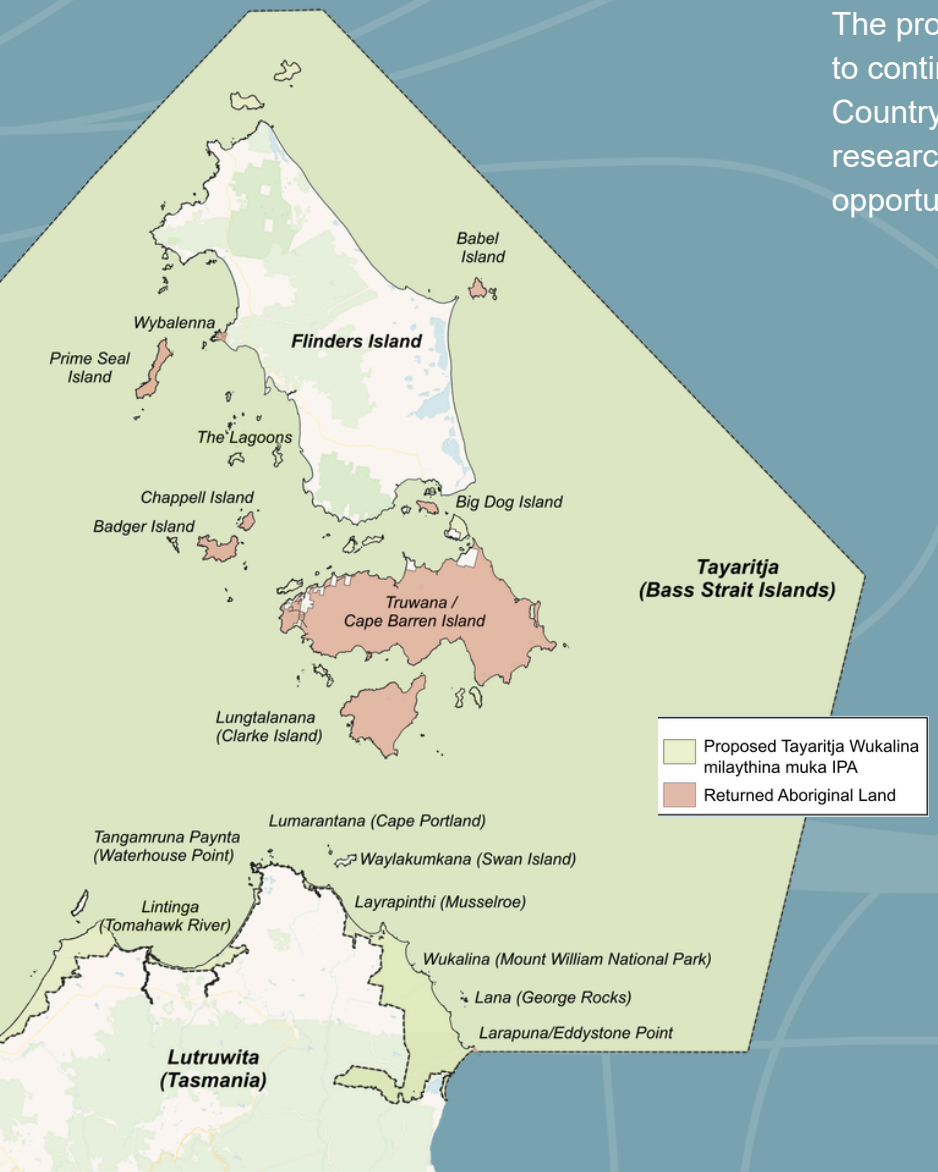


Tayaritja Wukalina milaythina muka

Lutruwita / Tasmania's first Sea Country Indigenous Protected Area (IPA)

Tayaritja Wukalina milaythina muka

The proposed Tayaritja Wukalina milaythina muka Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) will be the first ever Sea Country IPA in Lutruwita / Tasmania.





The proposed IPA presents exciting opportunities for Lutruwita/Tasmania, for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, as it establishes a new baseline for conservation management, creates employment opportunities, is a trigger for investment, empowers community and supports thriving ecosystems across the north-east region.

The Tayaritja Wukalina milaythina muka IPA is a Palawa-led initiative to care for land and sea Country across north-east Lutruwita and Tayaritja (the Furneaux Islands). It can be referred to as the “Tayarita IPA” for short. Tayaritja is pronounced “Tyre-reet-yah”.

This proposed IPA connects returned Aboriginal lands, important coastal areas and Sea Country into a single, community-led approach to caring for Country, culture and community.

The proposed IPA will support Palawa people to continue fulfilling cultural obligations to Country while strengthening conservation, research, education and employment opportunities.

Indigenous Protected Areas: Catalysts for Community, Country & Connection

Across Australia, Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) deliver
measurable benefits for biodiversity, cultural heritage, employment and community wellbeing.

More than half Australia's National Reserve System is managed through IPAs. Research shows Aboriginal-led care for Country can:

- Protect wildlife and important habitats
- Create local jobs and skills
- Strengthen culture and community pride
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Build partnerships between Traditional Owners and scientists

The proposed Tayaritja Wukalina milaythina muka IPA brings these benefits together for the north-east region, while supporting Palawa people to care for their ancestral Country.



The landscape tells the story of our Old People

Tayaritja is more than a group of islands.

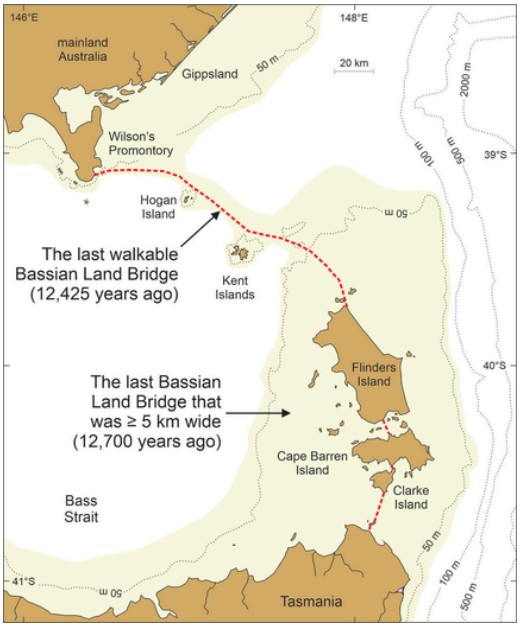
Before sea levels rose at the end of the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago, the Tayaritja / Furneaux Islands were connected to Lutruwita / Tasmania and mainland Australia by a vast land bridge.

This means much of the proposed IPA encompasses the ancestral homelands of Palawa ancestors, including areas that are now beneath the sea.

Today, Palawa people continue to care for this cultural land and seascape, maintaining connections that have existed since time immemorial.



Landbridge through time, culture & Country



Above: The proposed IPA includes parts of the original landbridge that connected Tayaritja to mainland Australia and Lutruwita / Tasmania. Left: Athol Burgess, bringing in a harvest of muttonbirds



Already delivering!

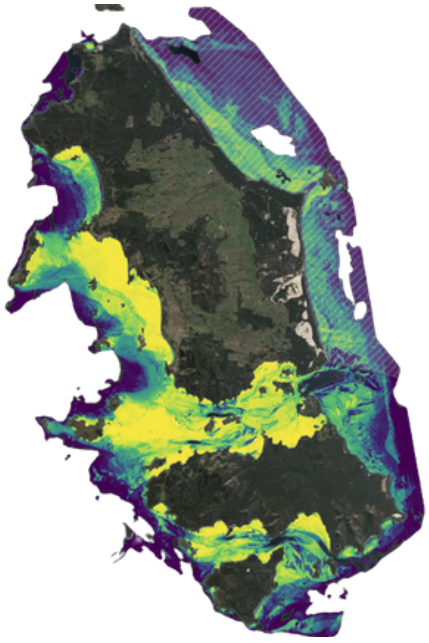
The proposed Tayaritja IPA is already generating significant benefits for Country and Community in the north-east of Lutruwita / Tasmania.

Pakana Rangers partnered with researchers from the University of Tasmania and Deakin University to map seagrass habitats across Tayaritja Sea Country. The project revealed the:

- **Largest** seagrass ecosystem in south-east Australia
- **75,500ha** of seagrass beds
- **9.66 million** tonnes of stored blue carbon
- One of Australia's most significant marine habitats for fish, seabirds and other marine life

The discovery highlights the globally significant environmental values found within the proposed IPA and demonstrates the benefits of investing in Palawa-led management of Sea Country.

Vast seagrass beds revealed at Tayaritja



The importance of the Tayaritja IPA

The proposed IPA protects a region of extraordinary cultural, community and ecological significance. The area includes:

- Some of Australia's most intact temperate marine ecosystems
- The largest seagrass beds in south-east Australia
- Ramsar-listed wetlands
- Important breeding habitat for seabirds and shorebirds
- Australia's largest yula (mutton bird) rookeries
- Significant marine mammal habitat, including whale migration routes
- Thousands of years of Palawa cultural heritage sites
- A living cultural land and seascape critical for Palawa connection to Country

Tayaritja and north-east Lutruwita were central to the survival of Palawa and remain places of profound cultural importance.

Caring for culture & living traditions

✓ Caring for Country and cultural heritage
✓ Stronger Palawa leadership in Sea Country management
✓ Expansion of ranger programs and employment
✓ Community access to Country and cultural practice
✓ Scientific research and monitoring
✓ Protection of threatened species and habitats
✓ Climate change resilience and blue carbon conservation
✓ Opportunities for future community-led enterprises

By bringing together cultural knowledge, ranger expertise and modern science, the proposed Tayaritja IPA will help ensure Country remains healthy for future generations.

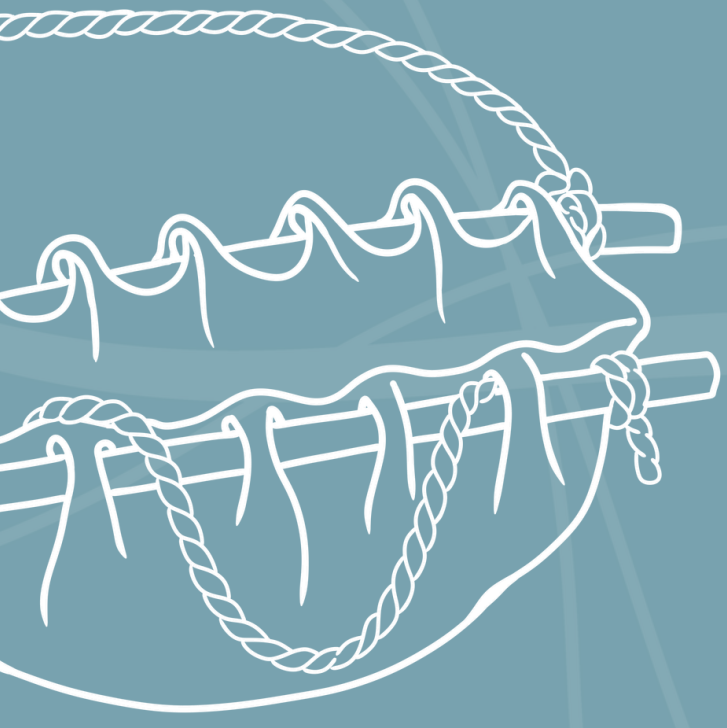


Healthy Country priorities

The proposed IPA focuses on eight priorities

- Community connection to Country
- Cultural places, resources and practices
- Seagrass beds
- Rocky reefs
- Coastal wetlands and estuaries
- Seabirds and shorebirds
- Marine mammals
- Land animals

These priorities have been identified by the Palawa community and will guide conservation, monitoring and management activities across the IPA.



Caring for culture & living traditions

Sea Country supports some of the most important cultural practices of Palawa community, including:

- Yula (muttonbirding)
- Shell collecting and shell necklace making
- Diving and harvesting marine resources
- Intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge

The proposed IPA is helping safeguard these living traditions by supporting cultural knowledge holders, strengthening access to Country and creating opportunities for younger generations to learn from Elders and community members.



Responding to changing Sea Country

The waters of north-east Lutruwita are among the fastest warming marine regions in Australia.

Climate change, marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, invasive long-spined sea urchins and the loss of giant kelp forests are placing increasing pressure on important cultural and environmental values.

Through the proposed Tayaritja IPA, Palawa are:

- Monitoring and protecting seagrass beds
- Conserving giant kelp forests
- Supporting research and restoration projects
- Monitoring culturally important species
- Strengthening long-term resilience of Sea Country

As well as warming waters, significant amounts of debris – principally fossil-fuel derived plastic pollutes Sea Country – this photo shows a small amount collected from Marshall Bay on Flinders Island.

Tayaritja – Furneaux Islands

Wukalina – Mount William

north-east Lutruwita / Tasmania

milaythina – country

muka – sea

Nina nayri-tu to Brooke Bourke for your beautiful graphics.

