

Traditional Owner Engagement within the Healthy Country Project

The Healthy Waterway Strategy recognises the importance of Traditional Owner's engagement in decision making about their country.

Within the Healthy Country Project, the South East Queensland Traditional Owners Alliance (SEQTOA) is resourced to participate in implementing the Strategy and will promote a model of broader Traditional Owner engagement within the focal areas.

Who are the Traditional Owners of the Healthy Country Focal Areas?

The traditional custodians of the focal areas within the Healthy Country Project are:

- Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul (Lockyer)
- Ugarapul, Yuggera and Jagera (Bremer) and
- Mulinjarlie (Logan/Albert)

The traditional custodians have a cultural obligation to care for their traditional areas and for important cultural heritage sites. Their belief is that their own well-being depends on the health of their traditional "country".

What does SEQTOA do?

The South East Queensland Traditional Owners Alliance Limited (SEQTOA) is a not-for-profit company formed by Traditional Owner cultural group organisations of South East Queensland. It was formed to represent and advance the interests of traditional owners in cultural and natural resource management.



Mulinjarlie Work Crew



Colin Bonner - Jagera

Historical research for each focal area (also funded from other sources), from early settlement times to the present and from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspectives, will trace changes in occupation, land use, resource conditions, weather patterns and socio-economic variables. A better understanding of the history of land use and changing resource conditions will provide a stronger base for science.

SEQTOA is recognised by the State Government and SEQ Catchments as the peak body for Indigenous consultation in cultural and natural resource management planning in SEQ.

Author: Vanessa Hounsell - South East Queensland Traditional Owners Alliance (SEQTOA)

SEQTOA aims to contribute strongly to the Healthy Country project, particularly in terms of improved understanding of the pre-settlement condition of the three focal areas and their social and environmental history.

SEQTOA will participate in project planning and will work with Traditional Owners in the formation of Indigenous work teams, aiming for long-term employment in works of this kind throughout the Region.

The archaeological project (which SEQTOA will fund from other sources) will add knowledge of the vegetative cover, waterways and wetlands in traditional times. This will be added to a predictive model of traditional occupation sites (including camp sites, bora rings, resource extraction sites and pathways).