and the kangaroo grounds along the eastern shores of the Derwent.

The atrocities that were inflicted upon the Mumirimina in 1804 by British invaders are important to remember, and is a pivotal moment in history, involving the murder of many Mumirimina and the theft of their country and associated rights and responsibilities. This plan however will focus on the future, and recent achievements since the reclamation of piyura kitina by the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. Through remarkable determination, and a campaign of direct action and political pressure in the 1980's and 1990's the title to piyura kitina was returned to the Aboriginal community through the Aboriginal Lands Act 1995. The Aboriginal community have continued a process of reasserting their sovereign rights to their country through active management and the revitalisation of community and cultural activities at piyura kitina.

piyura kitina is now a central place of gathering, celebration, education and cultural revival for the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, and the importance of its reclamation and management by the Aboriginal community cannot be understated.



1.2 Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this plan is to provide direction for the Land Management Program to achieve goals for *piyura kitina* determined by the Aboriginal community that also align with management principles required to manage Indigenous Protected Areas (IUCN Category V). This plan will outline strategies to ensure progress towards goals, and show how this progress will be measured and communicated.

This plan is a living document, and intends to be used as a communication tool, so Aboriginal people in Tasmania can contribute ideas to the vision and objectives of managing *piyura kitina*, which is so important to Aboriginal people, and Aboriginal culture and wellbeing in Tasmania.

1.3 Visions, goals, strategies and actions

Visions: The Aboriginal community's connection with piyura kitina is strengthened; The land and sea and their ecosystems are healthy; The significance of piyura kitina as a gathering and educational place for the Aboriginal community is maintained and enhanced.

Goal 1: Cultural heritage sites are protected.

Goal 2: Community's access to and use of piyura kitina for gatherings and education is increased.

Goal 3: Populations of plants and animals that are important to piyura kitina's health are maintained or improved.

Goal 4: The impact of weeds and pests is reduced through active management.

Strategy 1:

Develop, review and implement cultural site management plans for piyura kitina.

Strategy 2:

Encourage and support increased community utilisation of piyura kitina.

Strategy 3:

Develop appropriate infrastructure to improve and support the community's access to and use of piyura kitina.

Strategy 4:

Monitor the populations of key species at piyura kitina.

Strategy 5:

Active weed and pest management, habitat restoration and revegetation activities at piyura kitina.

Actions

Continue the implementation of the pigura kitina Aboriginal site management plan.

Monitor site condition and review the plan annually.

Develop cultural site planning and management tools such as Fulcrum and the cultural database.

Actions

Support community meetings and events including:

Children's Centre events and activities.

NAIDOC activities.

Community meetings and educational activities.

Actions

Regular maintenance of property infrastructure and community facilities such as:

Roads.

Vehicle and walking tracks.

Bridges.

Buildings.

Actions

Use Fulcrum and the database to record observations of key flora and fauna species.

Develop fauna monitoring program.

Identify and monitor priority vegetation.

Action

Develop a weed and native vegetation action plan for pigura kitina. Continue weed eradication, feral animal control and revegetation activities as outlined in the pigura kitina action plan, and Annual Scope of Works.



2.0 The Country: People and Place

2.1 Landscape description

The Land and seas that piyura kitina is part of is the country of the Mumirimina people. The rights and responsibilities to this country are inherited by the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. piyura kitina is a part of the Meehan Range that runs alongside the eastern shore of the Derwent Estuary. Generally, the landscape is covered by open Eucalypt woodlands, amongst agricultural, rural and suburban developments.

piyura kitina consists of gently sloping hills running down to Risdon Brook. In the early 1960's the route of Risdon Brook was changed when the pump house was installed. However it still runs down into the original wetland joining the Derwent and has thick reed growth supporting numerous water birds.

Since European invasion, Aboriginal land management and burning regimes gave way to farming and agriculture, which transformed a lot of the area into paddocks for livestock, and roads and tracks were cut into the land. Weeds, pests and land degradation are results from the alteration of land management practices. This plan, the Risdon Cove (piyura kitina) Land Management Environmental Rehabilitation Plan and associated Action plans, aim to guide the restoration of the landscape to a healthy state, in keeping with how the landscape would of been prior to the theft of the land from the Mumirimina.

2.2 The community connection

Aboriginal people's association with the area that is now piyura kitina is ancient and enduring. Archaeological evidence at kotalayna (Jordan River), about 15km north of piyura kitina, demonstrates Aboriginal occupation of Mumirimina country for more than 40 000 years. This country includes lands and waters, as well as the rich cultural resources that it supported. The area that is now piyura kitina was managed by the Mumirimina with fire for the harvesting of plants, wallaby and other game, and the adjacent Derwent Estuary supported plentiful shellfish and other marine resources. Coinciding with bountiful resources is the community coming together to celebrate and share at community gatherings, and piyura kitina was one of many key gathering places for the Mumirimina.

It is more than symbolic that piyura kitina is now a key cultural gathering place for the Aboriginal community in Tasmania. It is a demonstration of a community's tireless pursuit of justice and land and cultural rights. piyura kitina is again a central location for community events and gatherings. The NAIDOC flag raising, children's concert, guided cultural education tours, community meetings, as well as training and education events are examples of the community coming together in important ways. The establishment of the Children's Centre demonstrates a commitment to continuity of Aboriginal culture in Tasmania and self-determination with the care and education of the next generation. piyura kitina is an ideal location for this breadth of community activity.

Regular engagement of the community through the Land Management crews working on-site provides continuous connection and valuable employment opportunities by working on country.



Top left. NAIDOC Flag raising.

Top right. Children's basket weaving class.

Bottom left. Pakana Ranger Billy Paton-Clark working on country.

2.3 Cultural places

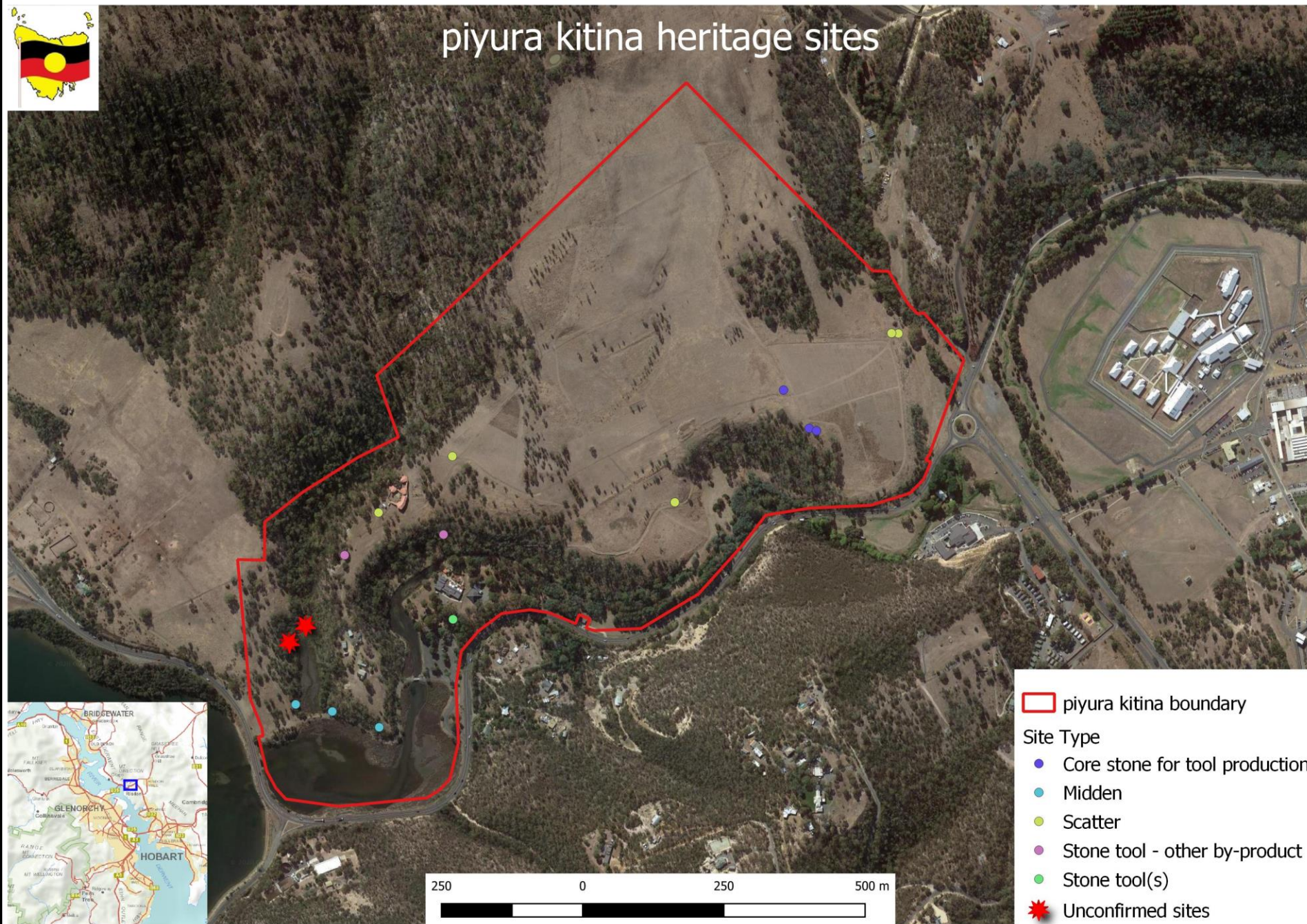
- *piyura kitina* is part of a whole cultural landscape. The numerous cultural materials within this landscape demonstrate Aboriginal peoples' connection to the land and adjacent waters. Many important heritage places are known throughout Mumirimina country. Pittwater, Orielton Lagoon, kutalyana, and the Derwent Estuary are all particularly rich Aboriginal heritage places. It is important to note, that these places are not separate, but are all interrelated and together hold many stories about how the people have interacted with their country.

The 'Risdon Cove (*piyura kitina*) Aboriginal site Condition report and catch-up/cyclical maintenance plan' (RCASCR) was developed in 2006 and outlines practical on-ground activities to best protect Aboriginal cultural materials at *piyura kitina*. The Risdon Cove (*piyura kitina*) Aboriginal Site Condition and Cyclical Maintenance Reports of 2012 and 2014 describes the implementation of this plan, the condition of recorded sites and updates the information and data provided in the 2006 plan. The following map shows heritage materials and sites at *piyura kitina*.





piyura kitina heritage sites



2.4 Cultural resources and their use

Cultural Landscape

piyura kitina was an area that held valuable resources to the Mumirimina. The current property is situated on a diverse combination of landforms which had importance to the subsistence and culture of the Mumirimina. The various landforms had particular assets that are of interest:

Grasslands/Grassy woodlands: what is now exotic pasture over much of the property would previously have been native grass or woodland, some of the soils on piyura kitina are quite rich and would have supported prolific growth of a range of edible plant species found in grassland communities, we know that these areas were important for hunting and gathering and many of the former food plants are now rare or absent from the property. The mammals at piyura kitina have been able to make adaptation to the introduced pasture that now prevails and traditional foods such as Wallaby, Pademelon, Bandicoots, Possums and other mammals still remain. Some small areas still contain native grass and grassland species where farming was less intensive. These areas are important for restoration of cultural and natural values.

Wetlands and Waterways: Wetlands at piyura kitina are focal areas for animals to gather, shelter, breed, and feed. These animals would have been a valuable food source for the old people, many birds are still observed within the wetlands which would have been utilised as food as well as the rushes and associated wetland plant species for food and fibre. The waterways at piyura kitina have been altered since invasion and the flows restricted due to upstream development. There are two main creek lines running through piyura kitina as well as an occasional spring. The largest creek is Risdon Brook which runs behind the pyramids out into the wetlands, this has been known to support a variety of life including Eels and fish. The state of this resource varies with the seasons but is much deteriorated due to flow restrictions and alteration of the creek line.

Stone: piyura kitina contains stone suitable for making stone tools. Silcrete stones occur which show evidence of use for stone tool making. These are important areas and are maintained within the Risdon Cove (piyura kitina) Aboriginal Site Condition and Catch-up Cyclical Maintenance Report.

Observed plant and animal species of particular cultural use at piyura kitina:

Food

Sagg grass *Lomandra longifolia*

Sea Celery *Apium Prostratum*

Wattle trees *Acacia spp*

Bulbine lily *Bulbine bulbosa*

Native Cherry *Exocarpus cupressiformis*

She Oak *Allocasuarina verticillata*

Kangaroo Apple *Solanum laciniatum*

Peach heath *Lissanthe strigosa*

Native Geranium *Geranium spp*

Bracken Fern *Pteridium esculentum*

Boobialla *Acacia sophorae*

Kanigong *Carpobrotus rossii*

Water Ribbons *Triglochin proce*

Vanilla lily

Orchids

Fibre/wood/medicine

Prickly Box *Bursaria spinosa*

Flax Lily *Dianella sp*

Eucalyptus spp

Cutting grass *Gahnia sp*

Rushes *Juncus sp*

Native Indigo *Indigofera australis*

Food

Wallaby

Pademelon

Bandicoot

Echidna

Ducks

Swans and eggs

Shell fish/fish from Derwent

2.5 Plant communities

There are at least seven different types of plant communities at piyura kitina. These are listed below. The diversity of plant communities is important to maintain and improve to ensure a range of habitat types for piyura kitina's animals and the cultural resources found here. The vegetation management actions outlined in the Risdon Cove (piyura kitina) Land Management Environmental Rehabilitation Plan provides details on activities to achieve this.

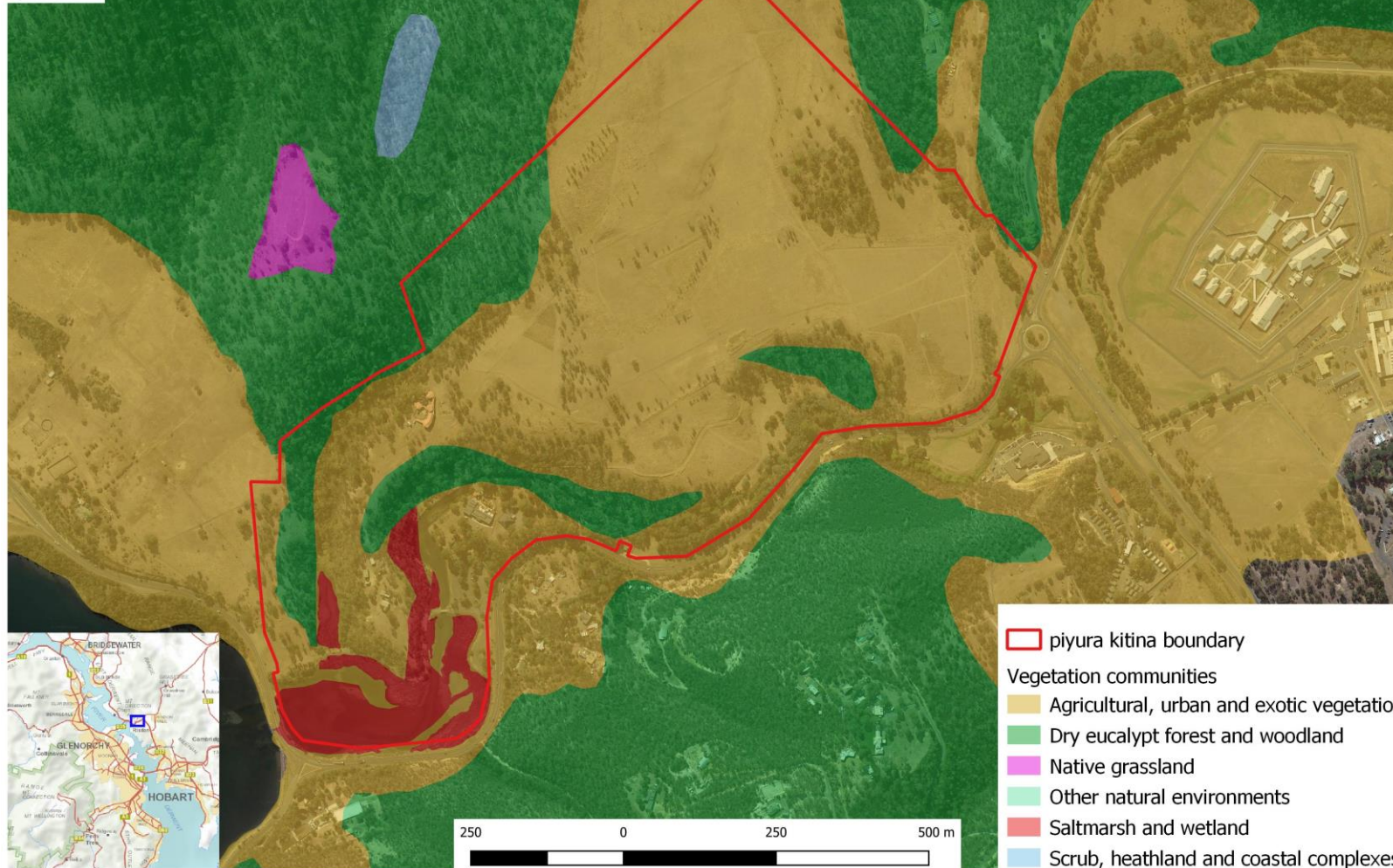
Plant communities

- Black peppermint-White gum woodland
- White gum grassland
- White gum woodland
- Blue gum grassy woodland
- She-oak woodland
- Grasslands
- Saltmarsh wetland





piyura kitina vegetation communities



2.6 Weeds

Weeds are arguably the biggest environmental management issue at piyura kitina, with infestations of woody and herbaceous weeds occurring throughout. Weeds were mapped in detail in 1996/1997 (See the Risdon Cove (piyura kitina) Land Management Environmental Rehabilitation Plan 1999), and again in 2011. Priority areas of weed control have been identified that prioritise native vegetation communities. The periwinkle action plan was developed to strategically manage this weed.

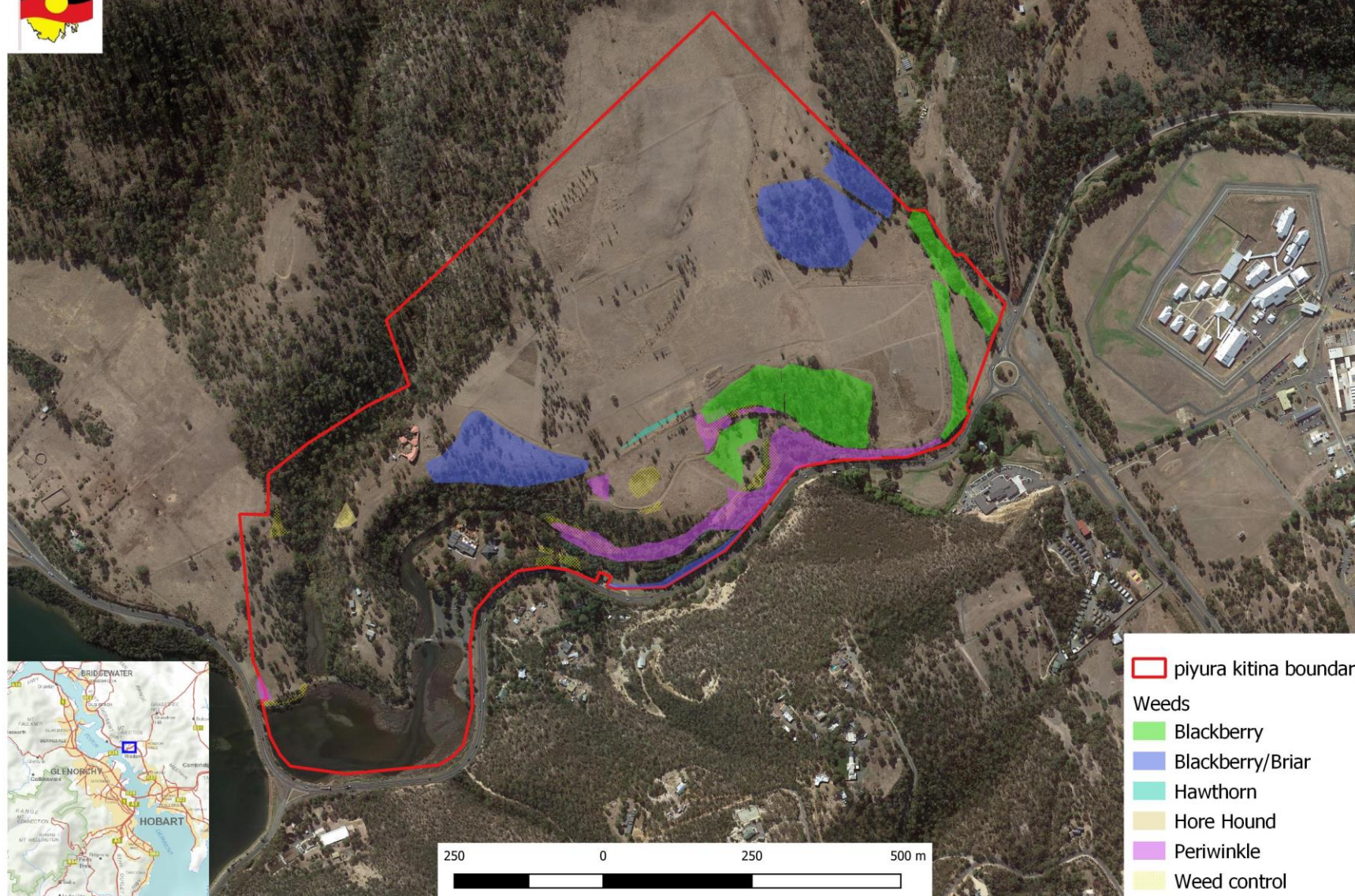
The following are key weeds targeted in current land management activities:

- Periwinkle
- Willow
- Blackberry
- Boneseed
- African boxthorn
- Hawthorn
- Gorse
- Bridal creeper
- Phalaris





piyura kitina weed management



2.7 Animals

Animals and their interactions with their habitat are important for the healthy function of ecosystems. Many animals are also important culturally for people, as a food source, or perhaps a totem, or an animal whose presence indicates what other animals or plants are in the environment. The grasslands, open woodlands and wetlands at pigura kitina provide a range of habitat types to support a diverse number of observed native animals.

Some of the animals observed include:

- Eastern-barred bandicoots
- Possums
- Bennett's wallabies
- Pademelons
- Native hens
- Native ducks
- Swans
- Blue-winged parrot
- Wedge-tailed Eagle
- White-bellied Sea Eagle
- Blue-tongued lizard
- Whip snake
- Tiger snake
- Tasmanian Devils
- Quolls



Threatened animals

Examples: Tasmanian Devils, Spotted-tailed quolls, Swift Parrots, Eastern Barred Bandicoots.

Introduced animals

Introduced pest animals can have extreme negative impacts on ecosystems they invade through preying on native animals, or out-competing native animals for food and resources. Introduced animals at piyura kitina that require management are:

- Rabbits and hares. Rabbits and hares cause erosion with their burrowing, cause damage to seedlings and young trees and compete with native mammals for food resources and habitat. The land management program has been monitoring and reducing rabbit and hare populations at piyura kitina
- Feral cats. Feral cats are a menace to small native mammals, birds and reptiles. Feral cats are being managed at piyura kitina, with a significant reduction in the feral cats being recorded since management began. A significant increase in the population of Eastern-barred bandicoots has coincided with this.



2.8 Infrastructure

piyura kitina is a hub of education and gathering for the Aboriginal community. Infrastructure at piyura kitina should therefore support this role. There have been some great achievements in the development of appropriate infrastructure, most notably the Children's Centre. There are also the pyramids that are useful for community gatherings, workshops and other activities. Access around piyura kitina is facilitated by vehicle and walking tracks managed by the Land Management Program. The 'old school' and the 'care takers cottage' up the hill to the east of the Children's Centre, is utilised for community activities, family respite and work spaces for land management, and training and education programs.



3.0 The Plan: Visions, Goals, Threats, Strategies and Actions





3.1 Visions

The visions for the management of piyura kitina have been summarised from community meetings and workshops dating back to 1998. The Visions Statement is broad and aspirational, proposing the ideal situation for piyura kitina and the Aboriginal community in the future. The visions provide the 'bigger picture' context for what activities and projects the TAC Land Management Program undertakes. The Visions Statement for piyura kitina is below.

- The Aboriginal community's connection with piyura kitina is strengthened.
- The land and sea and their ecosystems are healthy.
- The significance of piyura kitina as a gathering and educational place for the Aboriginal community is maintained and enhanced.

3.2 Goals

Goals have been identified so we can tell that we are heading in the right direction for achieving the Visions for piyura kitina.

Goal 1: Cultural heritage sites are protected.

Goal 2: Community's access to and use of piyura kitina for gatherings and education is increased.

Goal 3: Populations of plants and animals that are important to piyura kitina's health are maintained or improved.

Goal 4: The impact of weeds and pests is reduced through active management.

3.3 Strategies and Actions

The strategies describe *how* the Land Management Program will deal with the threats to piyura kitina to reach the identified goals. The actions are *what* the Land Management Program will do to manage threats and achieve goals.

Strategy 1: *Develop, review and implement cultural heritage site plans for piyura kitina.*

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 1: *Continue the implementation of the piyura kitina Aboriginal site management plan, monitoring site condition and reviewing the plan annually.*

Action 2: *Develop cultural site planning and management tools such as Fulcrum and the cultural database.*

Strategy 2: *Encourage and support increased community utilisation of piyura kitina.*

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 3: *Support community meetings and events including: Children's Centre events and activities; NAIDOC activities; Community meetings and educational activities.*

Strategy 3: Develop appropriate infrastructure to improve and support the community's access to and use of piyura kitina.

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 4: Regular maintenance of property infrastructure and community facilities such as: Roads; Vehicle and walking tracks; Bridges; and Buildings.

Strategy 4: Monitor the populations of key species and cultural resources at piyura kitina.

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 5: Use Fulcrum and the database to monitor and record observation of key flora and fauna species. Record and monitor priority vegetation, effectiveness of different planting and weed control activities.

Action 6: Record any new findings of threatened or high conservation value species.

Action 7: Ensure healthy populations of cultural resources such as fibre, medicine or tucker plants through removing weed threats or active revegetation activities.

Strategy 5: Active weed and pest management, habitat restoration and revegetation activities at piyura kitina.

The actions associated with this strategy are:

Action 8: Continue weed eradication, focusing on areas of remnant bushland, follow up of areas previously treated and strategic priority weeds (as per weed action plan).

Action 9: Continue feral cat and rabbit control.

Action 10: Continue revegetation activities.

Action 11: Undertake fire management to promote healthy and diverse vegetation communities.

3.4 Making sure of success (Monitoring and Evaluation)

For the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) and the Aboriginal community to be confident that the Land Management Program is on the right track to achieving its goals for piyura kitina, there are measurements that will be undertaken that will indicate how the Program is progressing. The Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan is used to monitor and evaluate activities at piyura kitina. The community will also be encouraged to give feedback on activities carried out at piyura kitina.