



**ROBE RIVER
KURUMA**

ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION RNTBC
ICN 7612

Robe River Kuruma
Aboriginal Corporation

Cultural Protocols

For people visiting and residing
on Robe River Kuruma Country

Welcome to Robe River Kuruma Country

Robe River Kuruma People have cultural protocols for visiting Robe River Kuruma Country. These protocols are important for all visitors and residents on Robe River Kuruma Country.

Robe River Kuruma People are the Traditional Owners for the Kuruma Marthudunera native title determined areas. Robe River Kuruma People have traditional rights and interests to an area covering nearly 16,000 square kilometres. This land lies within the Shire of Ashburton, and around the township of Pannawonica in the West Pilbara. It includes part of the Fortescue River and the Robe River system (known as *Jajiwurra*) in the most westerly part of the Hamersley Range.

The Robe River Kuruma People have important cultural obligations to look after their Country. Their knowledge, rights and interests are recognised, valued and acknowledged by the Australian community and this is enshrined in recognition of their native title.

The Robe River Kuruma People have responsibilities to look after their Country. These responsibilities include maintaining, protecting and preserving cultural heritage places such as sacred sites, cultural precincts, spiritual and dreaming places, flora and fauna,

the environment and the landscapes. An important part of these responsibilities is to keep people safe on Country, including residents and visitors.

What are cultural protocols?

Cultural protocols can be described as a set of principles that guide the behaviour of a cultural group. Protocols are important to ensure visitors to Robe River Kuruma Country interact and conduct their behaviour in ways that are respectful to Robe River Kuruma People, culture and heritage.

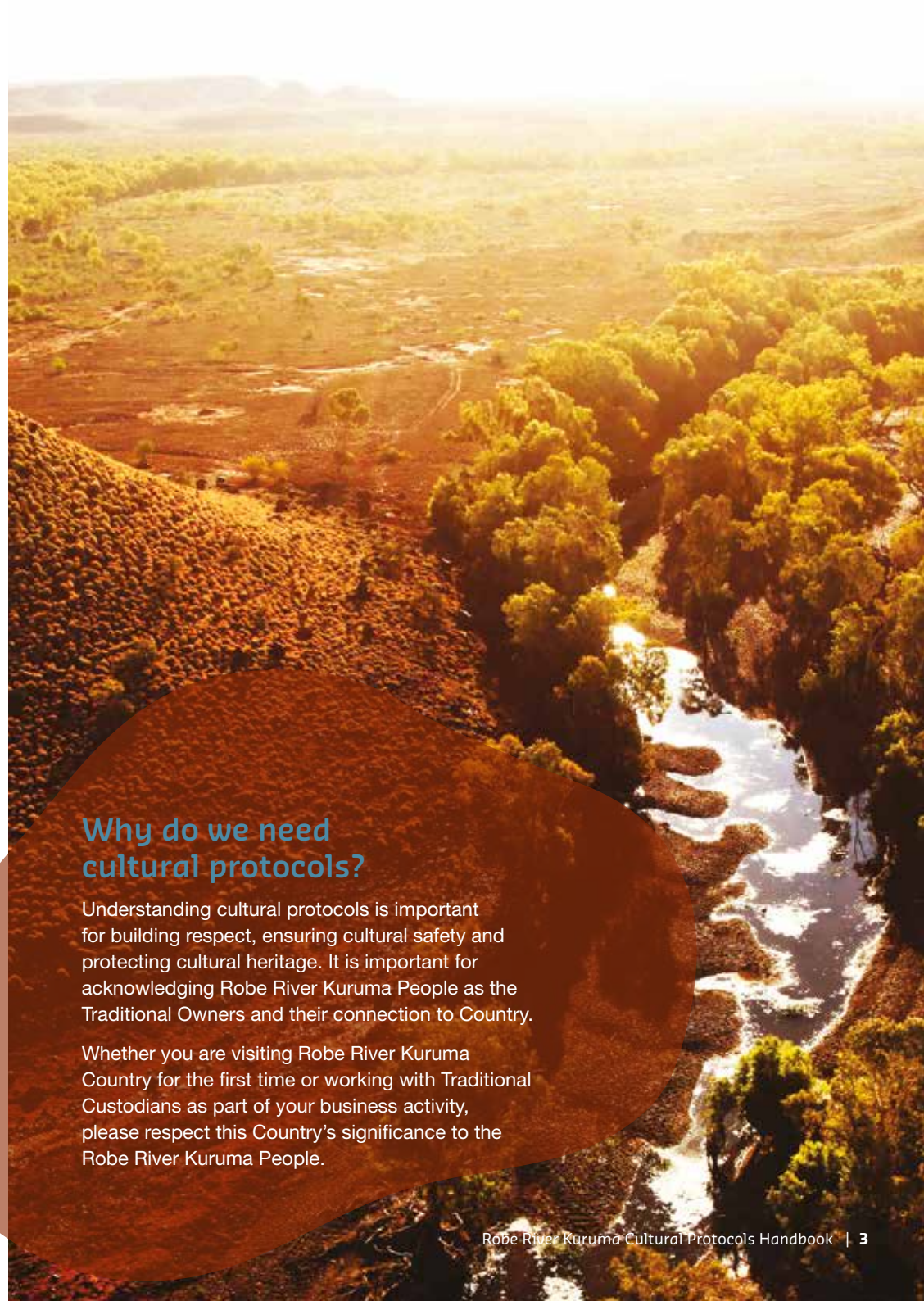
There is great cultural diversity across the Pilbara Aboriginal people, regions and communities. Cultural protocols, practices and responsibilities will vary. Robe River Kuruma People acknowledge this diversity and encourage all visitors and residents to find out about country, culture and heritage according to local traditional owner groups. This advice is specific to Robe River Kuruma Country.

If you are unsure about something, please ask. A Robe River Kuruma Elder may be able to quietly advise you. Speaking with someone from Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation (RRKAC) is also a good place to start.

Why do we need cultural protocols?

Understanding cultural protocols is important for building respect, ensuring cultural safety and protecting cultural heritage. It is important for acknowledging Robe River Kuruma People as the Traditional Owners and their connection to Country.

Whether you are visiting Robe River Kuruma Country for the first time or working with Traditional Custodians as part of your business activity, please respect this Country's significance to the Robe River Kuruma People.



Show respect

Robe River Kuruma People are the Traditional Owners of all land and waters on Robe River Kuruma Country. There are many places of great significance on Robe River Kuruma Country, including sacred sites, heritage sites, law and ceremonial sites, burial grounds and cultural areas and precincts.

Aboriginal lore requires **respect for the cultural authority** of the Traditional Custodians.

Robe River Kuruma People speak for their Country. They have an obligation along with their neighbours to **care for Country**.

Visitors should respect that Robe River Kuruma People retain traditional knowledge. This includes stories and customary laws about keeping significant sites and cultural heritage sites safe and protected.

Elders are members of the community who have learned levels of cultural knowledge, are custodians and instructors of Robe River Kuruma culture. They provide guidance and make decisions on the cultural obligations of the Robe River Kuruma People.



All **visitors are responsible** for their behaviour and should respect the guidance of Robe River Kuruma People.

Learning about Country and respecting traditional ways is everybody's obligation, including visitors, residents and Government agencies. Inappropriate behaviour shows disrespect for Robe River Kuruma Country.

Please do not take anything from Robe River Kuruma Country. This includes plants, animals, rocks and shells.

Robe River Kuruma People ask that you do not burn trees. Please always check local fire restrictions. If you bring rubbish onto Country please take it with you when you leave.

Robe River Kuruma People ask that you do not discharge greywater (wastewater from washing up buckets and caravan showers etc) onto the ground or into the river systems. Water containing fats, oils and harmful chemicals can be unsafe to people, animals and Country. Robe River Kuruma People ask that you find an appropriate disposal facility which is not on Country.

Cultural heritage

There are **sites and objects of great significance** across the whole of Robe River Kuruma Country which are all protected by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (2021). *Jajiwurra* (the Robe River system) is the most important site on Robe River Kuruma Country and is often referred to as the 'lifeblood' of the Robe River Kuruma People.

Under the Act, it is an offence to disturb or destroy an Aboriginal cultural heritage site without the right permissions, which includes talking to the Robe River Kuruma People.

Cultural heritage on Robe River Kuruma Country is additionally protected through federal legislation and land use agreements.

If you are unsure or have questions about cultural heritage sites, please ask. Seek advice from the Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation.

Always be respectful of Robe River Kuruma People's cultural and intellectual property rights.

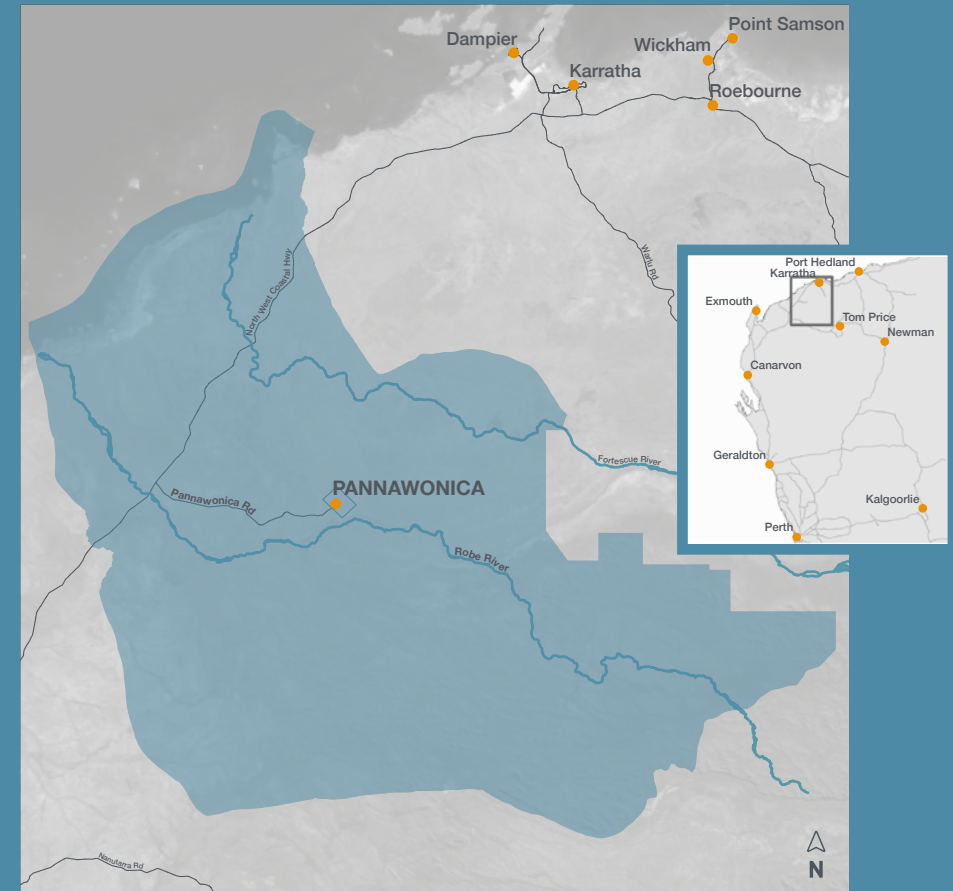


Photographs and recordings

Please obtain permission from RRRKAC before taking photographs, video, drone or voice recordings on Robe River Kuruma Country. The area might be culturally sensitive especially if the image or recording is of a person or mythological figure, landscape, art, carving or artefact.

If you intend to publish photographs or recordings online or for any public purpose, you should seek permission from those involved or, if no Custodians are present, from RRRKAC.

Robe River Kuruma Country: Combined Kuruma Marthudunera Native Title Determinations Part A and Part B including dismissed and overlap areas.



For more information visit Robe River Kuruma
Aboriginal Corporation's website:

rrkac.org.au

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