

What good research
looks like on Marra
country...



About me

- My name is Emmalena Barrett.
- I grew up around Limmen River.
- My clan group is Marra.
- I am currently at student at CDU studying the Diploma of Indigenous Research.

Limmen River Fish Camp

In the middle of Ngukkur and Borroloola

In the Gulf of Carpentaria

Many tourists come here to fish

An example: seagrass research

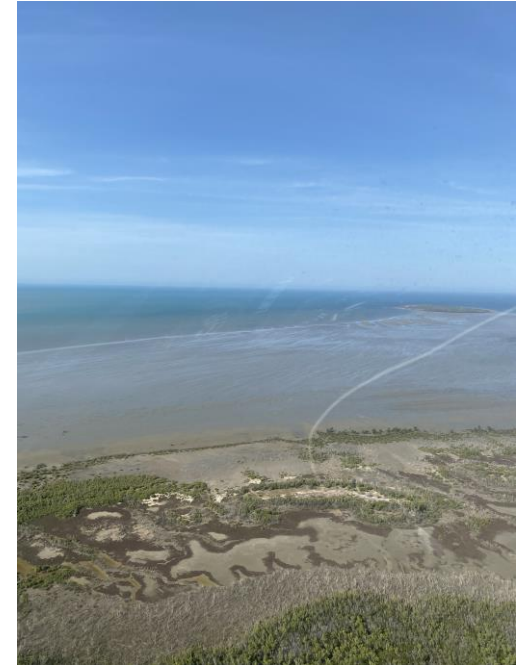
As you can see, in these photos we have gone out to look for seagrass in a helicopter.

We were looking for it to measure it, take photos, mark it on the map and take samples.

The reason we were doing this research was we didn't know how much is out there, and how healthy it is.

As Marra people we need healthy seagrass for dugongs and sea turtles.

When doing this research we were caring for our country so it can care for us.



How to approach research on Marra Country

- That right family are approached and are happy for the research to be done
- Elders/TOs know the stories or know where to go to hear the stories better
- Permission for research depends on what you are researching and where you want to research
- Permission to go places and to take photos
- Permission needed to show photos and put photos on the internet
- Some areas you can visit based on your gender
- It can be important to know there are some places where you can't go.
- The research can be restricted. What you can study depends on where you are allowed to go.

For example, with the seagrass research, where was one place we couldn't go, so we made sure we went around it. And that was respectful.

Values of research on Marra Country

- Our values are about country
- The research needs to show that you care about country and that you are doing it for country
- **If you look after country, it will look after you.**

Photo: This is the Marra Rangers logo. It shows Marra country and the animals we want to look after as totems. The way we look after this country as a ranger, is also how we should look after it as a researcher.

