

Natural and Cultural Resource Management

&

Developing the Economic Capacity of the Laynhapuy Region.



Outline

- **‘Laynha’ and the Homelands**
- **The Laynhapuy IPA**
- **Economic Capacity**
- **A Strategic Approach**

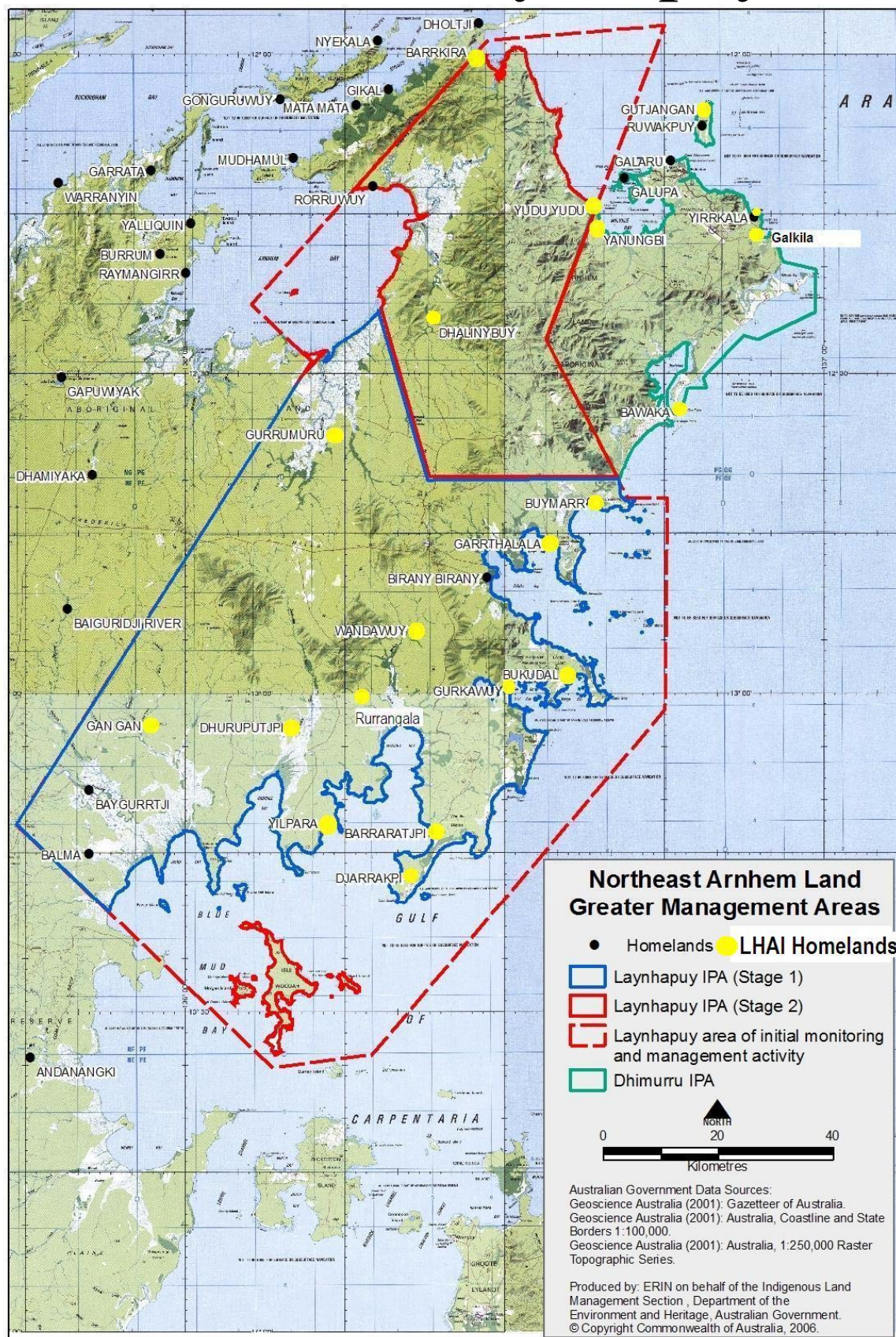
‘Laynha’ and the Homelands

Laynhapuy Homelands Association Inc.

- LHAI is a multi-function, member owned association that aims to support members in developing their homelands.
- LHAI provides miscellaneous member services from its own resources, including an airline charter business, but also delivers and manages a range of funded programs including:
 - Housing
 - Municipal services & infrastructure
 - Airstrips & access roads
 - Health services
 - Aged & Disabled care
 - CDEP
 - Land & Sea management
 - Program administration

Our membership is the Yolngu clanspeople whose land and sea estates comprise the Laynhapuy, Djalkaripuyngu and Miyarkapuyngu 'sub-regions'.

Homelands & Laynhapuy IPA



The Homelands

- Some 23 Remote Homelands over 6,500km² with populations ranging from a few up to 170.
- Population of 800-900 from some 14 clan groups
- 19 homelands serviced by LHAI but also by 2 by Marngarr/Gumatj and 2 by Gapuwiyak.
- Some 150 houses.
- Nine (9) homelands with clinics
- Six (6) with primary schools,
- One (1) with secondary school aged education centre.
- One (1) with a 'store'
- Five (5) with 'homeland offices' and internet.
- Three (3) with 'reticulated power' + 2 scheduled.
- One (1) with a 'ranger station'
- All the LHAI homelands have always been voluntarily 'dry' with respect to alcohol, but several chose to operate kava outlets.
- Very strong language, culture, and affinity to country.

Living on Country

- Yolngu of the Laynhapuy have never 'left' their country. They know their country intimately and who has rights/interests in what land, sea and resources.
- Traditional social structure, law, language, cultural practices remain strong but are now overlaid with 'western' trappings.
- For a brief period from 1935 to 1970 various families spent more or less time at the Yirrkala Mission or other settlements.
- However, for the past 37 years they have been trying to develop housing and infrastructure on their respective clan estates, and to order their communities in the ways that work from their perspective.
- They have not moved away from centres with adequate services, housing and infrastructure - they have never had full access to these and have simply lived without.

- Homelands Yolngu want to live away from the problems and temptations of Nhulunbuy and the big communities, but also be able to interact as equals with the mainstream.
- Yolngu of the homelands also want less 'dependence' on Government, but also greater control over their land, resources and own affairs.
- Homelands Yolngu want to develop their homelands physically and economically.
- Homelands Yolngu are open to genuine assistance to achieve this – from Govt., private sector and NGOs.

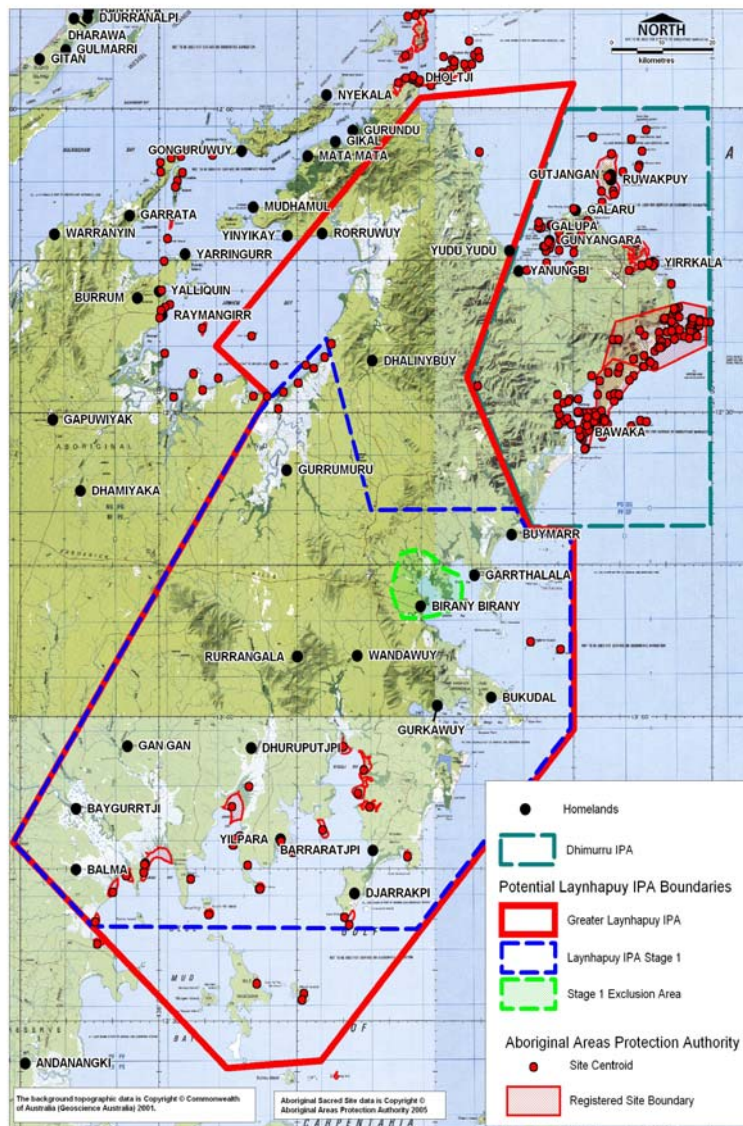
Laynhapuy IPA

- The Laynhapuy IPA process started in 2002-03.
- The IPA process has delivered direct environmental benefits and enabled other environmental funding to be sourced
- Our capacity to delivery 'on-ground' implementation is still being developed.
- The IPA is an area of significant cultural and conservation value.

Sites of Significance

There are many sites of cultural significance within the IPA both on land and in the sea.

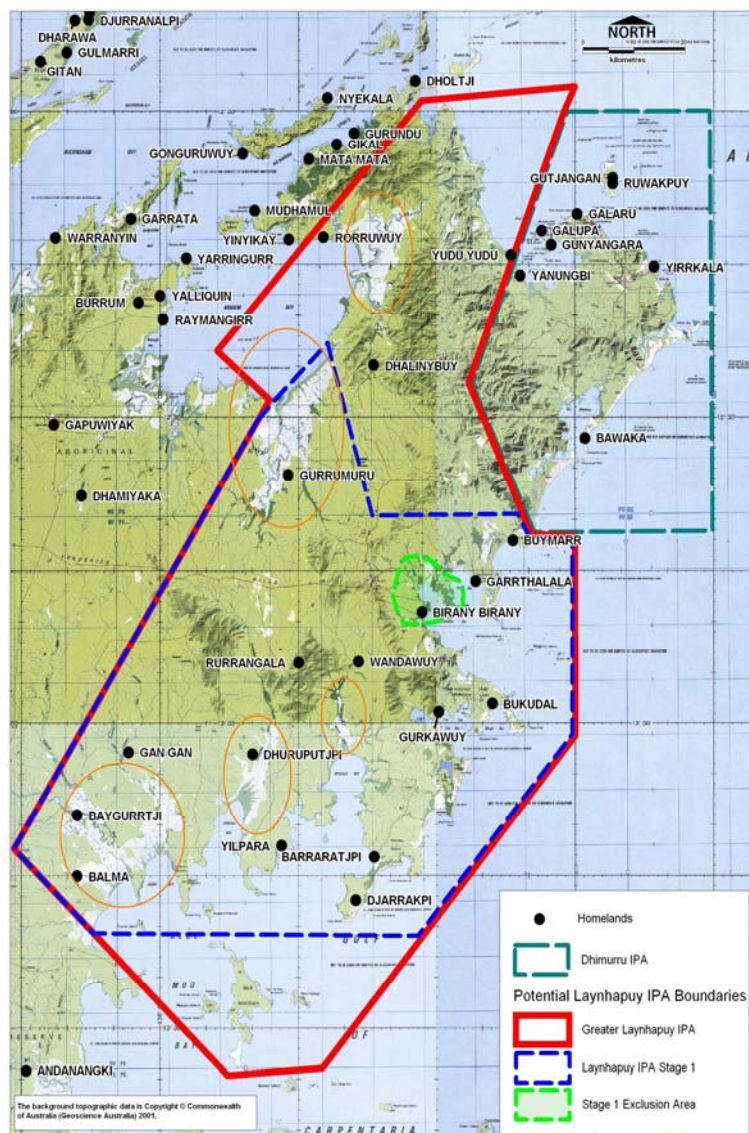
This map only shows those that have been officially registered with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority to date.



Significant & Major Wetlands

There are several major wetlands within the IPA, that are important for both endemic and migratory birds.

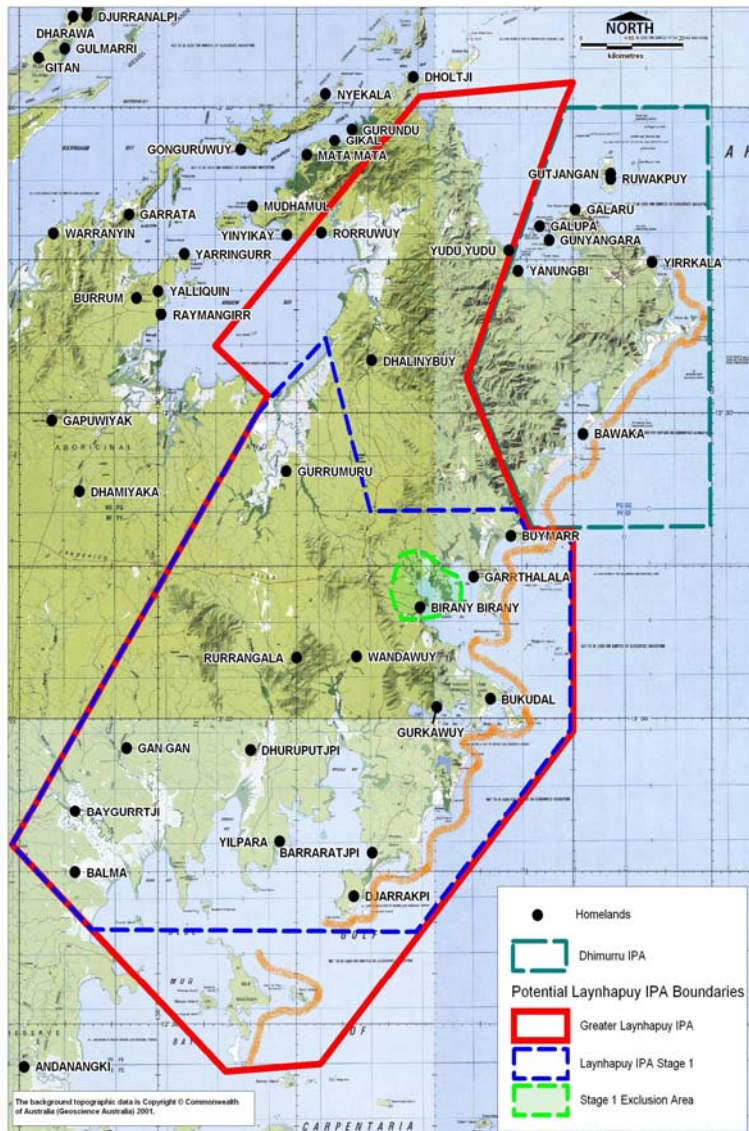
Some of the wetlands are internationally/nationally significant and would qualify for listing under the International RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands.



Significant Coastal Habitats

The eastern coast of the Laynhapuy IPA provides:

- significant marine turtle nesting habitat
- significant shore bird habitats
- sea grass meadows providing significant dugong habitat



This coast line also is the repository for significant amounts of marine debris, and in particular 'ghost nets'.

These areas also include major barramundi and crab fisheries.

These nationally and internationally significant environmental and cultural assets needs to be managed.

This is most effectively done by those 'living on country' and most intimately associated with them.

Not Just Environmental Benefits

- The IPA process has provided the opportunity and resources to:
 - enable Traditional Owners to consider how they want their country to develop and be managed.
 - develop of the Yirralka Rangers
- The Yirralka Rangers program
 - builds on what Yolngu already know, are confident with, and motivated to do
 - provides a source of pride and sense of competence
 - provides a structure for meaningful skill development and training.
 - brings Yolngu into a positive relationship with mainstream organisations (AQIS, Fisheries, P&WS, Police, Customs)
 - brings Yolngu into contact with general public through interaction with visitors and 'tourism'
 - provides an opportunity and structure to educate young people and develop leadership.
 - provides a starting point for economic engagement (eg. AQIS Contract, research, tourism)

Economic Capacity

Regional Strengths

(‘Comparative Advantage’)

- Intact, high value, ecology & environment (IPA)
- Strong Indigenous art tradition (Buku, Saltwater Collection)
- Natural resources
 - Marine (fish, crabs, sponge)
 - Bush foods
 - Bush materials (pigments, fibres)
 - Marketable native plants/animals
 - Feral animals
 - Minerals??
 - Local building materials – laterite, cypress pine, ‘mud bricks’.
- Strong culture & Indigenous knowledge
- Socially cohesive communities and relatively clear resource ownership

Key Opportunities

Key areas of economic opportunity are:

- *‘Export’ oriented*
 - ecologically and culturally sustainable tourism and associated activities
 - provision of environmental management /border protection services
 - Fine art & tourist art
 - Commercial exploitation of bush products
 - Primary industries – fishing & crabbing, buffalo.
- *‘Import substitution’ oriented*

Small number of employment/business opportunities for

 - trades & trade contracting
 - services (education, health, admin, stores)
 - transport

Natural & cultural
resources
and Indigenous knowledge
are the key
strengths/assets of the
Laynhapuy region.

They are also the best
'entry points' for
facilitating Yolngu
training, employment and
business development.

**A Strategic
Approach to
Developing this
Capacity**

Key Challenges

- **Basic educational deficits need to be addressed and need to build new skills/knowledge including ‘economic literacy’**
- **Access to basic physical infrastructure to support education, training, business development activities:**
 - Power
 - Essential goods & services
 - Telecommunications
 - Local ‘workspaces’ for training and business development
- **Infrastructure and expert support to enable the Rangers to:**
 - Manage visitors & Develop Tourism Activities
 - Develop Ranger other related economic opportunities
 - Establish and environmental & cultural management framework in which other activities can be developed
- **Practical on-ground business development support**
- **The Policy/Funding environment**

Develop 'Hub' Communities

Develop 'hub' communities with a level of service & infrastructure that will facilitate economic engagement.

Five major homelands can potentially function as 'hubs' servicing smaller homelands:

- Yilpara (approx 150-160)
- Gangan (approx 80-90)
- Wandawuy (approx 70-80)
- Dhalinbuy (approx 80-90)
- Garrthalala (approx 40-50)

Key services & infrastructure include:

- Reticulated 240v power
- Administration Office with communications, and IT/internet
- School
- Clinic
- Training Facility
- Store
- Ranger Station & nearby Recreation Area.
- All year road and air access
- Transport Service (passengers & freight)

Engagement

Develop Recreation Areas to:

- Address current 'problems' with unlawful visitation
- Develop technical and engagement skills
- Generate income
- Create employment

Blue Mud Bay Eco-Cultural Learning Centre. (Educational Tourism focus)

- 'Attractor' & 'driver'
- Generate income/employment.
- 'Multiplier' effect creating other local opportunities
- Two way education process
- Build institutional links/partnerships and visitor network (support base)

Other Natural Resource Utilisation or Management Contracts

Progress

- IPA PoM in place
- Early Investment Project under Healthy Country Healthy People Schedule – additional ranger stations & recreation areas.
- New Ranger Facilitator and Women's Ranger Cood position
- P&WS Ranger position to work with Laynhapuy IPA.
- Stepping Stones Workshop re Blue Mud Bay project
- Some contract work developing – AQIS, crocodile eggs, buffalo
- MOA with Charles Darwin University re training provision.
- LHAI investment in Admin Offices
- Two power systems coming on line
- Working on Country positions?

The Gaps

- Wandawuy Power system
- Training Facilities (VIIP)
- Support for Stores Business (SRA)
- Support for Transport Business
- Further development of Ranger Stations and Recreation Areas under HCHP
- Resources to provided sustained support to Blue Mud Bay project

- Government Policy.

A Convergence of Interests

Yolngu Aspirations To Live on County

Biodiversity Conservation

Engagement in Economic Activity

Engaging with the 'mainstream'



Redressing Disadvantage

Border Security

Climate Change