

JUUNJUWARRA

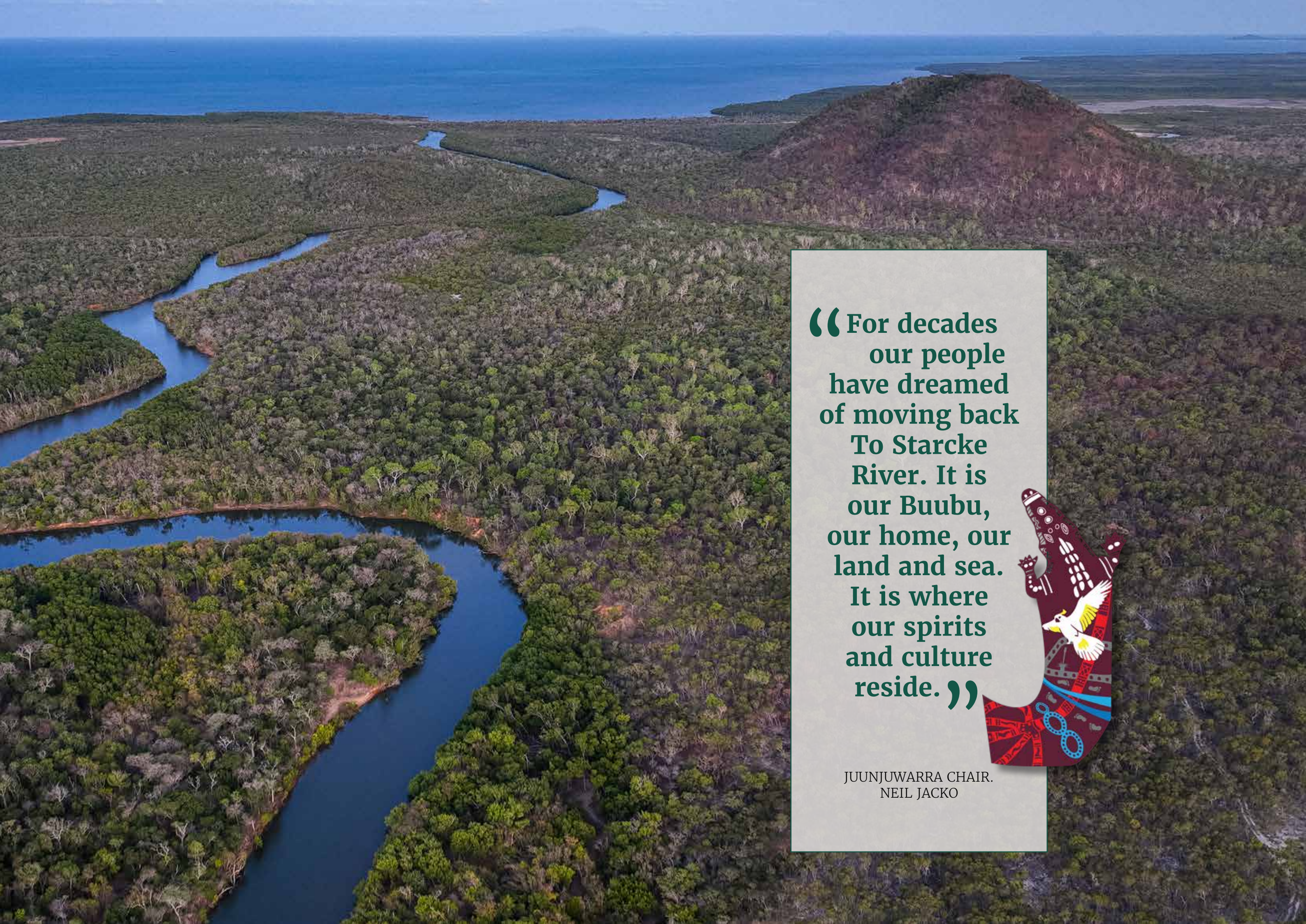
SUSTAINABLE HOMELAND

STARCKE RIVER, CAPE YORK QLD



PROSPECTUS

Juunjuwarra
CORPORATION



“ For decades
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It is where
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JUUNJUWARRA CHAIR.
NEIL JACKO



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Message from The Juunjuwarra Chair. Neil Jacko

“For many decades our people have dreamed of moving back to Starcke River. It is our home, our land and sea. It is where our spirits and culture reside.

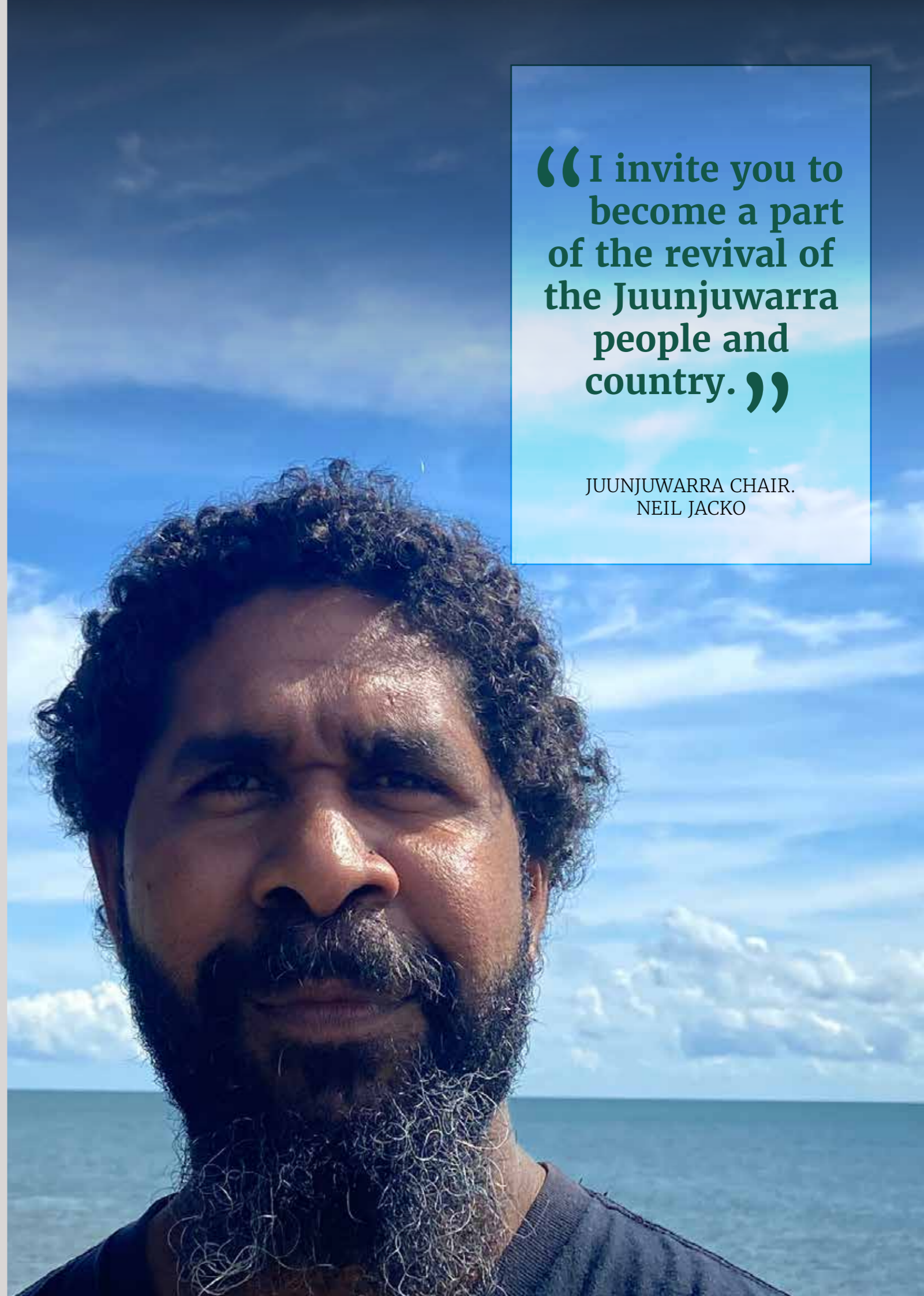
In 1993 as a young boy, I was part of the 6-week Starcke Campaign Roadshow from Cairns to Melbourne. With the support of Guugu Yimithirr clans and elders of the Hopevale region, our past elders Grandfather Jimmy Jacko (deceased), Grandfather Goombra Jacko (deceased), my mother Norma, Maria Naylor, my Uncle Terry Jacko (deceased), supporters Hans McGreen (deceased) and Old Kuku-Thaypan elder Peter Costello (deceased) joined with Wilderness Society activists including Michael Winer and Tracy Kluck to go and get our land back. We inspired the nation with pictures and stories of our beautiful country and our passion for land rights, our environment, and our deep desire to return home. We won one of the largest and fastest black/green campaigns in Australia’s history when the government capitulated and introduced The Starcke Acquisition Bill to compulsory acquire the Starcke pastoral leases from land speculator George Quaid. This campaign set the precedent for the Cape York Land Acquisition Program that has resulted in millions of hectares of pastoral leases being acquired across Cape York and returned to Traditional Owners as freehold land and National Park. For the intervening three decades we have watched in frustration as our land deteriorated, while sustained attempts to return to country failed.

This plan represents a real pathway home, a pathway seen by our elders and ancestors that has been designed by and will be implemented by a new generation of strong young Juunjuwarra leaders. This is my dream come true. The Juunjuwarra are building a base of supporters and experts to help us realise this dream.”

“I invite you to become a part of the revival of the Juunjuwarra people and country and bring your expertise, resources, networks and enterprise to assist or invest directly with us through our environmental service and carbon products and our commercial enterprises.”

“ I invite you to become a part of the revival of the Juunjuwarra people and country. ”

JUUNJUWARRA CHAIR.
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Juunjuwarra – Vision for the future

The Juunjuwarra have developed a Sustainable Homeland Plan that provides a pathway to the re-establishment of the Juunjuwarra Homeland.

The plan provides practical pathways toward realising the vision, aspirations, and rights of the Juunjuwarra ancestors, elders, and leaders.

The Juunjuwarra recognise that for the complex task ahead, great governance is required as the foundation. This governance will drive decision making that is inclusive of all families and sets cultural and ethical rules for the Juunjuwarra Aboriginal Corporation and our governance processes, while meeting the needs of Western laws and regulations.

Secondly the plan recognises that to be implemented effectively we need to build the capacity, capability, and leadership of the Juunjuwarra people. This will ensure a strong work team, strong management, entrepreneurship to drive projects, effective land and sea management and enterprise development.

Finally, the restoration and reform of culture will enable transformation of, and build the inner strength of the Juunjuwarra people.

The Juunjuwarra will work with renowned international anthropologist John Haviland and partner with a major university to build a unique cultural sanctuary, the seat of repatriation and rebuilding of our Indigenous knowledge and the foundations of our song, dance, lore, spirit, healing, food, and enterprise.

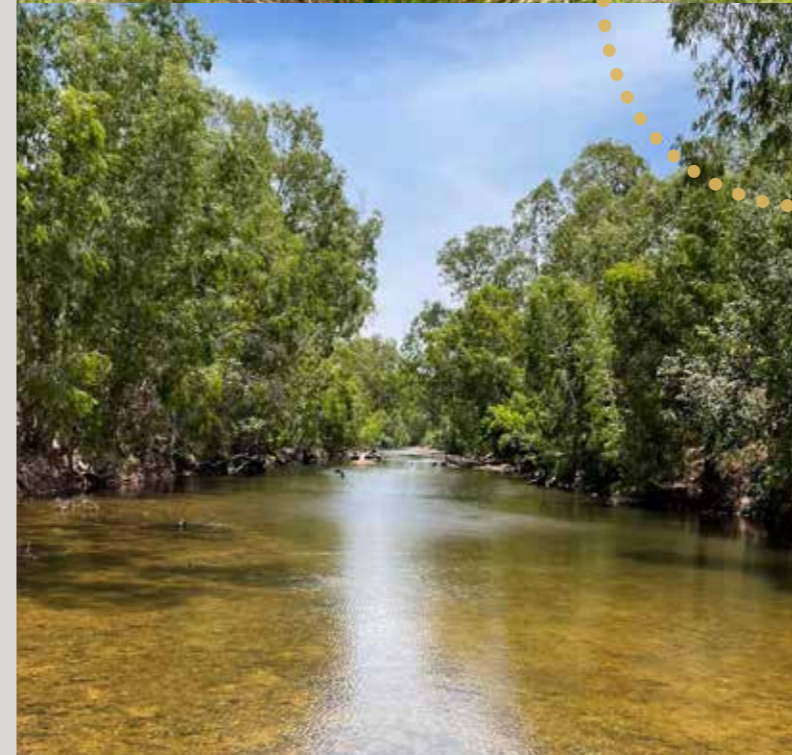
The cultural sanctuary will inform the practical application of our culture in contemporary land and sea management, health, leadership, and governance.



Juunjuwarra – Vision for the future: Priorities

The following priorities and vision were developed over a series of workshops throughout 2022 and reflects the aspirations and vision of the elders past and present:

1. Juunjuwarra people are working, visiting and living in unity on country.
2. There are at least 20 full-time jobs available on country such as rangers, tour guides, crabbers, cattlemen, project managers, and cultural leaders.
3. There is an exceptional cultural revival program in place.
4. The Starcke Landing damage area is rehabilitated. Illegal camping, hunting and crabbing has been stopped.
5. Illegal hunting of Turtle and Dugong has been stopped and a Traditional Owner managed permit system for hunting turtle, dugong, geese, crabs another wildlife is in place.
6. Juunjuwarra have a successful and dynamic Land and Sea Ranger team managing cultural transmission, cultural sites, traditional hunting, and the environmental integrity of the region.
7. Economic independence has been achieved with over 51% of income coming from non-government sources.
8. A sustainable managed organic cattle herd has been established and feral cattle removed from sensitive areas.
9. The Starke gold mining and exploration leases have been acquired and the infrastructure on the leases upgraded as a highland ranger base and retreat for recovering alcoholics.
10. There is an active programme for youth on country including a Junior Ranger program.
11. Juunjuwarra have exceptional governance systems and a professional management team in place.



JUUNJUWARRA. OUR STORY, OUR CULTURE.

GANHAARR

Crocodile: Ganhaarr is our totem, our spiritual emblem and cultural connection from spirit to the land. This governs many of our traditional customs. In ceremonies, Ganhaarr is in our dance, our body decoration and our spirit. Our totem is protected and revered, we never harm the Crocodile.

BUGA BALIN-GA

Echidna Hill: Buga Balin-ga sits near the Starcke River mouth. Scar trees, medicinal plants, food and resources are in abundance here and Dilguurga, the nearby spring, never dries out.

Buga Balin-ga is a significant, traditional meeting place, where permanent settlements were used for Bora, initiations and the sharing of our cultural knowledge.

MUNBARR

Starcke River meanders through Juunjuwarra country. It is the veins, the lifeblood - which connects and, the fresh to the salt, and the coast to the tablelands.

It is a rich and primary source of sustenance Which has been used extensively for gathering resources, foods, medicines, as well as providing shelter, hunting camps and meeting places throughout the territory.

BAARRABARRA

Red Mangrove: High on the hill grows BaaraBarra, our sacred mangrove which reflects the sustenance of the sea. This mangrove is a sacred connection from coast to high country.

Only Juunjuwarra can visit this sacred place.



WAANDAAR

White Cockatoo: This symbol of kinship governs many Juunjuwarra traditions. Since White Cockatoo are coastal and Black Cockatoo are from inland, this traditionally determined which clans could intermarry. This traditional kinship maintains connections between coastal and inland clans..

OUR TRACKS

Footprints: Traditional Hunting tracks and routes used for Bora, Campsites and the Gathering of Food, Resources and Medicines. Significant tracks are shown here travelling from the coastal plains to the highlands along the Starcke River and Buga Balin-ga. The tracks represent the practical, traditional and spiritual connections Juunjuwarra have from the coast to the highlands.

MUUNDU

Healing Place with Rainbow Serpent: Muundu is a significant and spiritual sacred place, comprising 3 lagoon pools with healing waters. Muundu is home to Yirmbal-the rainbow serpent who keeps the waters clean and ensures they never dry out.

The health of Muundu reflects our presence on land and water.

Environmental Highlights

A remarkable conservation management opportunity exists, as the Juunjuwarra are the Traditional Owners of the whole Starke River catchment flow from the mountains to the outer coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef.

Mountain rainforests, surrounded by woodlands and grass tree plateaus are isolated and remote. Very little of these rainforests have been explored nor species assessed by modern science. The Rainforest represents a northern remnant of The World Heritage Wet Tropics but has been cut off and evolved separately for many thousands of years and remains in very good condition.

The Starcke River tumbles down rocky escarpments peppered with rock art, rare herbs, grass trees and interesting flora and fauna.

Rich coastal plains include lagoons and wetlands stretching to the sea. This includes open forest, rainforest patches, huge saltpans, and the impressive Twelve Mile Wetlands. Of immense cultural significance are the sacred Muundu lagoons, in an area covered with traditional living sites, scar trees, medicine trees and story places.

The river mouth and coastal dunes are surrounded by rare coastal vine forest and some of the largest mangrove systems and sea grass beds on the east coast of Australia. Important fish nurseries and habitat are recognised with high-level marine zonings. .

The sea grass beds provide a food source and home to some of the largest **Dugong and Turtle** populations left on Australia's east coast. The Starcke River mouth delineates the diminishing and endangered populations to the south and the stable populations to the north, providing a 'line in the sand' to protect these iconic species and halt further decline.

Further out to sea are some of the most **remote coral reefs** of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area that until recent bleaching events were also some of the most pristine. All these unique ecosystems are interconnected both biologically and through cultural lore.



Threats to Cultural and Environmental sites

The absence of any significant management of the area since our removal 100 years ago has resulted in a wide range of growing environmental and cultural threats and degradation.

Muundu, our cultural heart and healing waters is home to our Rainbow Serpent and was once filled with beautiful water lilies, abundant fish and other natural resources. Our Muundu Lagoons, are now dirty, muddy ponds. Repairing Muundu is the foundation for healing our country and people.

This is the heart of our culture and story and signals an urgent call to action to halt the degradation and revive our land and sea country – and through these actions heal our people.



Threats to Cultural and Environmental sites

The following priority threats have been identified by the Juunjuwarra Board:

1. Feral cattle and pigs are decimating the regions wetlands, lagoons, and waterways. As the water dries the cattle and pigs overgraze the area and turn over the soil seeking nut grass, lily bulbs, insects, worms, crustaceans' and even freshwater turtle. Their heavy weight and hard hooves deeply puncture, churn and compact the edges of lagoons and waterways causing erosion, siltation and acidification.
2. Weeds such as sicklepod, and more recently grader grass are spreading across large areas replacing native plants, reducing food for native animals, and increasing fire risks.
3. Uncontrolled late season hot fires are damaging rainforests and whole ecosystems.
4. Decades of uncontrolled and illegal camping and 4WD tracks has resulted in serious destruction of the rare coastal vine thickets and rainforest. Major damage has been caused to beaches, middens, cultural sites and food, medicine and other trees. The area is littered with rubbish and human faeces.
5. Over the last decade improvements of the road access and the boat ramp at the Starcke River mouth have dramatically increased access for illegal and rogue Turtle and Dugong hunters. The unregulated and increasing hunting is compounded by other threats such as habitat loss, pollution and boat strikes, resulting in a significant threat to the populations' long-term viability in the region.
6. Uncontrolled commercial crabbing is putting further pressure on mangrove ecosystems and the illegal permanent camps are damaging mangroves and the foreshore.
7. Climate Change is causing greater cyclone intensity that has caused additional damage to mangrove systems and forests. Increasing water temperatures are causing extensive coral bleaching of the World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef.

The Land needs its people back.



EXCESSIVE UNAUTHORISED HUNTING OF TURTLE AND DUGONG

ONE OF THE LARGEST DUGONG POPULATIONS LEFT IN THE WORLD

REMOTE WORLD HERITAGE CORAL REEFS HEAVILY DAMAGED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO MANGROVES FROM SEVERE CYCLONES

HEAVY DAMAGE OF COASTAL VINE THICKET BY ILLEGAL CAMPING

LARGE SEA GRASS BEDS

PROPOSED SUSTAINABLY MANAGED ORGANIC CATTLE HERD

SOME OF THE LARGEST MANGROVES SYSTEMS FOUND ON THE EAST COAST OF AUSTRALIA

PROPOSED COMMERCIAL BUSH CAMPSITES.

JUUNJUWARRA
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INVASIVE WEEDS INCLUDING GRADER GRASS SPREADING

LARGE WETLAND AREAS SUSTAINING HEAVY PIG DAMAGE

SPECTACULAR ESCARPMENTS AND ROCK ART

MINING LEASES AND EXPLORATION PERMITS

Starcke National Park

REMOTE, RARE HIGHLAND RAINFOREST

Economic Independence

Government funding alone will never provide the scale of management required to help confront the rapidly deteriorating environmental qualities of the Starcke River region; nor provide the number of jobs required by the Juunjuwarra people to live an equitable life.

The Juunjuwarra plan provides a pathway for the development of an environmentally and socially sustainable matrix of economic and enterprise opportunities that will provide the diversity of work and jobs to sustain the people and the land. The Juunjuwarra aim is to ensure a majority of the funding generated by Juunjuwarra is from private and enterprise sources to ensure independence and the scale of funding that is required.

The Juunjuwarra country is rich in opportunity and assets - from fisheries, environmental and carbon services tourism, feral cattle and pigs control, outstanding scenic and environmental qualities, tourists, gold and minerals and recreational fishers. Despite the wealth of the land, few Juunjuwarra have jobs. Our corporation is unfunded and our efforts voluntary or funded through occasional on-country tasks. We live in overcrowded houses in Hopevale and our formal education levels are low. We are subject to a range of health issues due poor housing, sanitation, lack of access to health services and healthy food.

Despite these challenges, we are determined to work from the grassroots to build up the Juunjuwarra by developing commercial and conservation job opportunities, creating social enterprises and commercial conservation initiatives. We will develop the governance and land title mechanisms to support and encourage private enterprise opportunities for Juunjuwarra entrepreneurs.



Over the next 10 years, we the Juunjuwarra will develop commercial bush camps at the Starcke River, develop specialist tourism products, convert the feral cattle menace into a smaller managed organic herd and remove them from wetlands and lagoons.

We will work with the state and federal governments to establish and fund a Land and Sea Ranger program. We will develop commercial environmental and carbon credits and offsets.

Juunjuwarra also aim to acquire crabbing and fishing licences and establish a small wild harvest program of bush food and medicine.

Through these initiatives, Juunjuwarra aims to create 30 full time on country jobs and entrepreneurs through land and sea management and enterprise establishment.





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SUSTAINABLE HOMELAND
STARCKE RIVER, CAPE YORK QLD





Juunjuwarra
CORPORATION

People, Place, Environment, Culture, Economy.

Juunjuwarra Corporation

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