

FIRST NATIONS TOURISM ACTION PLAN FOR TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

Project Overview

First Nations led tourism experiences are increasingly in demand in our region and across the world. The opportunity exists to better support, promote, and connect Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Islander led visitor experiences and help visitors better connect with country and culture when they are in Tropical North Queensland.

Building on the success of the [Queensland First Nations Tourism Plan 2020-25](#) the Tropical North Queensland Indigenous Tourism Experiences Cluster identified the need for our region to have its own clearly articulated plan for First Nations Tourism.

A Steering Committee has been formed to lead the development of the Tropical North Queensland First Nations Tourism Action Plan, supported by TTNQ. The Steering Committee are pleased to announce that the development of the First Nations Tourism Action Plan for Tropical North Queensland (the Plan) is underway.

The Plan will be designed to complement the *Queensland First Nations Tourism Plan 2020-2025: Voices of Today, Stories for Tomorrow*, by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council. The development of the Plan has been made possible through the generous support of the Queensland Government through the Year of Indigenous Tourism program and from Tourism Tropical North Queensland and the leadership of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee includes representatives of the First Nations Tourism Sector of Tropical North Queensland extending from Cardwell to the Torres Strait and west to the NT border. The Steering Committee includes representatives appointed by the Indigenous Experiences Cluster and from key organisations across the region, including:

- Co-Chairs **Juan Walker** and **Dale Mundraby**, with **Willie Enoch-Tranby** representing The TNQ Indigenous Tourism Experiences Cluster;
- **Alicia Haines** representing the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) Indigenous Advisory Project Plan Group;
- **Gavin Singleton** representing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Indigenous Advisory Group;
- **Mayor Ross Andrews** representing the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC);
- **Joann Schmider** representing the Indigenous academic community and the Rainforest Aboriginal People;
- **Fraser Nai** representing the emerging Torres Strait tourism industry.
- Other representatives and organisations as identified by the Steering Committee will be invited to join the group at relevant points through the process.

TTNQ will act as secretariat for the development of the Plan and continue to provide administrative support to the TNQ Indigenous Experiences Cluster Group, with **Kirsty Burchill** appointed as the Project Coordinator to support the Cluster and the Steering Committee to develop the Plan and guide its implementation.

For more information on getting involved in the development of the plan contact Kirsty on email indigenous.experiences@ttnq.org.au.

The Consultation Program (March to June 2022)

Consultations will take place in a series of face-to-face workshops, meetings, online surveys and through the regular meetings of the TNQ Experiences Cluster. The consultation program will take place from March to June 2022, with a Draft Plan due for consultation in June and finalisation in July. The final report will be a 'living document' owned by the TNQ Indigenous Experiences Cluster.

How to Get Involved

1. Join the TNQ Indigenous Experiences Cluster

The development of the plan will be guided through regular consultation with the **TNQ Indigenous Experiences Cluster Group** who meet monthly either in person or online. The Cluster was formed by a collective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and operated businesses and organisations, with the support of TTNQ, to encourage co-operation and the sharing of information and experiences around Indigenous and non-Indigenous tourism business and culturally appropriate visitor experiences.

To join the Cluster, there are no costs involved, email indigenous.experiences@ttnq.org.au and you will receive regular updates on the Plan, invites to meetings and opportunities to be involved in other operator-led initiatives in the region. The Cluster will lead the implementation of the final Plan.

2. Contribute your thoughts directly

If you would like to participate in the consultation process, but not join the Cluster, you can request to be included on the condition of anonymity or if your details can be included in the register of consultation. The Project Coordinator will contact you directly to seek your views through two online surveys and seek your responses to a series of key questions.

You will also receive a copy of the Discussion Paper, Draft Plan and Final Plan for your input and feedback. Email indigenous.experiences@ttnq.org.au and you will receive regular updates on the Plan.

3. Come to a Workshop

The Steering Committee members will lead discussions at a series of workshops across the region. To register for the workshops you can click on the link provided and express an interest and you will be provided with final date and location information once finalised. Workshops will be held in the following locations through April, May and June:

- Cairns
- Mossman
- Cooktown
- Laura
- Coen
- Weipa
- Bamaga
- Thursday Island
- Innisfail
- Atherton
- Normanton
- Lockhart River
- Yarrabah

Email Kirsty to register your interest, or for more information on getting involved in the development of the plan contact Kirsty on email indigenous.experiences@ttnq.org.au.

Dates to be confirmed over the coming weeks. Updates will be posted via the TTNQ website:
<http://tourism.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au/indigenous-experiences/>