



National Environmental  
Research Program

## Project 9.1

# Decision support for a vulnerable GBR under environmental change

Ken Anthony, Nick Wolff, Pete Mumby, Karlo  
Hock, Michelle Devlin, Roger Beeden



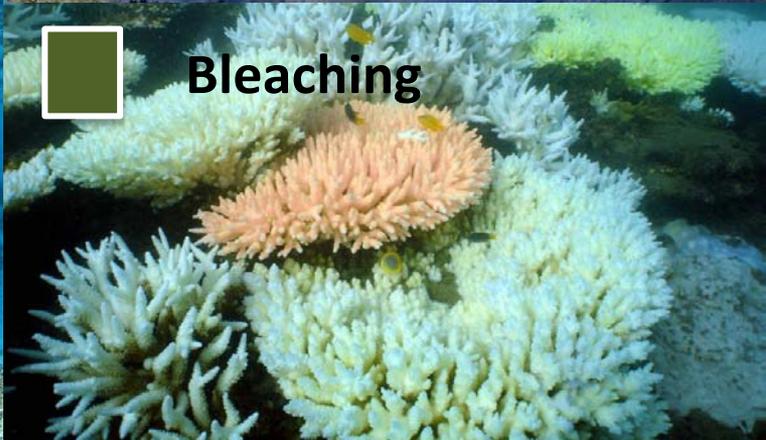
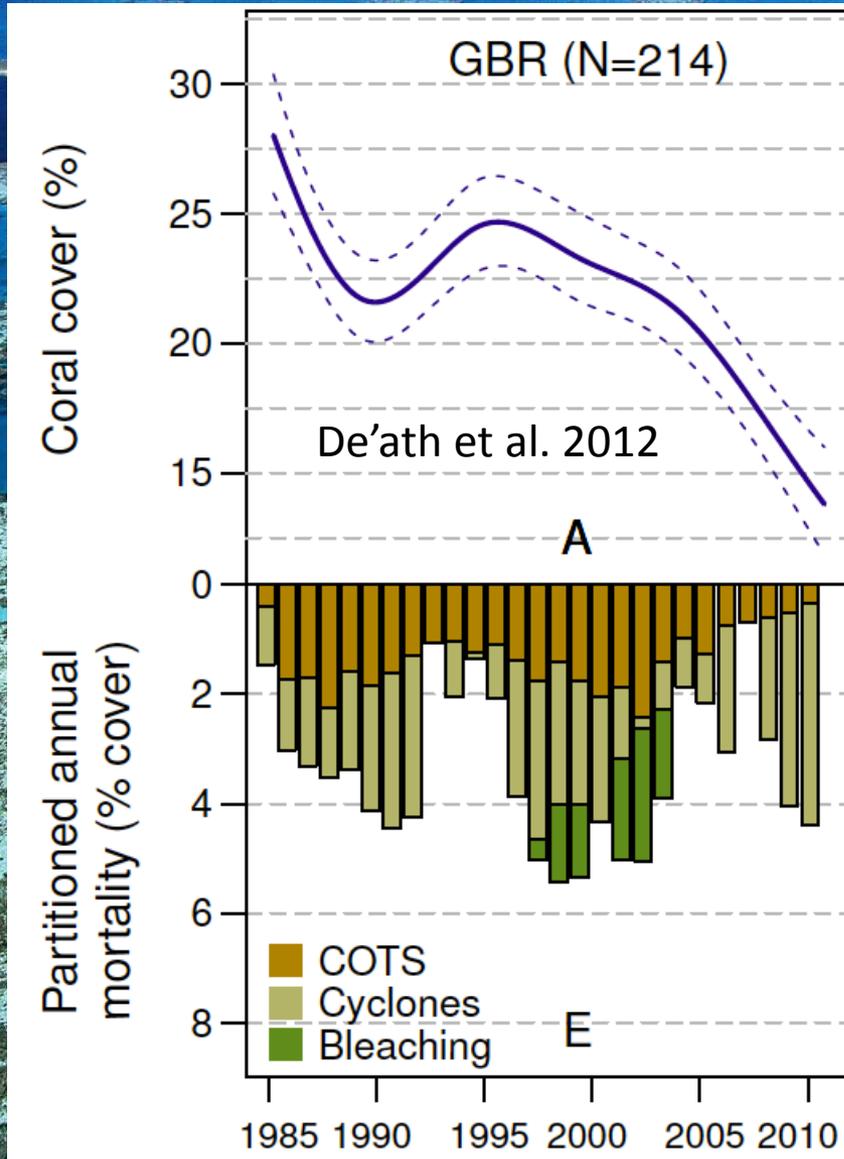
**MSEL**  
Marine Spatial Ecology Lab



NERP Environmental Decisions Hub

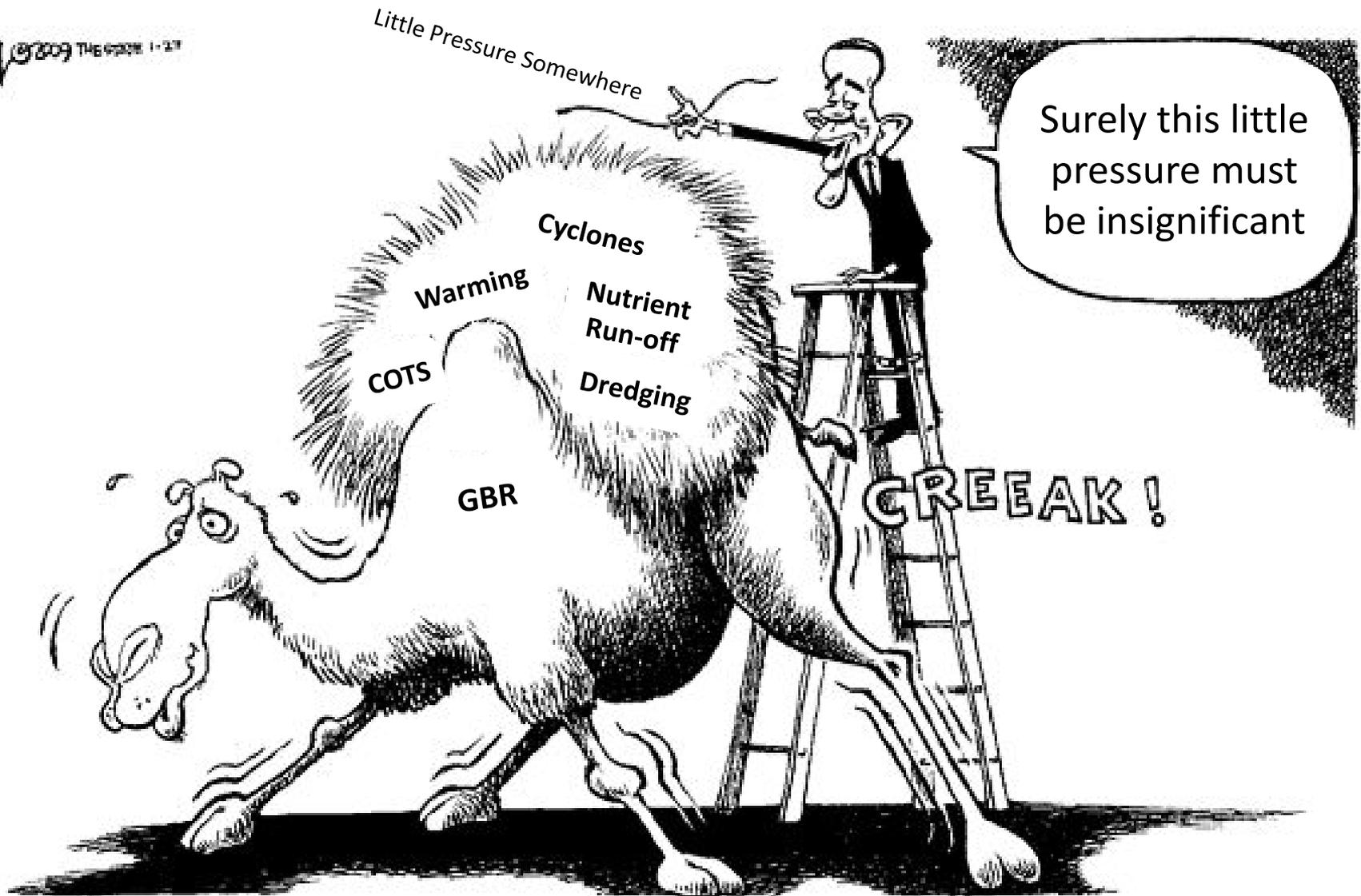


# A Vulnerable or Resilient Great Barrier Reef ?



# Cumulative impacts – what's the last straw?

ARIALS 2009 THE WASH 1-27

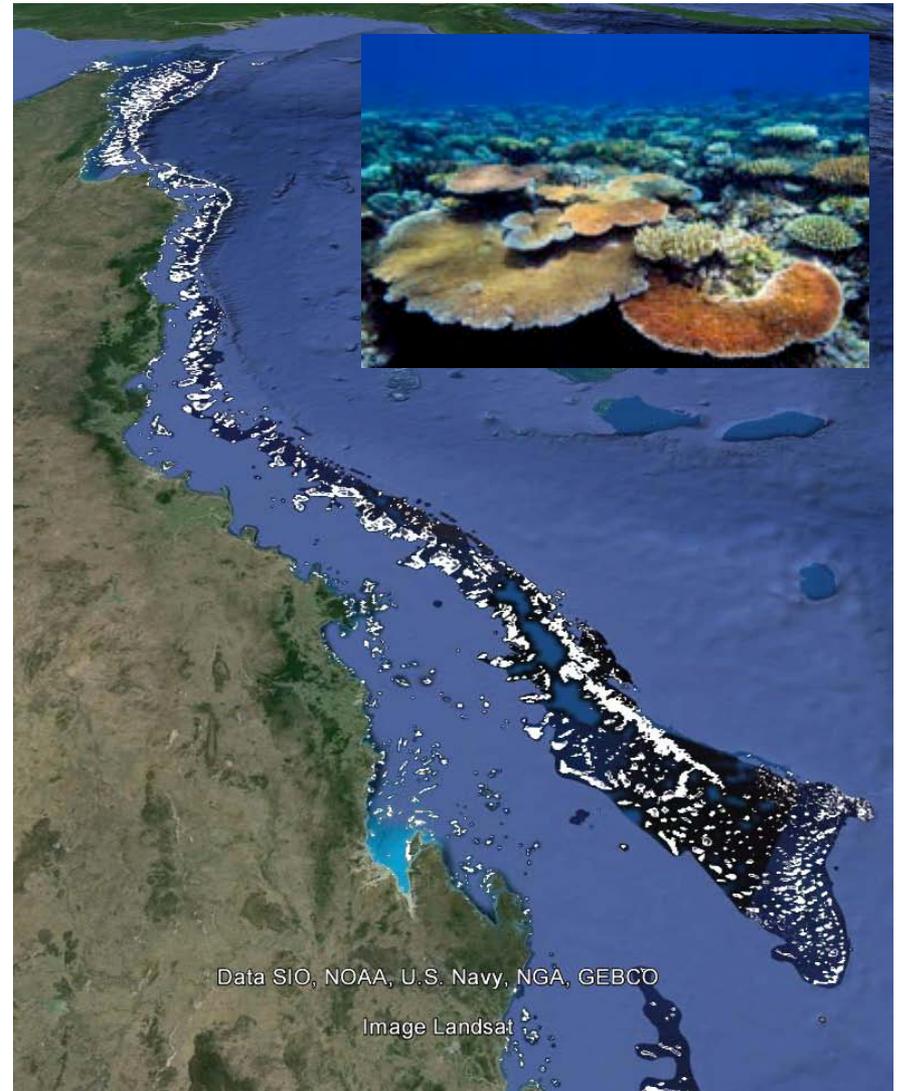




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## Objective 1 of 2

- **Develop spatial understanding of vulnerability and resilience of GBR corals as we move towards year 2050**



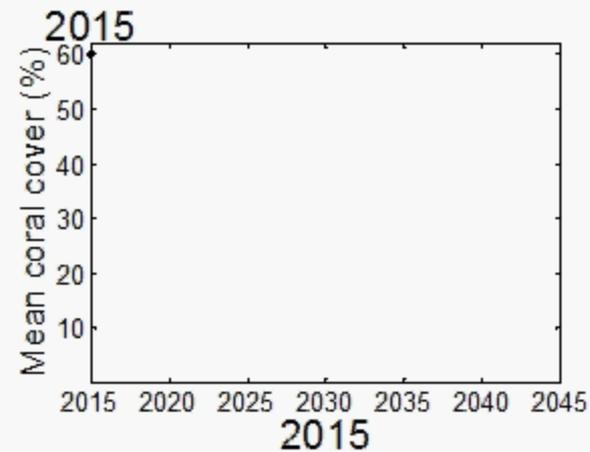
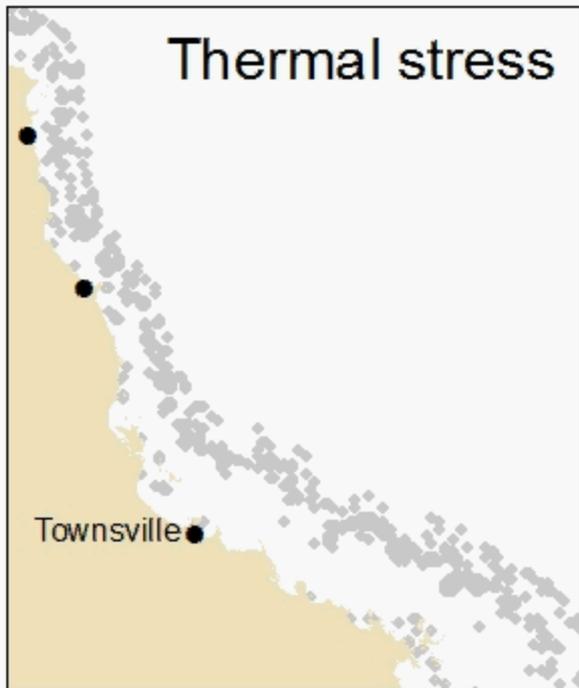
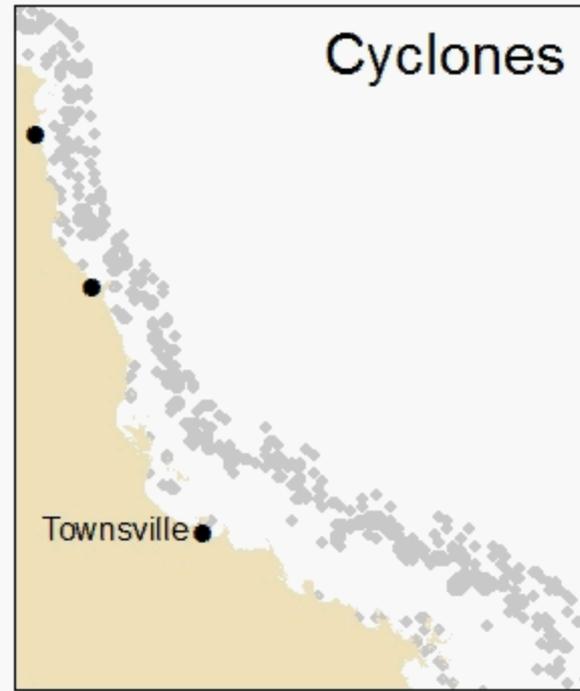
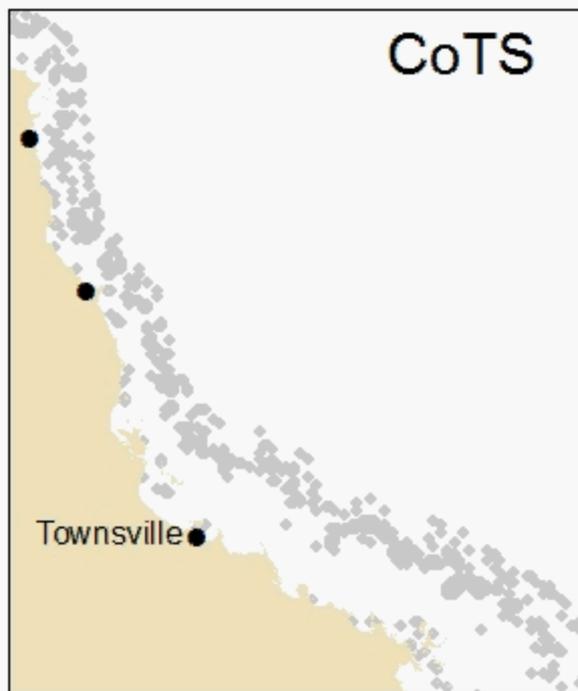
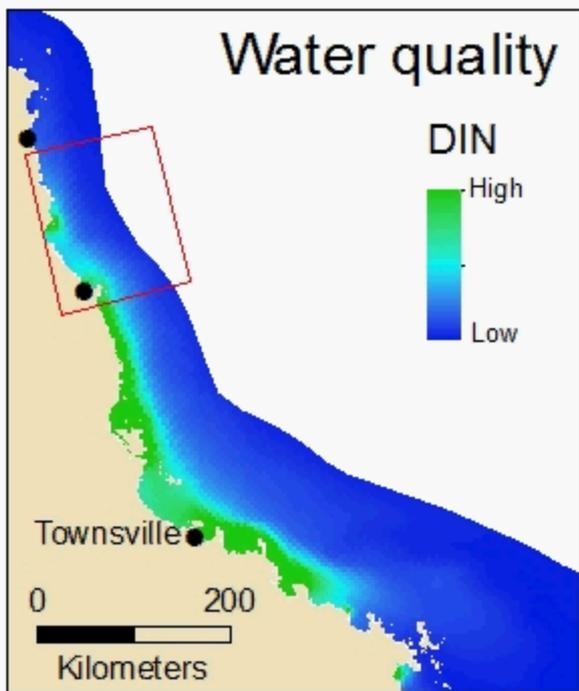


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## Objective 2 of 2

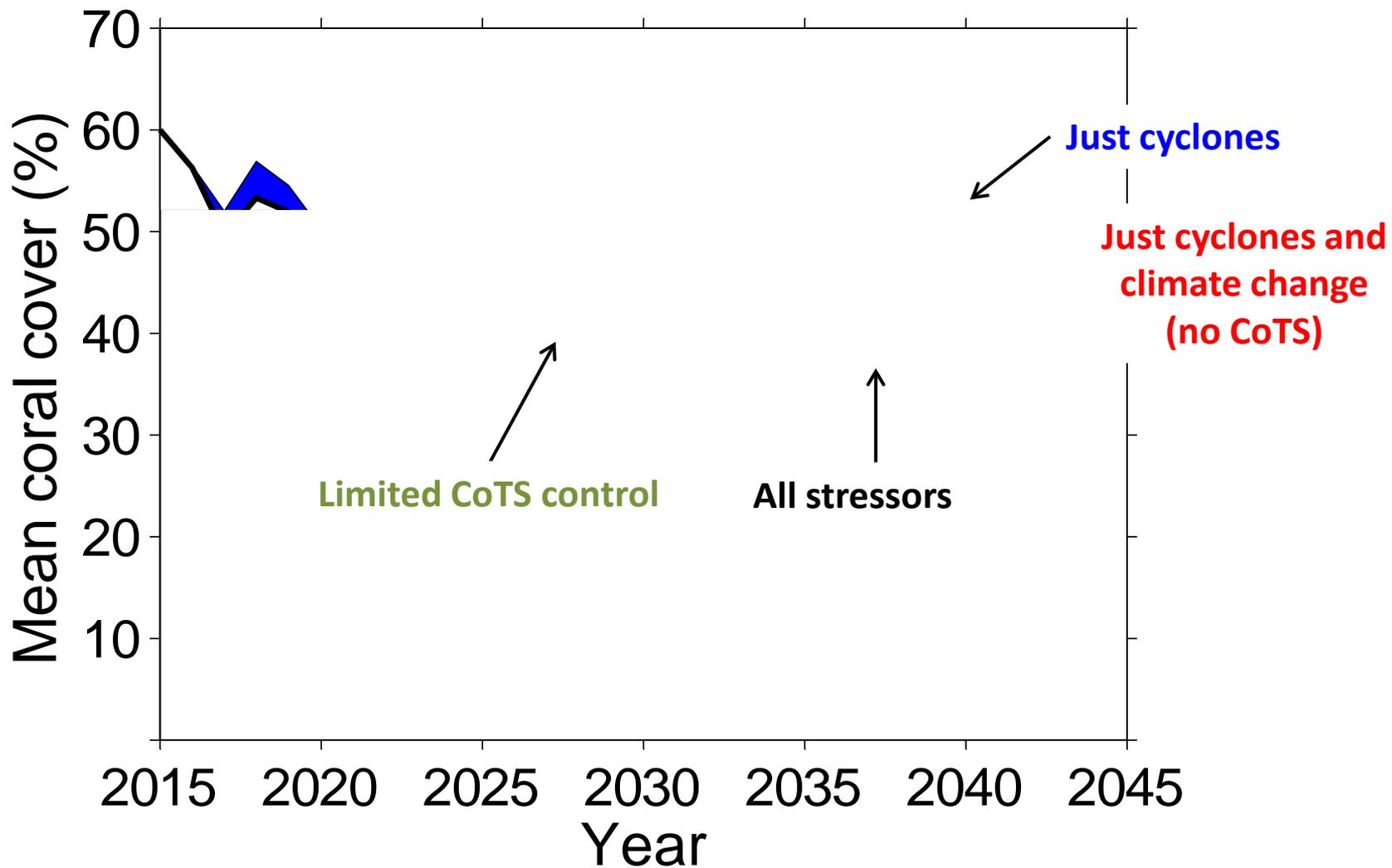
- Guide **effective management decisions to protect GBR corals** – what reefs can we / should we protect and how?





Wolff et al. ms

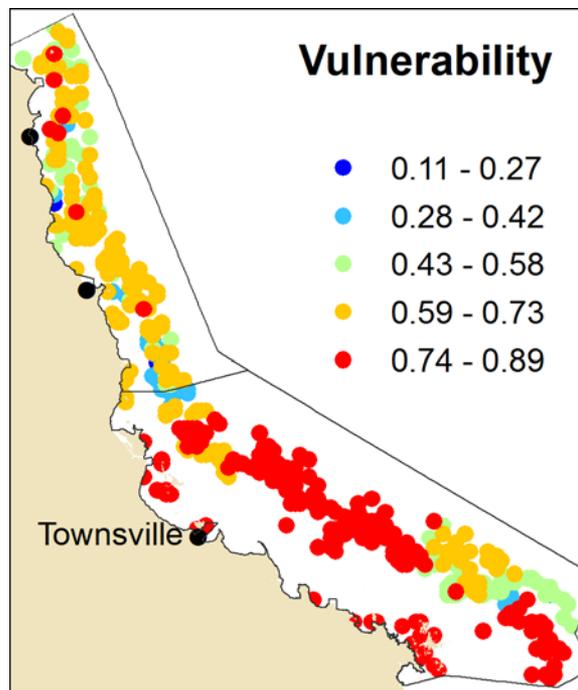
# Limiting CoTS control

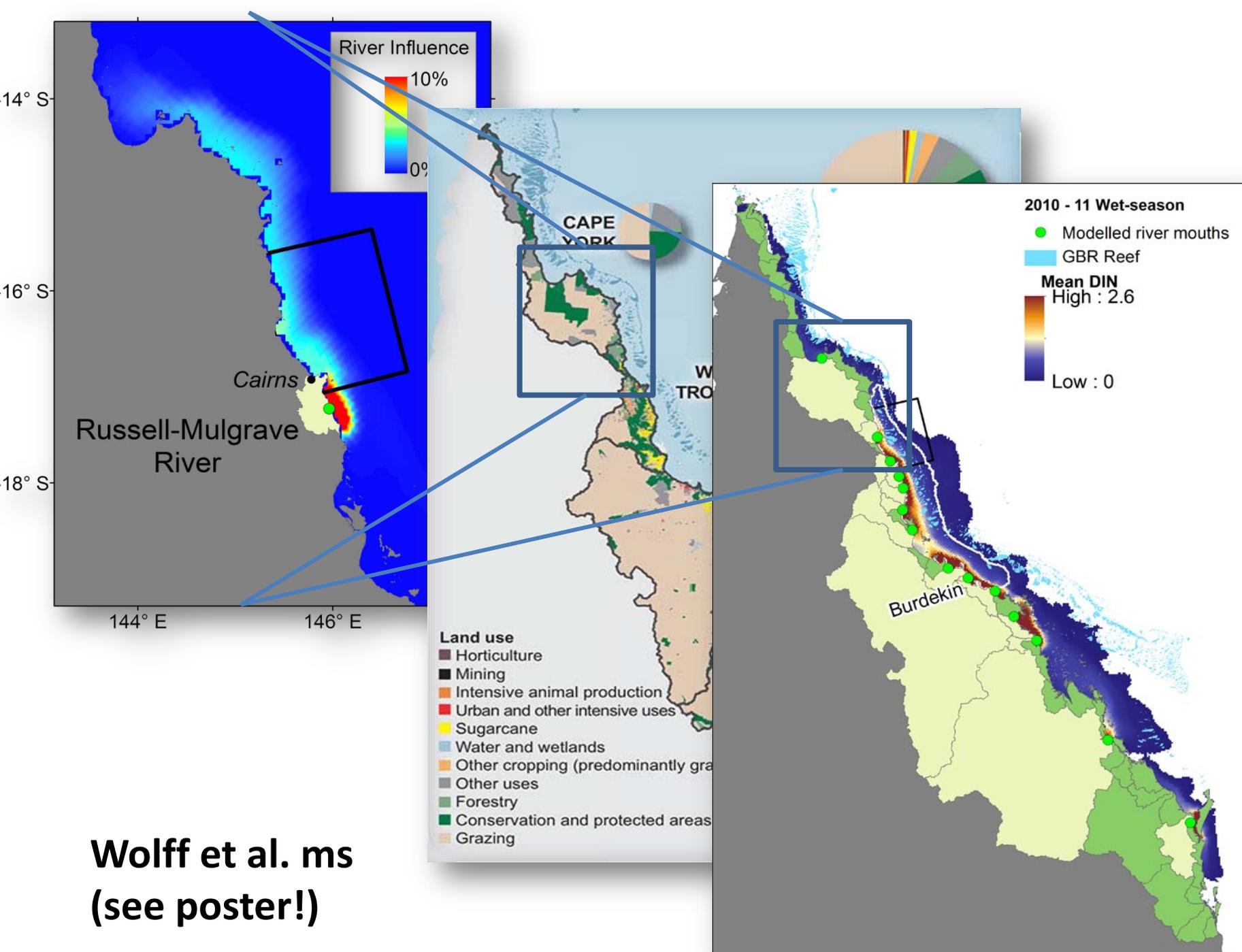


Modified from Mumby and Anthony (in review)

Can help (1) identify reefs that will give best return on management investment  
(2) guide the design of targeted monitoring programs

### All stressors combined





**Wolff et al. ms  
(see poster!)**

# Framework

## SCENARIO MODELLING

### LOCAL / REGIONAL

Land-use practices

Coastal development

### GLOBAL / REGIONAL

Cyclones

Ocean warming

OA

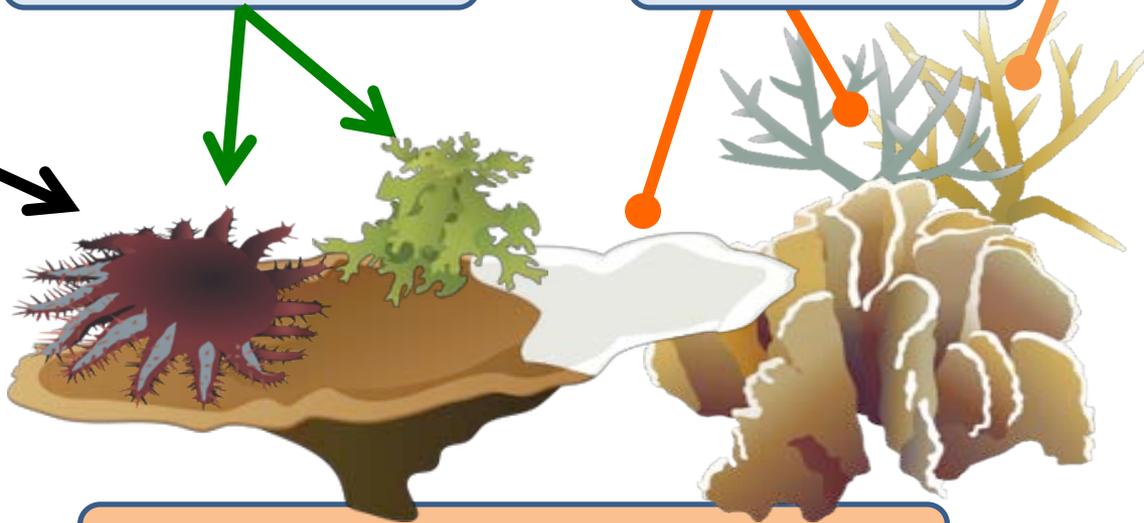
## DECISION ANALYSES

Management options / alternatives

Review of results against **objectives**: min vulnerability & max resilience

Run-off and nutrient export

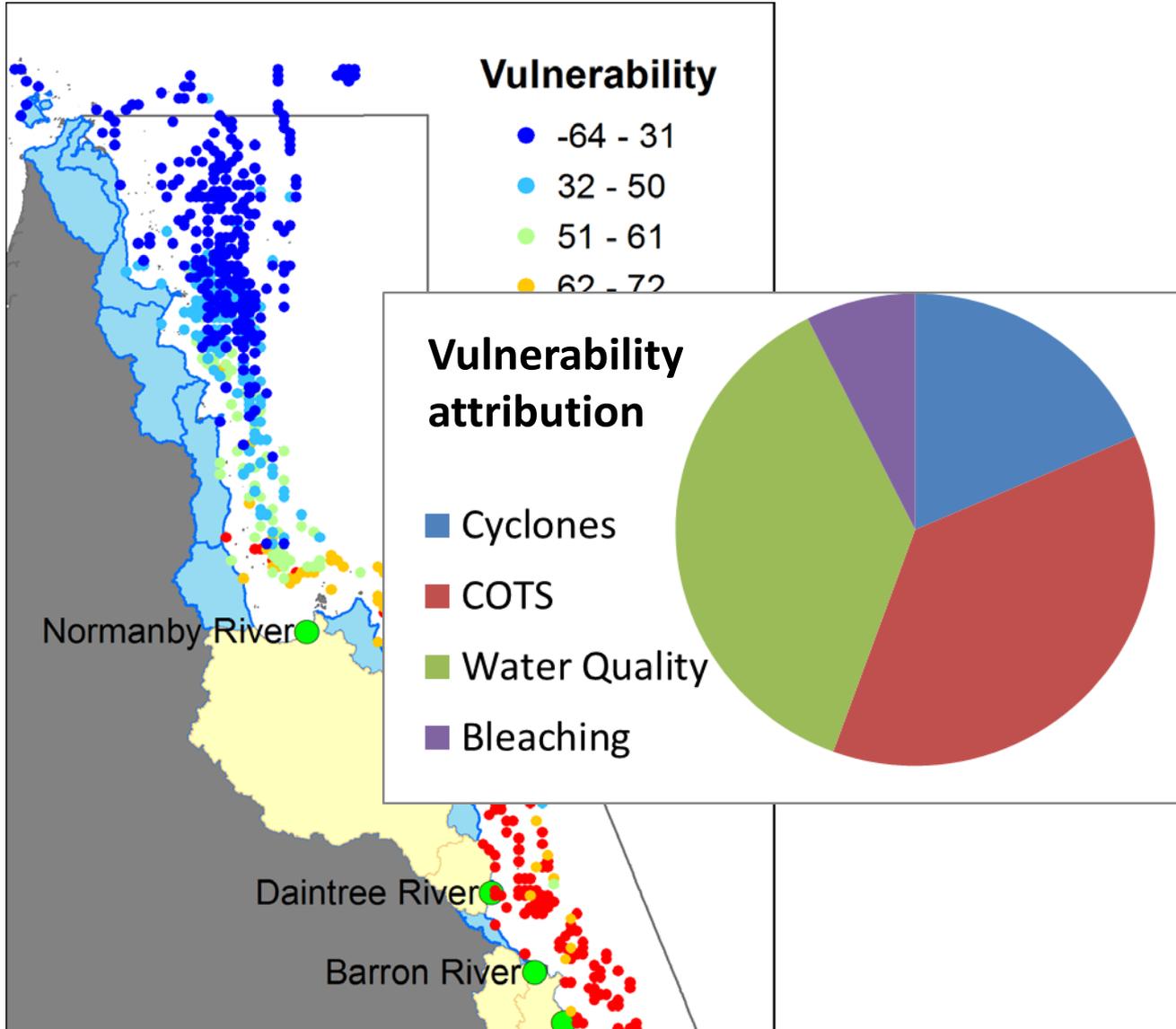
Coral bleaching and disease



Coral vulnerability or resilience

## ECOSYSTEM MODEL

# Scenario: Status Quo



# Framework

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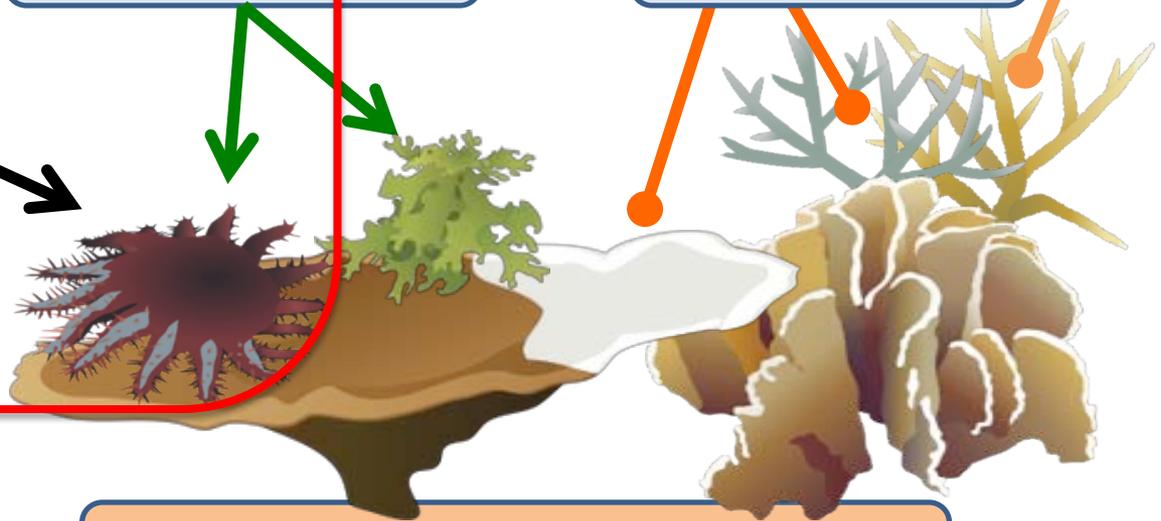
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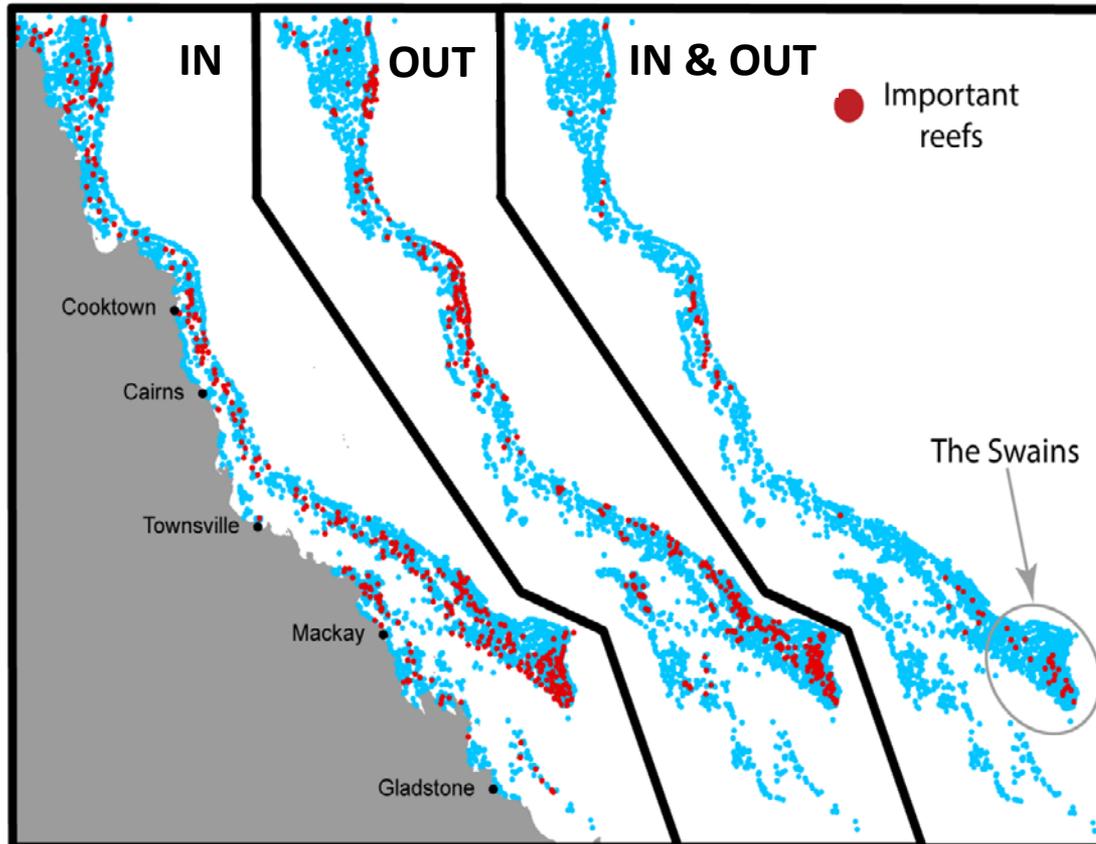


Coral vulnerability or resilience

## ECOSYSTEM MODEL

# Connectivity networks reveal the risks of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks on the Great Barrier Reef

Karlo Hock<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Nicholas H. Wolff<sup>1</sup>, Scott A. Condie<sup>3</sup>, Kenneth R. N. Anthony<sup>2</sup> and Peter J. Mumby<sup>1</sup>



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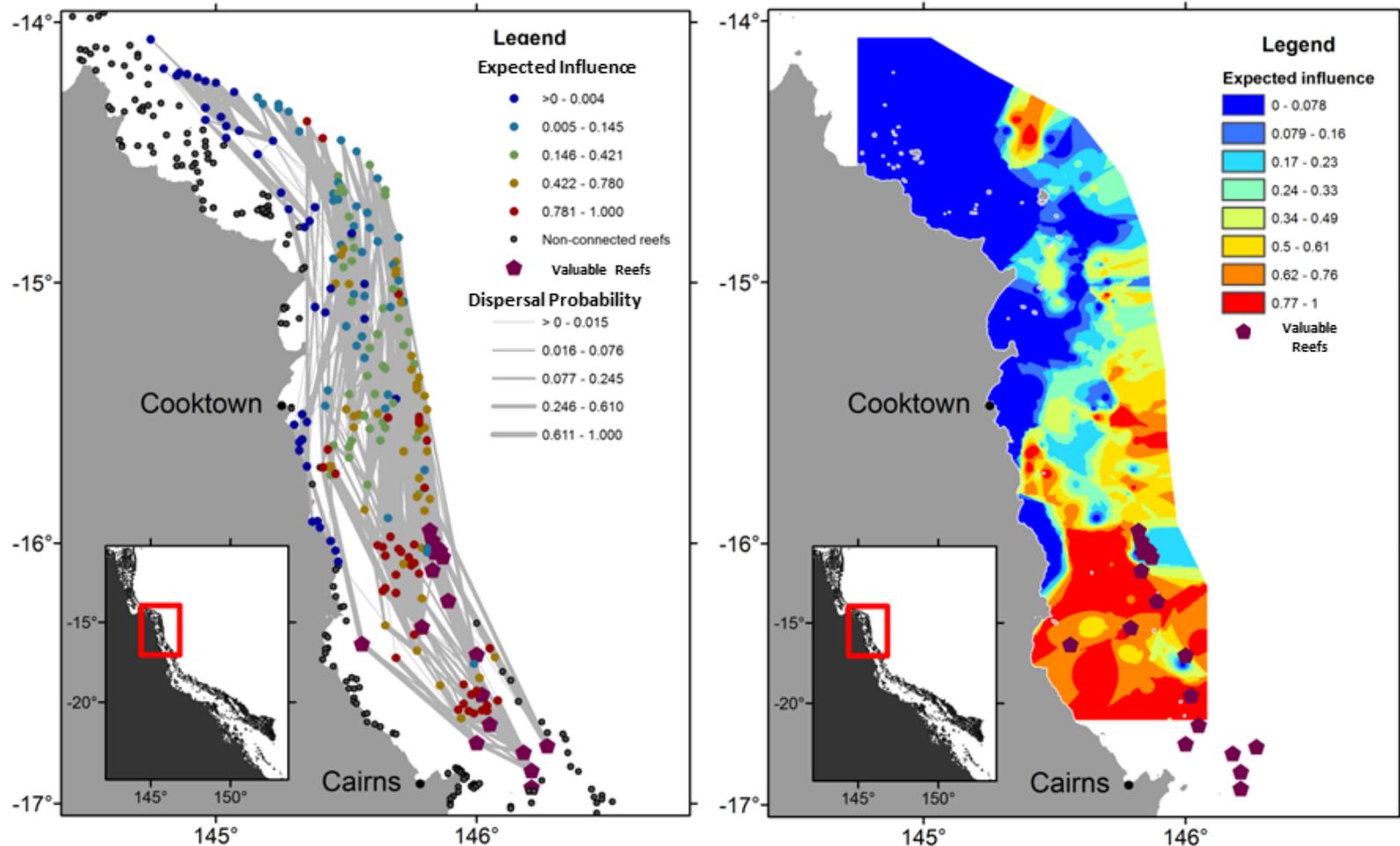
ECOLOGY

## Predictable patterns for coral-reef pest

Nature 511, 510 (31 July 2014) | doi:10.1038/511510a  
Published online 30 July 2014

The photograph shows a crown-of-thorns starfish with its characteristic long, sharp spines and a central body covered in yellowish, fleshy polyps. It is positioned over a coral reef structure.

# Connectivity pattern and threat assessment for valuable tourism reefs



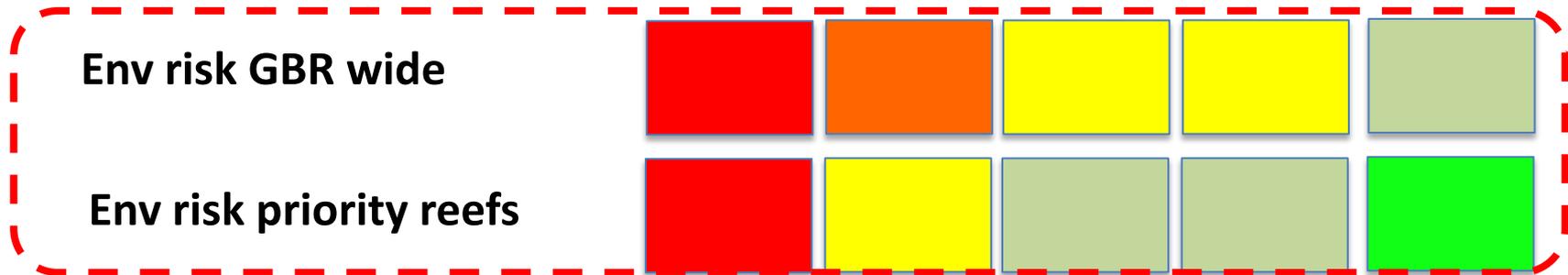
Hock K, Wolff NH, Hoey J, Beeden R, Condie SA, Anthony KRN, Possingham HP, Mumby PJ.  
*Adaptive control in connectivity networks: a coral reef pest example. MS*

# Management alternatives, risks & consequences

## Alternatives

A: Unregulated development  
 B: Targeted land management  
 C: More effective COTS control  
 D: Smart options for dredging  
 B+C+D

## Objectives



Cost to tourism industry

Cost to farmers

Mitig costs to Governm

**Invitation!**  
 Next steps in partnership with  
 GBRMPA, AMPTO, DotE and Qld Gov

Risk or cost:



# Framework

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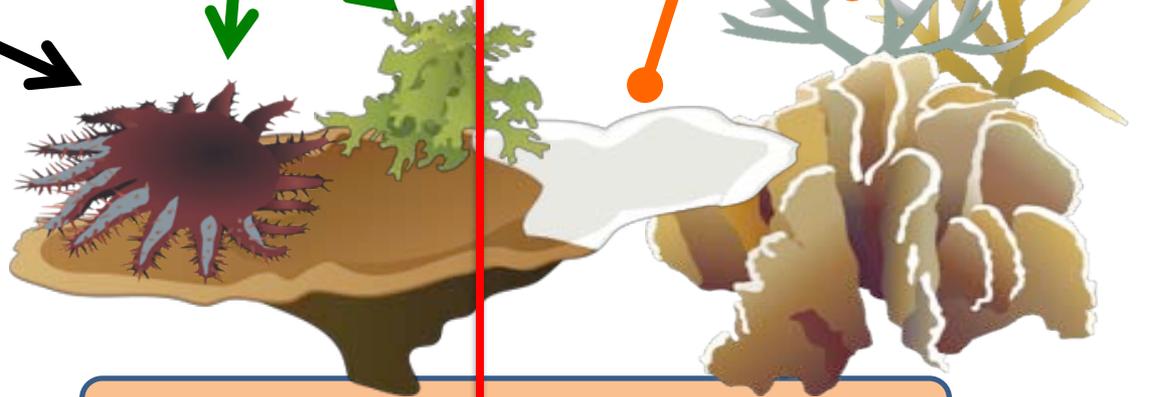
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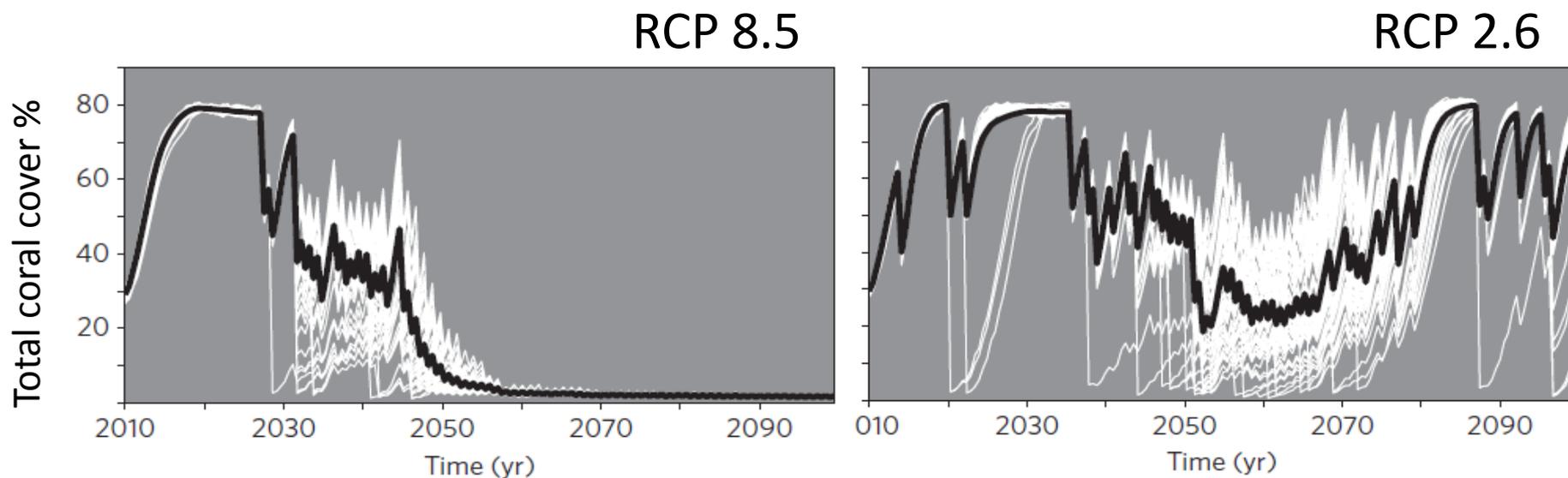


Coral vulnerability or resilience

## ECOSYSTEM MODEL

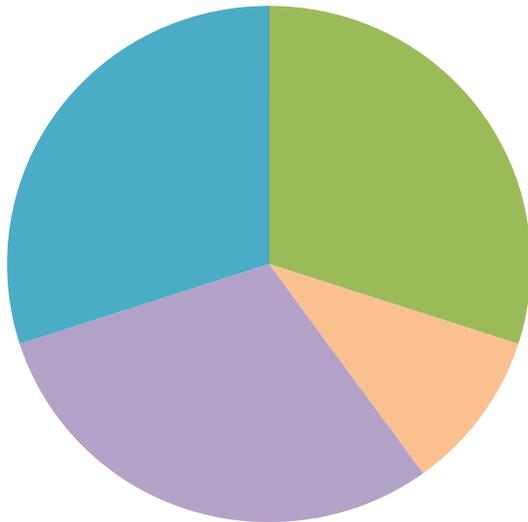
# Global disparity in the ecological benefits of reducing carbon emissions for coral reefs

Juan Carlos Ortiz<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Yves-Marie Bozec<sup>1,2</sup>, Nicholas H. Wolff<sup>1,2</sup>, Christopher Doropoulos<sup>1,2</sup>  
and Peter J. Mumby<sup>1,2</sup>

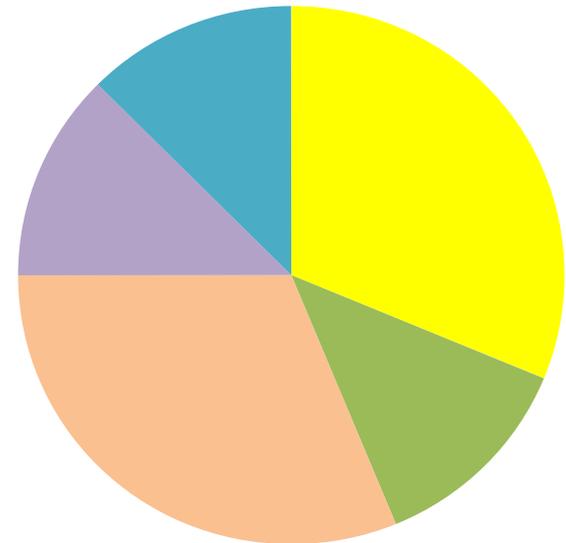


# Coral vulnerability attributions under environmental change

**Now**



**Later**



- Acidification
- Water Quality
- Bleaching
- COTS
- Cyclones





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Thank you!

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