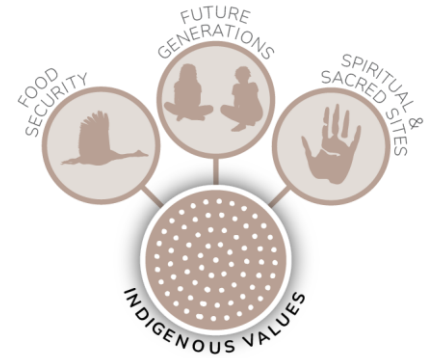


Indigenous Values

1 Indigenous Food Security, Spiritual and Sacred Sites, and Future Generations



Indicator Overview

Indicators for Indigenous values report on the health of cultural and spiritual sites in Darwin Harbour. These indicators were developed during Indigenous stakeholder consultation and measured through survey responses in the 2021 Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card (DHIRC). The Indigenous stakeholders identified three specific indicators to be included in the DHIRC these included:

- Indigenous Food Security
- Spiritual and Sacred Sites
- Future Generations

Methodology

Indigenous values were reported through a survey of 28 Larrakia people living in the Darwin Harbour Catchment. The engagement process was led by the Larrakia Rangers who have distributed the survey through Larrakia Ranger and Larrakia Nation communication channels.

The survey questions were based on those used in 2021 and incorporate further updates recommended by the Larrakia Rangers to report on relevant data.

A score for each indicator was calculated from survey responses. Questions within the survey used to determine indicator grades provided respondents with an opportunity to rank their response from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Broken into five categories, these responses were scored accordingly: strongly disagree (0), disagree (25), neutral (50), agree (75), and strongly agree (100) – matching the standardised 0-100 report card scoring scale. This score ranking was reversed if a question was framed negatively. For example, a ‘strongly agree’ response to the prompt “There is less mainland food than there used to be on the island” received a numeric score of 0 rather than 100.

Responses to questions were averaged and reported by indicator category: i) Spiritual and Sacred Sites, ii) Future Generations, and iii) Food Security.

Responses to the following prompts informed the Spiritual and Sacred Sites indicator:

- Enough is done to protect the spiritual and sacred sites in the Harbour region.
- Spiritual and sacred sites are respected by non-Indigenous people.
- Spiritual and sacred sites are respected by Indigenous people in the Harbour region.

Responses to the following prompts informed the Future Generations indicator:

- Culture, tradition and knowledge is still practiced in the community.
- Cultural knowledge about Darwin Harbour is being passed onto your children.
- You would like to be employed to help look after Darwin Harbour and surrounds.
- Your opinions are taken into account when government etc make decisions.
- You have opportunities to share your knowledge of country with non-Aboriginal groups and decision makers.

Responses to the following prompts informed the Food Security indicator:

- You use the Darwin Harbour region for your main source of food.
- There is less seafood (fish, turtle crab) than used to be in the Harbour.
- There is less mainland food (nuts, fruit, snake, goanna, magpie goose) than there used to be on the mainland.

Report card score and grade

The results collected from the survey responses showed a decrease in average scores across all three indicators. Indigenous Food Security was the only indicator which received a different letter grade when compared to 2021 results, going from a C to a D, as shown in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. Summary of results in 2021 and 2024

Score	2021 Average Score	2021 Report Card Grade	2024 Average Score	2024 Report Card Grade
Indigenous Food Security	47	C	33	D
Future Generations	69	B	64	B-
Spiritual and Sacred Sites	57	C+	47	C
Average Score	57.6	C	48	C

Indigenous Values received a C grade in the 2024 DHIRC. The 2024 results show a decrease in knowledge and respect of sacred and spiritual sites and indigenous food security. When comparing the 2021 and 2024 scores the difference in sample size of survey respondents and breadth of survey techniques used across the two reporting periods should be considered.

Table 1-2. Report card scores and grades for 2021 and 2024 report cards.

Indigenous Values	DHIRC 2021	DHIRC 2024
Report Card Score	57.6	48.2
Report Card Grade	C	C