

# Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay

The map (Figure 1) shows the approximate Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay area, but it is likely they extended some way into Queensland. The name of both languages consists of the word for ‘no’ (*gamil*, *yuwaal*) and a suffix meaning ‘with’ or ‘having’. In YR the word for ‘no’ has changed to *waal*. There are other no-with languages that are fairly similar to GY: Wiradjuri (*wiraa-dhuraay*), Wayilwan (*wayil-wan*) and Wangaaybuwan (*wangaay-buwan*). For more information about these languages see Giacon (2017).

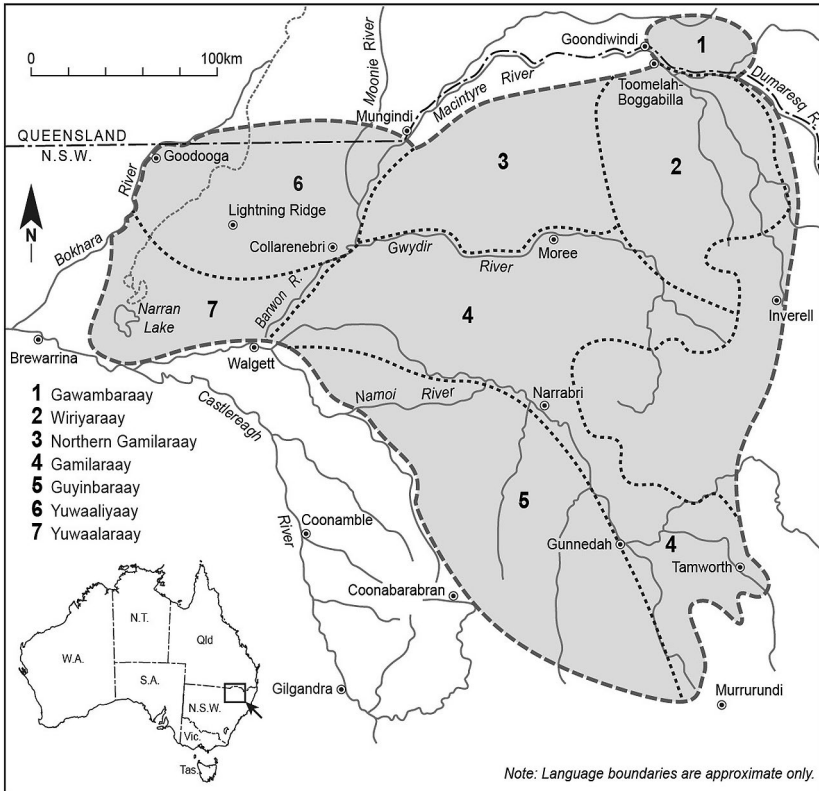


Figure 1: Map showing area of Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay language use.

Source: Adapted from Austin, Williams & Wurm, 1980, p. 167.

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The impact of colonisation was dramatic. Gamilaraay country, being better for agriculture than Yuwaalaraay, had a greater proportion of colonists, so Gamilaraay population and language declined rapidly. Change was slower in Yuwaalaraay country, so language knowledge persisted for much longer.

Recent years have seen many more GY people working on relearning and reusing their languages, and courses in schools, community, TAFE and university.

This text is taken from *Wiidhaa: An Introduction to Gamilaraay*,  
by John Giacon, published 2020 by ANU Press, The Australian  
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