



# Cultural heritage

## BACKGROUND

At the time of first European contact, about thirteen clans lived within the boundaries of the Bundjalung Nation. The Bundjalung Nation encompasses all of the Far North Coast Region and extends from the Clarence River in the south to the Logan River in the north and to the foothills of the Great Dividing Range in the west. Many areas and landscape features of important cultural significance that are now known by European names had already been named by Aboriginal people long before European arrival, e.g. Mount Warning was known as Wollumbin, which means 'cloud catcher'.

Significant evidence of the original ownership and occupation of the land by the Bundjalung People has survived, often with the physical and landscape modifications due to later European occupation. The first Europeans to settle in

the Region were cedar-getters. The subsequent establishment of grazing and cropping areas was directly associated with the landscape, soil and vegetation attributes that existed at that time.

The evidence of early pastoral and agricultural uses is also gradually being changed or lost to new activities such as specialised horticulture, alternative lifestyle and development that caters for the needs of more recent settlers, retirees and tourists.

The heritage values of the Far North Coast Region reflect the geographic, historic and social influences that have shaped its settlement and development. The resource rich areas of the Region, such as its estuaries, river valleys and coast, have had a significant influence on Aboriginal settlement. Coastal land, estuaries and marine resources were, and still are, of major economic, spiritual and

cultural importance to Aboriginal communities.

The identification, recording and protection of cultural heritage are important for current and future generations.

Much of the heritage significance of this Region is not acknowledged in existing planning instruments and an objective of this Strategy is to achieve a more complete protection for these places. This will allow their significance to be respected and conserved within the context of the Region's ongoing development.

## OUTCOMES

The importance of the historic cultural landscapes of the Region and their contribution to the Far North Coast's unique sense of place are recognised and protected throughout the planning process.

# 5

## cultural heritage



All places, precincts, landscapes and buildings of historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural and aesthetic significance to the Region are identified and protected in planning instruments.

Future development proposals are compatible with the underlying heritage values of the location.

The sympathetic conservation of heritage assets is encouraged through detailed design requirements in appropriate planning documents and strategies.

### ACTIONS

- Councils are to ensure that Aboriginal cultural and community values are considered in the future planning and management of their local government area.
- Councils and the Department of Planning will review the scope and quality of the existing statutory lists of heritage items and ensure that all places of significance are included in the heritage schedules of local environmental plans.
- The cultural heritage values of major regional centres and major towns that are to be the focus of urban renewal projects will be reviewed, with the aim of protecting cultural heritage.

