

STRATEGY 4.7 TRADITIONAL USE OF THE COAST AND THE SEA

This Strategy has been prepared by the Wulgurukaba Traditional Owners. It may not necessarily reflect the values and objectives of other indigenous groups in the region.

❖ A WULGURUKABA PERSPECTIVE

Traditional use of marine resources by indigenous communities in coastal Australia is based on traditional rights and responsibilities that pre-date colonisation. Those rights and responsibilities include the protection and maintenance of coastal and marine sites of significance and the continued survival of the flora and fauna that form part of that environment, all of which play a pivotal role in the survival of coastal indigenous groups and their way of life. The continuing problem is the failure to have those rights and responsibilities fully recognised, firstly through the legislative process and secondly through the everyday management and survival of those coastal and marine environments and the resources contained in them. Areas of particular concern include: the long-term effects of commercial and recreational fishing; the potential impacts of development of tourism on the environment; conservation (protected areas, zoning, management plans, protected species etc.); the potential impact of existing and future shipping and port operations; industrial development in the coastal zone and potential impacts on the marine and coastal environment; potential impacts of military training operations in marine environments; and the continued survival and protection of marine and coastal flora and fauna, especially the mangrove ecosystems which play an intrinsic role in the continued survival and replenishment of marine resources.

❖ SOME KEY ASPIRATIONS OF THE WULGURUKABA ARE:

- the recognition of cultural practice and its continued survival;
- sustainable resource use management;
- generating sustained social and economic benefits;
- education; and
- respect for Wulgurukaba aspirations in natural resource planning and management.

❖ WHAT DO WE WANT?

We want greater control and involvement in the management of the marine and coastal environment to which we are and always have been linked.

❖ WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- 1 The recognition of the hunting and collection of traditional foods.
- 2 The protection of cultural sites of significance.
- 3 The involvement and employment of our people, particularly at the decision making level, in the management of the marine and coastal environment, i.e. the recognition of traditional knowledge for sustainable management.