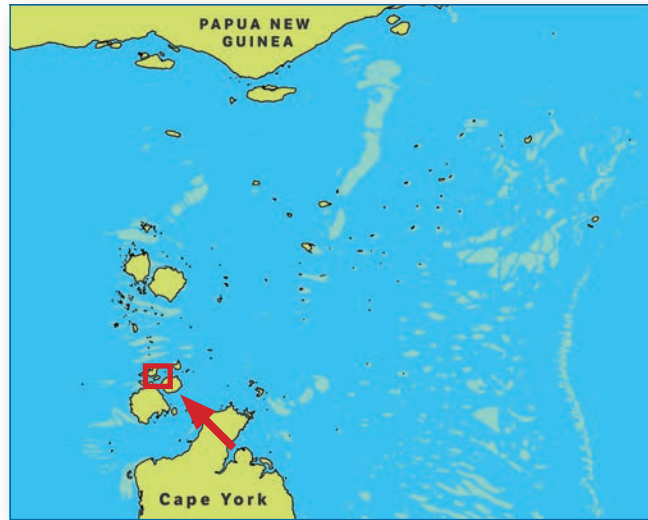


Waiben Land and Sea Profile



OVERVIEW

Traditional island name	Waiben
Western name	Thursday
Inner Islands Cluster	Kaurareg Nation
Local government	TSC
Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC)	
Land type	Continental Island
Air distance from Thursday Island (km)	0
Area (ha)	346
Indicative max length (km)	2.8
Indicative max breadth (km)	1.5
Max elevation (m)	104
Coastline length (km)	8
Population (2011 ABS Census)	2610
Area of island zoned development (ha)	NA
Area of disturbed / undisturbed vegetation (ha/%)	About 277 (80%) / About 69 (20%)

RANGER GROUP

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

LAND



SEA



PEOPLE



KEY VALUES



Healthy sea ecosystems



Marine water quality



Coral reefs



Seagrass meadows



Dugong



Marine turtles



Subsistence fishing



Healthy land ecosystems



Sustainable human settlements



Coasts and beaches



Mangroves and wetlands



Coastal birds

CLIMATE CHANGE RISK

Vulnerability to sea level rise (+1.0m) **Low**

Sea level rise response options **High**



COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Waiben is a small (346ha) continental island in the Inner Islands Cluster of the Torres Strait and is the administrative centre of the region. Waiben (population 2610) is a central part of the Thursday Island group of islands that lies close to Cape York Peninsula and shares similar topography and geological history with the mainland. The main community is located on the southeastern side of the island.

The topography of Waiben includes low hills and mounds of basaltic rock (highest point 104m). Less than an estimated 20% of the island is covered in undisturbed vegetation, with patches of closed and open forest, grasslands and intertidal wetlands and mangroves on the coastal margins.

Waiben is part of the Kaiwalagal region and is currently subject to a native title claim under Kaurareg People#3, Tribunal ID QC2010/003.

The five suburbs of Thursday Island, namely, Tamwoy, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine, are collectively known as TRAWQ. The community of Thursday Island falls within the jurisdiction of Torres Shire Council.



This map is based on the proposed dugong and turtle management area. Dugong and turtle management areas show the general area of operation of community-based land and sea Rangers. The best available information (including traditional place names) has been used at the time of publication. This map is indicative only and not intended for native title purposes.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Recent land and sea management achievements include:

- Community participation in inter-tidal and sub-tidal seagrass monitoring and training activities
- Community participation in the Sustainable Horticulture Project, including the establishment of a school garden and community fruit tree planting
- Volunteer cane toad population survey and collection initiative to attempt to prevent the establishment of cane toads on Thursday Island
- Partnership between Kaurareg people, TSRA and Tagai College to establish the Land and Sea Discovery Centre

LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT AREA

The Kaiwalagal land and sea management area includes a number of uninhabited islands, reefs and marine areas (see map) covering about 239,123ha.

MAIN THREATENING PROCESSES

The main threatening processes affecting the Kaiwalagal land and sea management area relate to climate change (inundation from sea level rise, coastal erosion, and impact of changed climate on vegetation), the spread of pest plants and animals, and declining water quality (including marine debris).

LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Management priorities under the themes of Land, Sea, and People have not yet been identified in a Working on Country Ranger Plan for Kaiwalagal land and sea country and there are currently no Ranger positions (as at 2015). The LSMU supports the aspirations of the Kaurareg People to develop their own land and sea management plan for the Kaiwalagal region, and to identify and progress priority projects such as dugong and turtle management, protecting significant cultural sites, preserving Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and managing pests.

DUGONG AND TURTLE MANAGEMENT

The Waiben community does not have an endorsed Dugong and Turtle Management Plan in place (as at 2015), but will be actively involved in the development of a broader land and sea management plan for the Kaiwalagal region, including a framework for the sustainable management of dugongs and turtles.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROFILE

Climate change in the Torres Strait will involve a warming of air and sea temperatures, rising sea levels, more severe weather events, ocean acidification and some changes to rainfall patterns, evaporation, wind and ocean currents. These changes are predicted to have long-term impacts on all of the region's key values across the Land, Sea and People themes. Thursday Island has a 'low' vulnerability rating to sea level rise and a 'high' response options rating (there are reasonable options to move to a safer site on the island). A rise of 110 cm will cause significant tidal inundation of the community. For more information on climate change, please see the Torres Strait Climate Change Strategy 2014-2018.

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Waiben is part of a cultural landscape of great significance to the Kaurareg people, the Traditional Owners of the Kaiwalagal region. In the development of a land and sea management plan for the Kaiwalagal region, the Kaurareg people will have the opportunity to identify their priorities for the protection of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for future generations.

COMMUNITY HORTICULTURE

The Waiben community has an active food producing community garden in place to preserve traditional gardening skills and support greater community self-sufficiency in food production.

FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

The Waiben community is highly reliant on air transport, diesel powered electricity generation and barge transport of supplies and materials to and from the community. Renewable energy options will be explored to reduce carbon emissions and work towards energy independence.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As there are currently no Rangers on Waiben, community engagement with the Ranger Program is currently limited to region-wide initiatives. As part of negotiations over the development of a land and sea management plan for the Kaiwalagal Region, Ranger positions may be established on Waiben in the future. Rangers would play a key role in on-ground environmental management initiatives as well as community engagement to ensure management activities remain relevant to community priorities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, visit the TSRA website at <http://www.tsra.gov.au> and the Torres Strait eAtlas <http://ts.eatlas.org.au/ts>