

Cultural Catchment

This catchment diagram shows an Indigenous cultural landscape, which has been illustrated using content contributed by participants of the first Traditional Owner Healthy Water Forum 2022, hosted by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

The catchment diagram shows the multifaceted ways in which Traditional Owners are connected with catchments and landscapes. The diagram reflects and expands on 'The connections between the catchments and the Reef' diagram in the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022. In that image, 'Cultural values and communities' are described as being "...supported by healthy waterways, delivering a range of benefits through access to resources, employment and education', however the connection between Traditional Owners and catchments is far more significant and multifaceted than is described in that statement. Traditional Owner active management of Country also brings benefits to healthy waterways and biocultural Country health, and to individual people, culture and communities.

To create a catchment diagram that shows the many ways in which Traditional Owner connection, access and management of catchments brings benefits, participants at the Healthy Water Forum 2022 were asked the question "what is missing from this image if it were to be re-drawn as a cultural landscape?" Participants added their thoughts to a blank catchment background using sticky notes. These contributions were then illustrated by Indigenous artist Dylan Finney via Black Logic consultancy with the guidance of the Healthy Water Technical Working Group

