



National Environmental
Research Program

Collaborative governance of wet tropics country

November 2014

XXX Traditional Owners
XXX Government/Industry
XXX Non-CSIRO Researchers

Hill
Pert
Maclean

Abel
Bauman
Barrett
Bellaquih
Bock
Borrini-Feyerabend
Butler
Cullen-Unsworth
Dale
Fyrrn
Friday
George
Grant
Jackson
Joyce
McDermott
McIntyre-Tamwoy
Mundraby
Rist
Rampton
Robinson
Sarago
Schmider
Talbot
Tawake
Wallace





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Mutual benefits

Funding provided for Traditional Owner roles

Working with Indigenous governance structures

- Girringun Aboriginal Corporation
- Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
- Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation

Protection of Intellectual and Cultural Property

- Collaboration Agreements
- Aboriginal people retain all ownership of their ICP
- Ownership of new material is shared
- Licences to use the material to all parties

Participatory Co-research

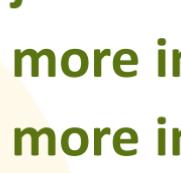
Workshop

Interviews

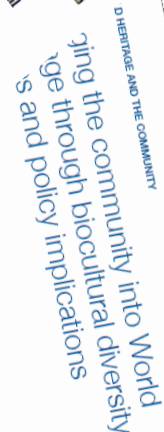
Dialogue

Spatial assessment

Health ratings



Category	Count
Journal articles	6
more in-review	2
more in-prep	2
book chapters	2
Research toward Policy Briefs	7



What works well for Indigenous co-management and why?

Investigate the capability of

- Indigenous Protected Areas, and other collaborative planning models and mechanisms;
- to provide the means for recognition of Indigenous knowledge and values; and
- joint management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area between Governments and Rainforest Aboriginal people, in partnership with communities.

Collaborative *governance* is critical for managing the natural and cultural values of wet tropics country

is a **flexible solution-building process**, not a **fixed state**, involving extensive talking, negotiations and jointly learning, so it gets better over time

“Governance is the number one issue.”

Partner

Management

is about *what is done* in pursuit of given objectives.

Governance

is about *who decides* about what is to be done, and *how* those decisions are taken.

Collaborative *governance* enhances governance vitality

“ Culturally assured engagement, that directs the partner agency, is critical...the best results come when Traditional Owners drive the process, take government on a journey.”

Partner

HEART **Governance Quality**

- Legitimacy and voice
- Direction
- Performance
- Accountability
- Fairness and rights

MIND **Governance Diversity**

- Government-governed
- Shared-governance
- Indigenous peoples' and community-governed
- Privately-governed

SPIRIT **Governance Vitality**

- Well-integrated and functionally connected
- Wise
- Empowered
- Adaptive
- Innovative

Jobs and work

"64 people as full-time, casuals, volunteer **employed** on country last financial year."

Traditional Owner

Overcoming passivity

"Aboriginal people are starting to be leaders, starting to be considered **powerful, influential**, undertaking mentoring."

Partner

Health

"We have **better** health **through connection** to country"

Girringun 2007

Jobs readiness

"Our mob our mostly on the dole...through volunteer and casual work we have a **WORK POOL** ready to go."

Traditional Owner

Money

"We've got a biodiversity project, a great big nursery and had people just **flocking in** **buying** trays and trays of plants."

Traditional Owner

Environmental protection

"We're actually doing the the rehabilitation of the acid sulfate soils they had **battery acid levels** in the water and now they're taken down."
"We've regenerated 2000-3000 plants in a few weeks."

Traditional Owners

Cultural renewal

"Walking tracks...are all culture, it's part of our culture. Our rangers have widened it, gone through and cleared it, we can **walk our country** again."

Traditional Owner

Disaster response

"In, Cyclone Yasi our Rangers were on the ground to help ... Notices went up everywhere saying thanks to Girringun Rangers. We have found our place, and **excelled** for the whole community."

Traditional Owner

Elders and youth

"The key to it, we've kind of stumbled, across is the young ones."

The Junior Ranger Program... gets all the adults sitting around and talk about how we can collaboratively work together."

Traditional Owner

From welfare to business

"I used to think that we're not going to **break the welfare cycle** in my generation but we're doing it here today."

Traditional Owner

Justice

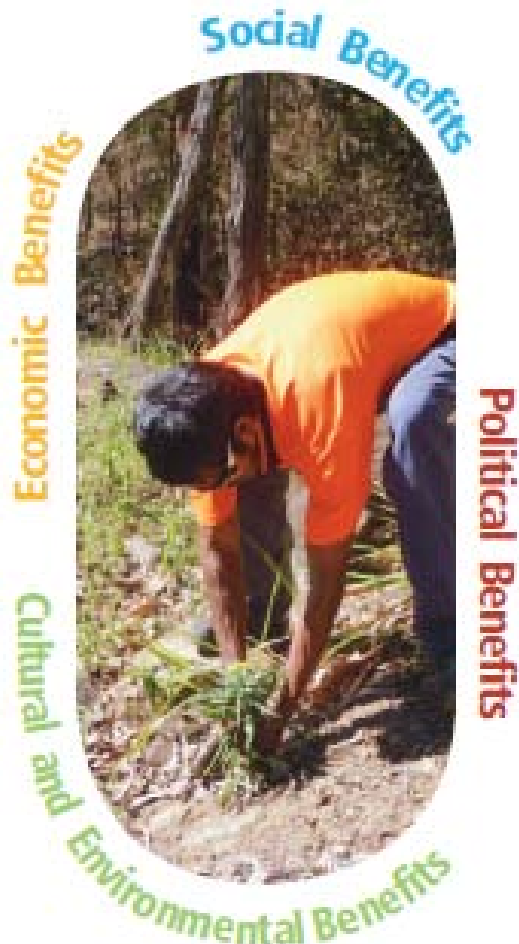
"We work with the police and organisations and **deliver peace**."

Traditional Owner

Reconciliation

"Need to acknowledge the change, how far we have **come together**... completely changed the community views about blackfella business in this community."

Traditional Owner



Key Findings

Multiple benefits are delivered through effective collaborative governance of country

Collaborative governance of wet tropics country overcomes multiple barriers to deliver these multiple benefits!



Indigenous Protected Areas ...

- TO led (empowered)
- Bring people around table (connected)
- Recognise Indigenous knowledge (wise)
- Flexible (adaptive)
- Multi-tenure (innovative)

“IPAs is the ‘what’, Rangers is the ‘how’ ...IPA, it’s deadly, a good thing, a really good thing, it translates to self-determination.”

Traditional Owner

SPIRIT **Governance Vitality**

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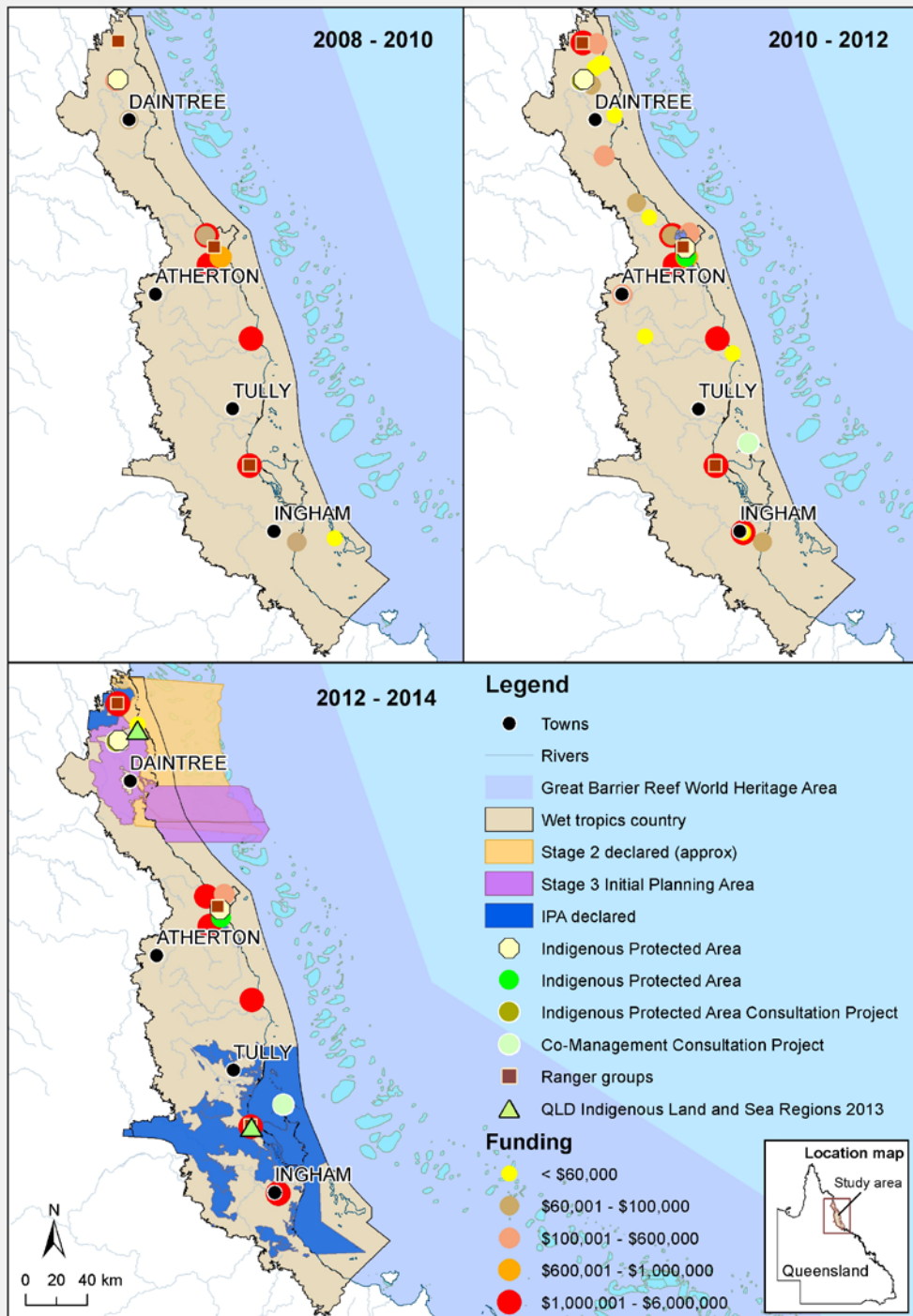


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Opportunities

Value-adding to IPAs

- Extend across wet tropics
- Focus on higher level protection (national and world heritage values)
- More resources
- Delegate State/Australian roles
- Guide State plans



Indigenous Land Use Agreements show few features of governance vitality

- 11 Protected Area ILUAs
- Adversarial negotiations
- Focus on regulating native title rights, hunting, firearms, taking of species, camping, lighting fires and disposing of rubbish
- Little recognition of Indigenous knowledge
- No resources for implementation

SPIRIT Governance Vitality

- Well-integrated and functionally connected
- Wise
- Empowered
- Adaptive
- Innovative

“Native title is limited, it's sick, it's very sick. It doesn't go to the implementation, doesn't go there.”

“That ILUA stops our traditional burning.”

Traditional Owners

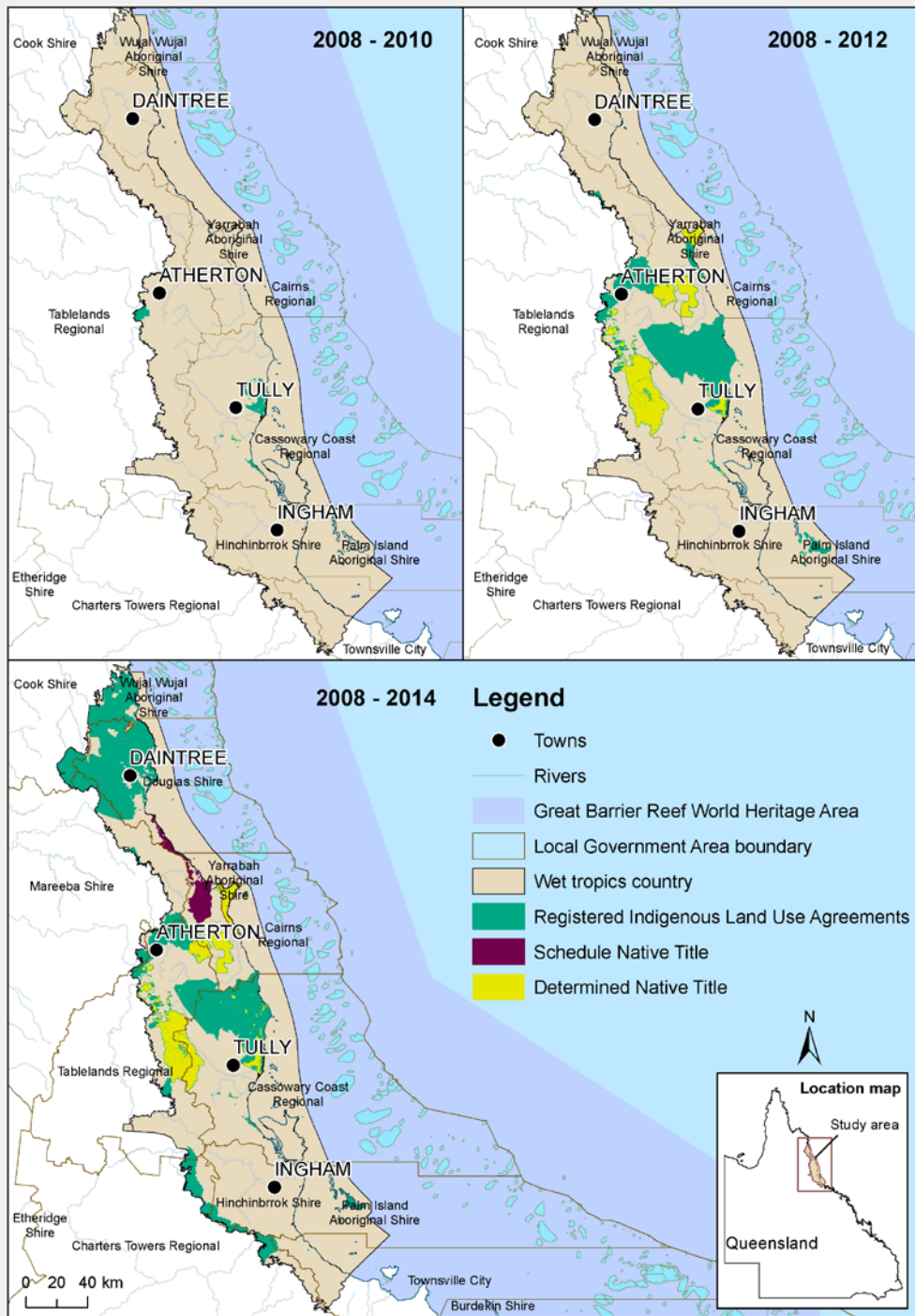


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Opportunities

Value-adding to ILUAs

- Indigenous-led planning first
- Adaptive, collaborative approach to negotiations
- Recognise Indigenous knowledge
- Provide for joint management e.g. Cape York, NSW, NT



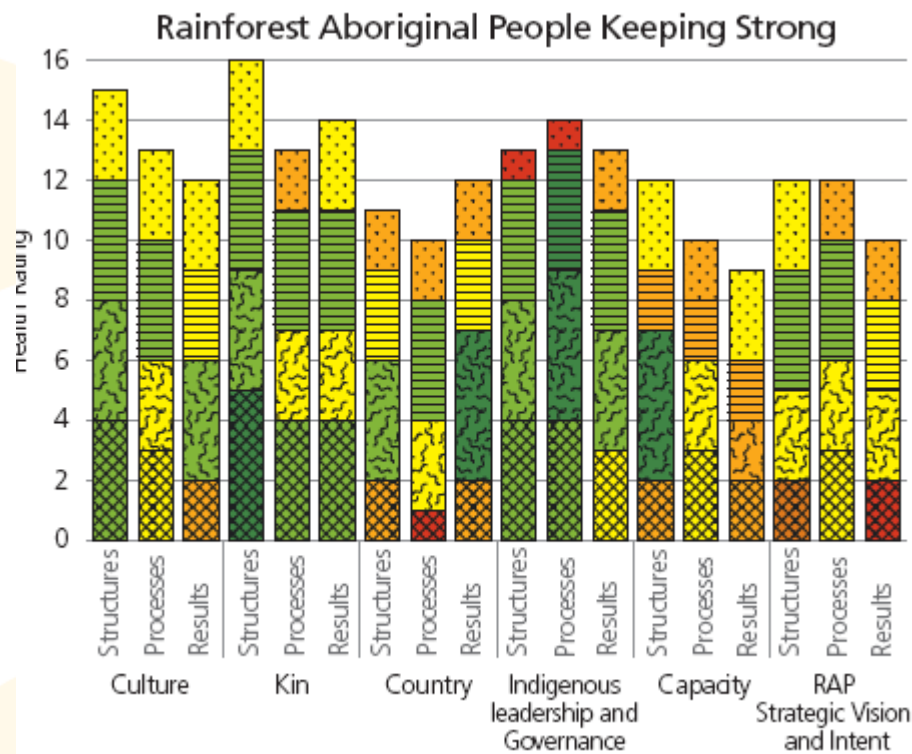


Current inequitable progress, patchy governance health

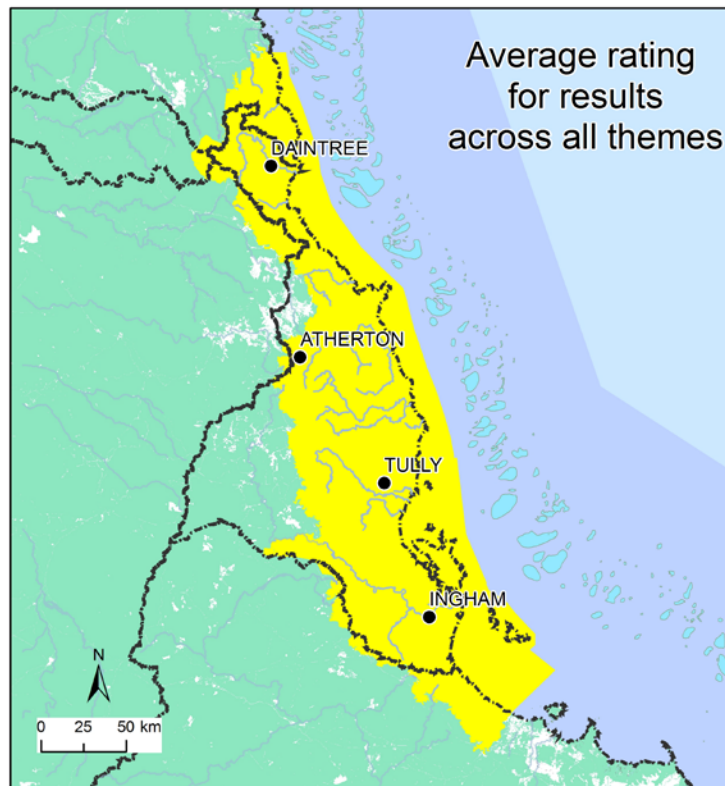
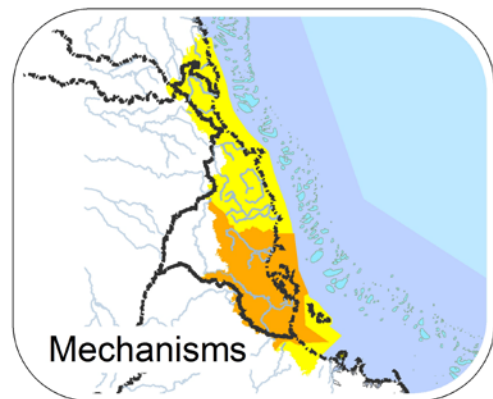
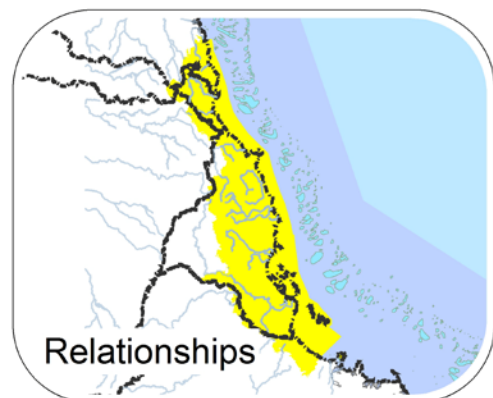
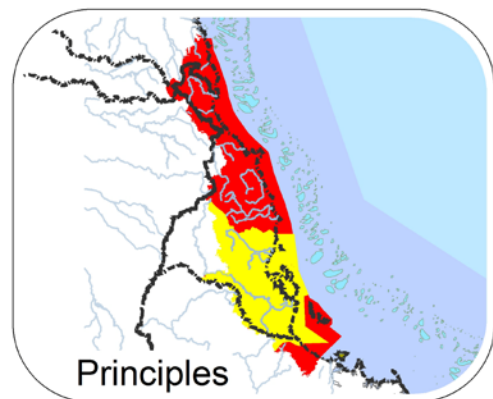
- Groups at different stages using different vehicles:
 - Pre-determination organising
 - Post determination re-connecting
 - Country as the basis of sustainable development (IPAs, Rangers, businesses etc)
- Partners also diverse experiences of stages
- Patchy outcomes, some good health some poor
- **Where should we focus???????**

“Its a multi-lane highway with multiple destinations, and different vehicles, buses, mini-vans and motorbikes.”

Traditional Owner

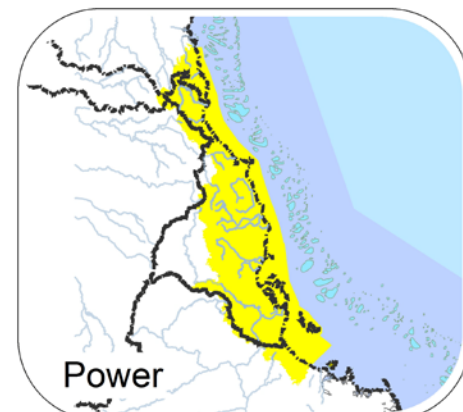
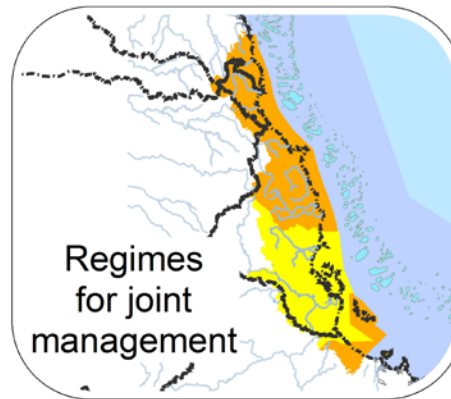
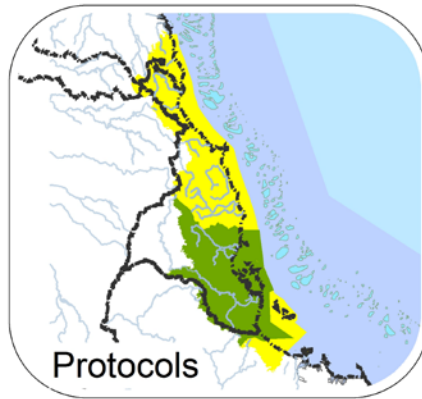
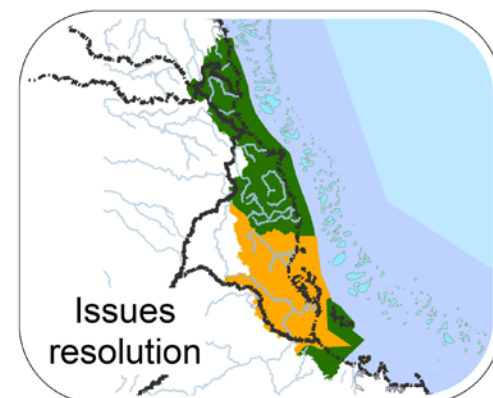
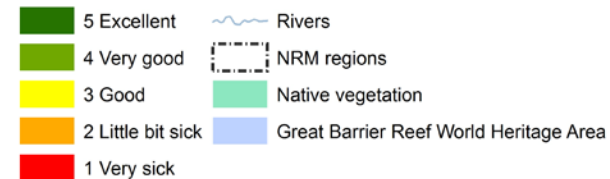


Co-evaluation of results for keeping engagement strong



Legend

Health rating



Opportunities

“We need something like a brokering hub, one-stop shop or T-intersection where the roads meet and we can share learnings.”

Traditional Owner

Knowledge network

- provide flexible and diverse ways for people working on similar issues to share experiences and help one-another for example through dialogues, workshops, websites and social media
- Can support Aboriginal businesses, native title corporations, family groups, IPA and Rangers managers, research organisation, NRM and heritage managers to share e.g:
 - Indigenous-driven planning
 - Relationship-building
 - Practicing free prior and informed consent



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CONTACT

Name: Dr Rosemary Hill

Organisation: CSIRO

Phone: +61418188958

Email: ro.hill@csiro.au