

# Privately Protected Areas in Australia: Progress and Prospects



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# Privately Protected Areas

## Global Context

- PPAs a key tool for conservation on private lands
- Although discourse dominated by public PAs, community and PPAs have a long history
- Critical to global agendas: ecological representativeness, whole of landscape connectivity
- Increasing prominence: 2014 World Parks Congress, 2016 World Conservation Congress
- Data lacking for most countries, so under-reported
- Since 1990s PPAs have grown in number, area and diversity: Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, South Africa, USA
- 10,000 PPAs on the WDPA - evidence of over 27,000 PPAs
- NGOs the most significant owners

# National PPA Summaries



Figure 2:  
Location of country reviews  
for the PPA Futures project

# Australia's National Reserve System

Establishment of government and non-government reserves

Partnership between Australian and state/territory governments

Nine jurisdictions each with their own PA system

Aims to establish a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system

NRS a key instrument for meeting Australia's CBD obligations



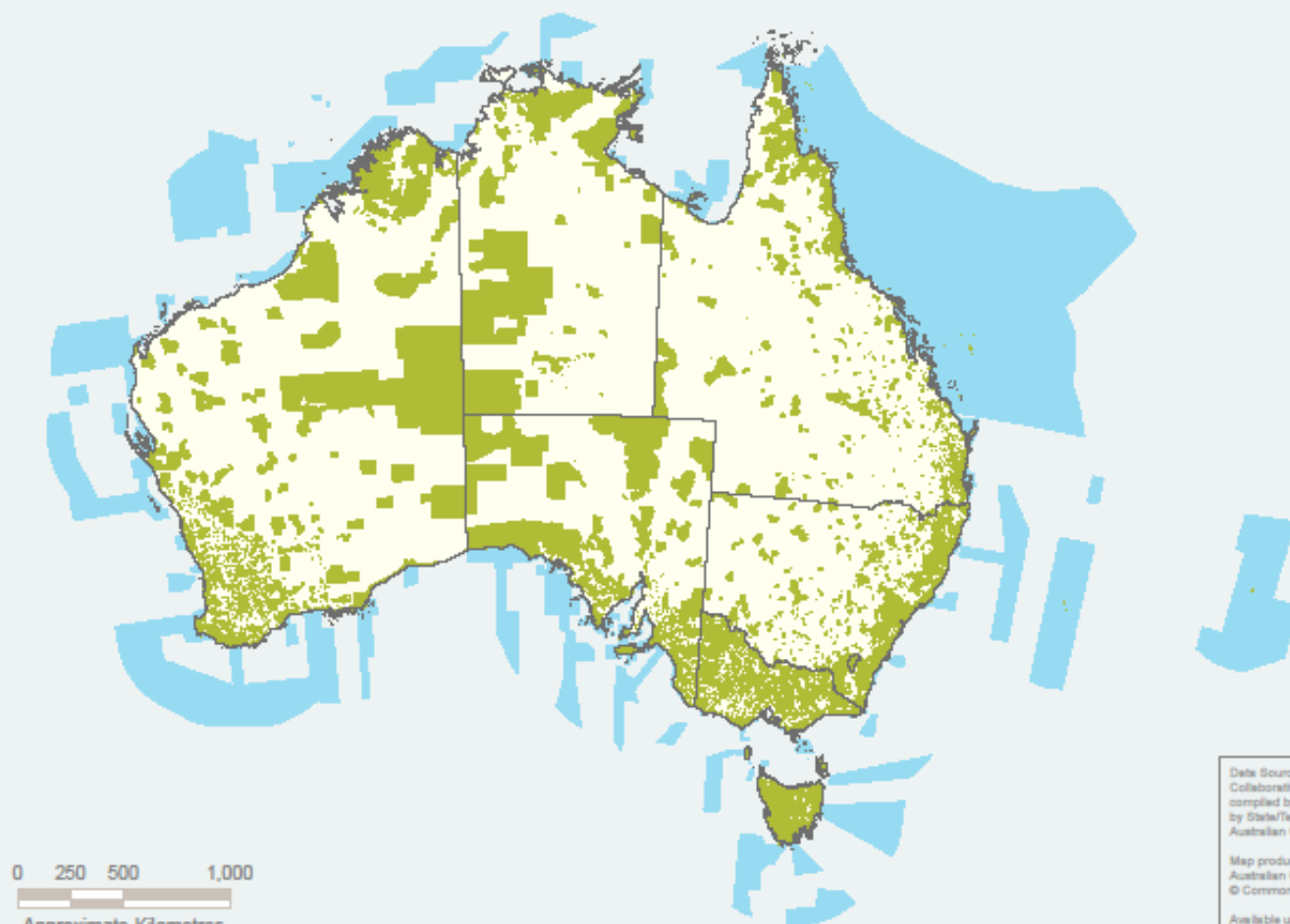
# National Reserve Systems and National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas

Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (2016)



## Location of reserves in the National Reserve System

- Protected Area
- Marine Protected Area



0 250 500 1,000

Approximate Kilometres

Projection: Albers Equal Area - Datum: GDA94

Data Source:  
Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (CAPAD) - (2016) was  
compiled by the Department of the Environment and Energy with data provided  
by State/Territory land management agencies.  
Australian Coastline and State Borders 1:100,000 (2004) Geoscience Australia

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# NRS Targets

- Examples of at least 80% of ecosystems in each subregion by 2025
- Core areas for the long-term survival of threatened ecosystems and species in each bioregion by 2030
- Critical areas for climate change resilience: core land for a 'whole of landscape scale' approach by 2030



# National Reserve System

Avon Wheatbelt - AVW  
Brigalow Belt North - BBN  
Brigalow Belt South - BBS  
Broken Hill Complex - BHC  
Burt Plain - BRT  
Channel Country - CHC  
Cobar Peninsular - COP  
Darling Riverine Plains - DRP  
Davenport Murchison Ranges - DMR  
Desert Uplands - DEU  
Einasleigh Uplands - EIU  
Finkel - FIN  
Flinders Lofly Block - FLB  
Gulf Plains - GUP  
Mitchell Grass Downs - MGD  
Mount Isa Inlier - MII  
Mulga Lands - MUL  
Murchison - MUR  
Nandewar - NAN  
Naracoorte Coastal Plain - NCP  
NSW South Western Slopes - NSS  
Pilbara - PIL  
Riverina - RIV  
South East Coastal Plain - SCP  
Southern Volcanic Plain - SVP  
Stony Plains - STP  
Sturt Plateau - STU  
Tasmanian Northern Midlands - TNM



**National Reserve System**  
IBRA regions with  
less than 10% protection

 Under represented bioregions

0 250 500 1,000

Approximate Kilometres

Projection: Albers Equal Area - Datum: GDA94

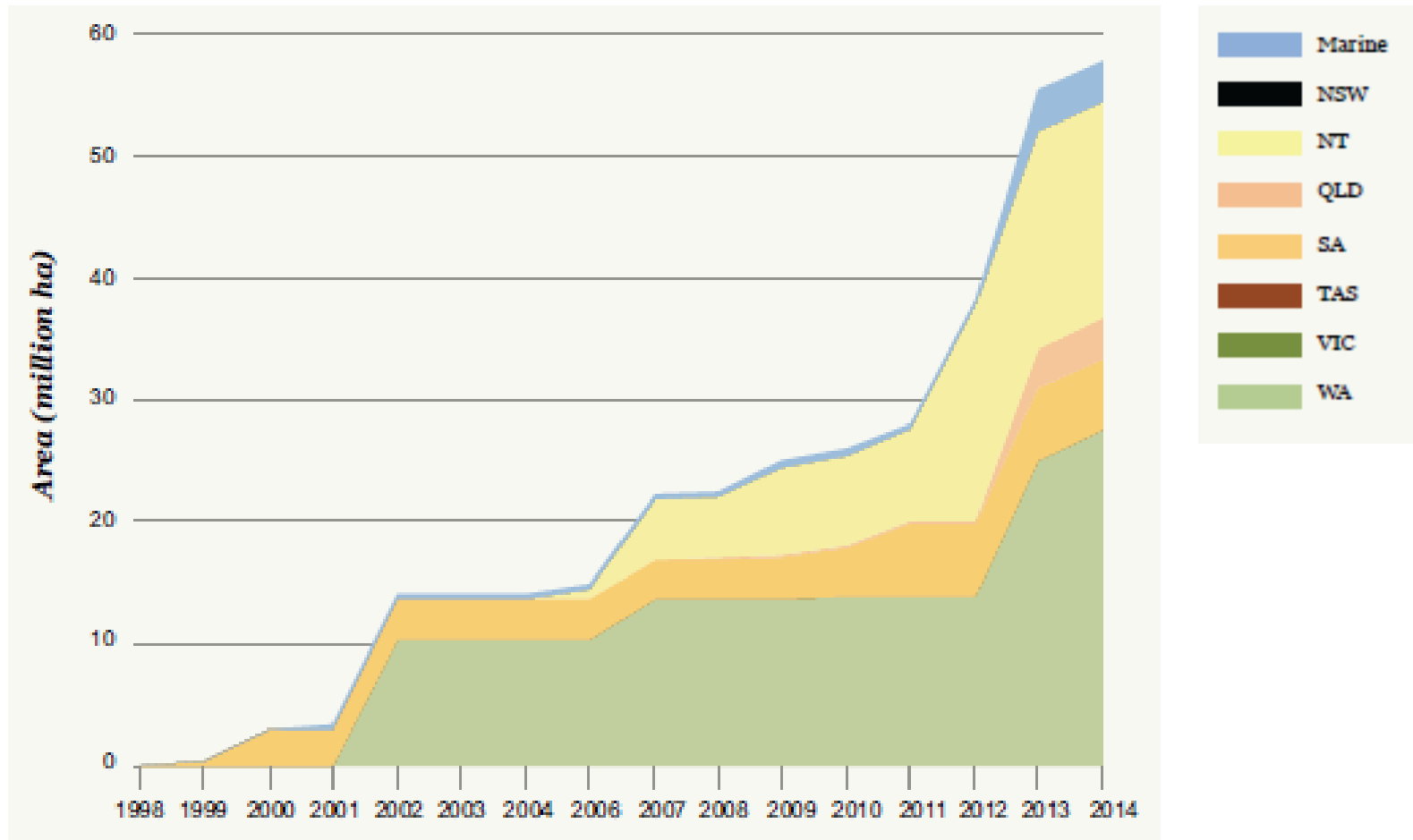
Data Source:  
Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (CAPAD) - (2016)  
was compiled by the Department of the Environment and Energy with  
data provided by State/Territory land management agencies,  
Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA 7) - (2012)  
Australian Coastline and State Borders 1:100,000 (2004) Geoscience  
Australia

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# Growth of IPAs





# Indigenous Protected Areas January 2017

**Dedicated Indigenous Protected Areas**

- 1 Nantawarrina
- 2 Preminghana
- 3 Risdon Cove
- 4 putalina
- 5 Deen Maar
- 6 Yalata
- 7 Watarru
- 8 Walakara
- 9 Mount Chappell Island
- 10 Badger Island
- 11 Guanaba
- 12 Warul Kawa Island
- 13 Dhimurru
- 14 Wattleridge
- 15 Mount Willoughby
- 16 Paruku
- 17 Ngaanyatjarra
- 18 Tyrendarra
- 19 Toogimbie
- 20 Anindilyakwa
- 21 Laynhapuy - Stage 1
- 22 Ninghan
- 23 Northern Tanami
- 24 Warlu Jilajaa Jumu
- 25 Kaanju Ngaachi
- 26 Babel Island
- 27 Great Dog Island
- 28 lungatalanana
- 29 Pulu Islet
- 30 Tarniwa Kurrukun
- 31 Angas Downs
- 32 Warddeken
- 33 Djelk
- 34 Jamba Dhandan Durlinga
- 35 Kurtontji
- 36 Framlingham Forest
- 37 Kalka - Pipalyatjara
- 38 Boorabee and The Willows
- 39 Lake Condah
- 40 Marri-Jabin (Thamurrurr - Stage 1)
- 41 Brewarrina Ngemba Billabong
- 42 Unguu
- 43 Apari - Makiri - Punt
- 44 Antara - Sandy Bore
- 45 Dorodong
- 46 Weilmoringle
- 47 Yanyuwa (Barni - Wardimantha Awara)
- 48 Minyurnai
- 49 Gumma
- 50 Mandingabay Yidinji
- 51 Southern Tanami
- 52 Angkum - Stage 1
- 53 Ngunya Jargon
- 54 Biriliburu
- 55 Eastern Kuku Yalanji
- 56 Bardi Jawi
- 57 Giringun
- 58 Wiltingin
- 59 Dambimangari
- 60 Balangarra
- 61 Thuwathu/Bujimulla
- 62 Yappala
- 63 Wardaman - Stage 1
- 64 Karajarri - Stage 1
- 65 Nijinda Durlga - Stage 1
- 66 Warrabergal & Porumalgal
- 67 Kiwirrkurra
- 68 Nyangumarta Warrarn
- 69 Matuwa Kurrara-Kurrara
- 70 Katti Petermann
- 71 Ganallanga-Mindibirina S
- 72 Wardang Island
- 73 Marthakal - Stage 1
- 74 South-East Arnhem Land
- 75 Yawuru - Stage 1

**Indigenous Protected Area Consultation Projects**

**NSW**

- A Mawonga
- B Werai Forest (CM)

**NT**

- A Laynhapuy - Stage 2
- B Marthakal - Stage 2
- C Wardaman - Stage 2
- D Anindilyakwa - Stage 2

**QLD**

- A Angkum - Stage 2
- B Tallero Station
- C Eastern Kuku Yalanji - Stage 3
- D Wik, Wik Way and Kugu
- E Nijinda Durlga - Stage 2

**VIC**

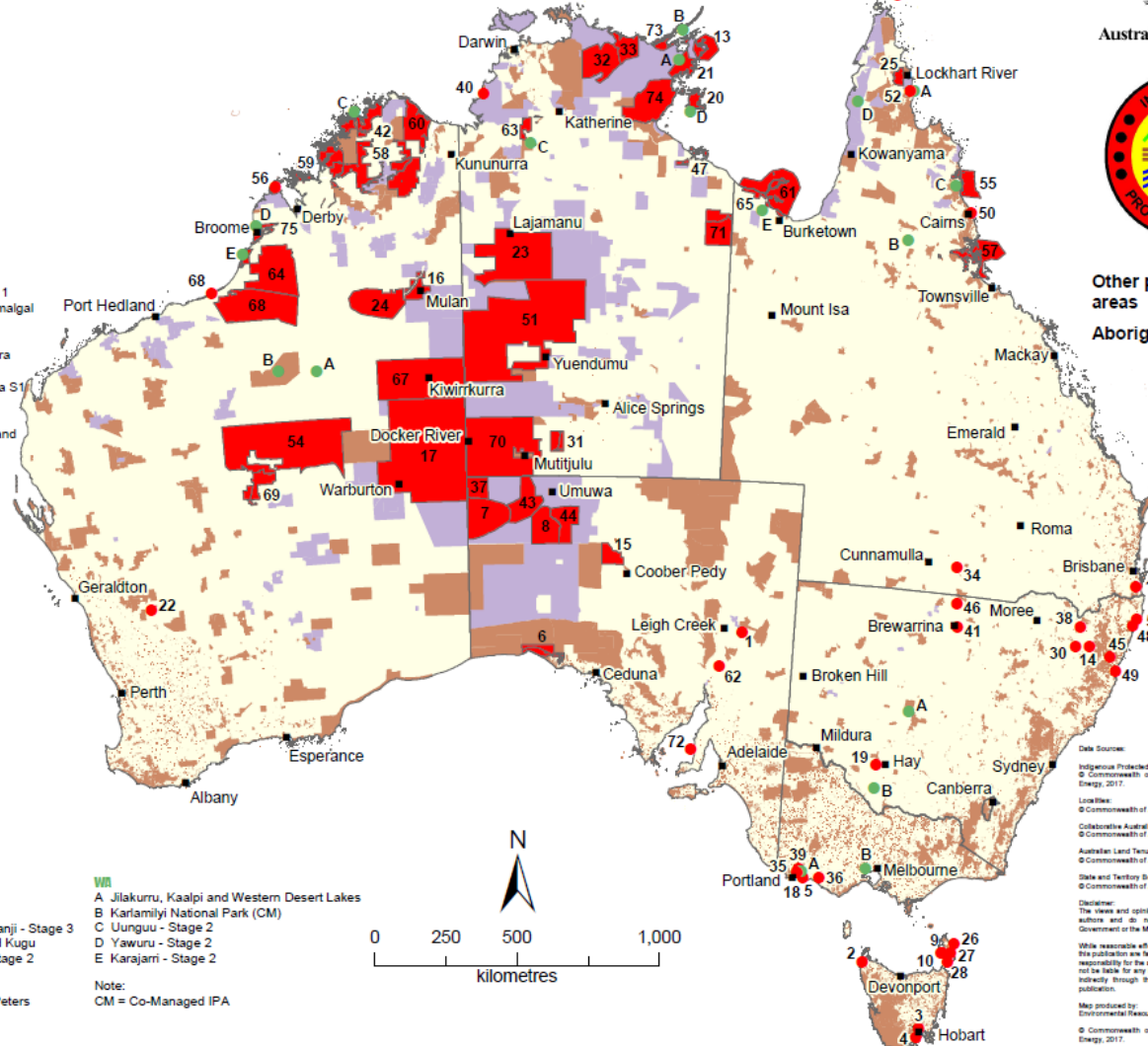
- A Lake Gorrie and Peters
- B Wurdi Youang

**WA**

- A Jilakurru, Kaalpi and Western Desert Lakes
- B Kariakinyi National Park (CM)
- C Unguu - Stage 2
- D Yawuru - Stage 2
- E Karajarri - Stage 2

**Note:**

CM = Co-Managed IPA



Australian Government



Other protected areas

Aboriginal lands

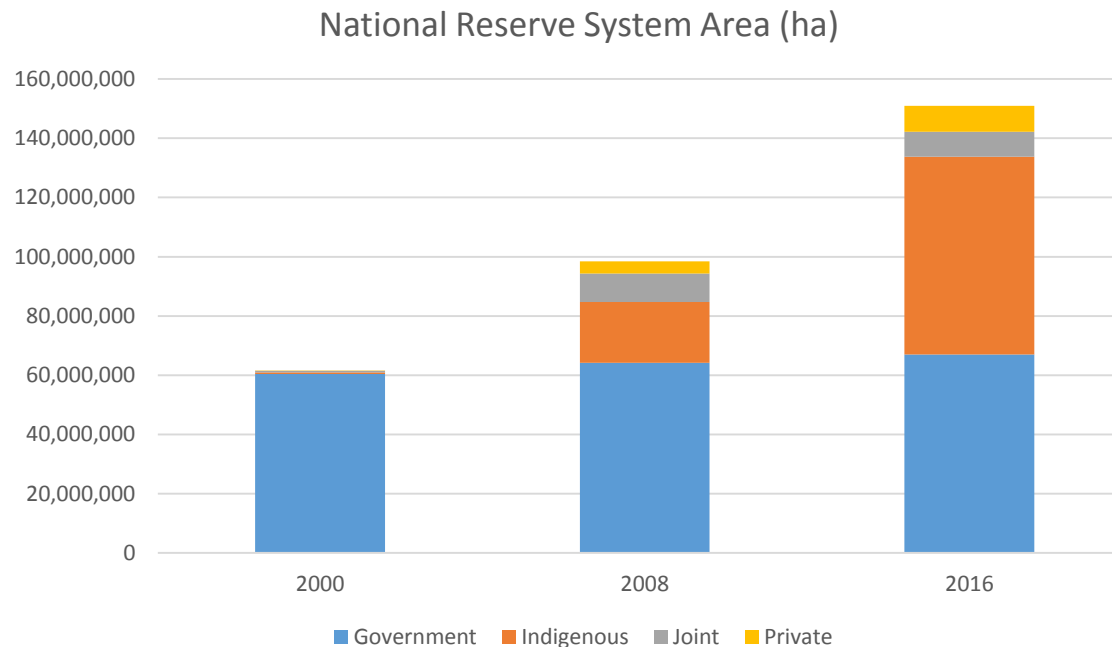


Data Sources:  
Indigenous Protected Areas  
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75 IPAs, Mostly IUCN Category V and VI

# IPAs and PPAs in the NRS

Terrestrial Protected Areas in Australia by Governance (2016)					
Governance	Number	Area (ha)	Average size (ha)	% of Australia	Contribution to NRS (%)
Community	74	66,786,266	902,517	8.69	44.25
Government	7,204	66,985,503	9,298	8.71	44.39
Joint	1,778	8,444,020	4,749	1.10	5.60
Private	1,536	8,702,600	5,666	1.13	5.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>150,918,390</b>	<b>14,248</b>	<b>19.63</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Area of Australia		768,828,859			



# PPA Instruments and Managers

Covenantee programme	Number	Area (ha)	Average size (ha)
Victoria: Trust for Nature covenants	1,242	53,370	43
NSW Voluntary Conservation Agreements	367	143,050	390
NSW Registered Property Agreements	237 <sup>II</sup>	44,150	186
NSW Nature Conservation Trust covenants	73	16,687	229
Tasmanian Private Land Conservation Program covenants	703 <sup>III</sup>	83,644	119
South Australian Heritage Agreements	1,518	643,631	424
Queensland Nature Refuges	453	3,438,004	7,589
Western Australian (DPaW) covenants	169 <sup>v</sup>	17,386	103
Western Australian National Trust covenants	162	17,879 <sup>I</sup>	110
Northern Territory Conservation Covenants	2	640	320
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,926</b>	<b>4,458,441</b>	<b>905</b>

Organization	Number of properties owned <sup>i</sup>	Total Area (ha)	Average Area (ha)
Bush Heritage Australia	35	960,000	27,429
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	23	>3,000,000	130,400
Trust for Nature (Victoria) <sup>II</sup>	47	36,104	768
Nature Foundation SA	5	499,705	99,941
Nature Conservation Trust of NSW	12 <sup>III</sup>	10,182	849
Tasmanian Land Conservancy	11 <sup>v</sup>	7,283	662
South Endeavour Trust	7	80,846 <sup>v</sup>	11,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>4,594,120</b>	

# Tasmanian Land Conservancy

- Not-for-profit NGO implementing three conservation strategies:
    - Land purchase and reservation – 16 reserves, 18,000 ha, 52+ threatened species
    - Revolving fund – over 30 properties protected
    - Collaboration with local communities – eg Midlandscapes
  - Management approach:
    - ‘Open Standards’ planning system
    - Science driven adaptive management, citizen science
    - Partnerships with local communities, businesses, artists, UTAS
  - Financial model:
    - Attracts investment from governments, donors, bequests, carbon credits
    - Established >\$10M endowment fund, uses 6-7% return to fund staff and management
    - New PAs only when finance for purchase price plus ongoing cost of meeting management objectives has been secured
-







# Engaging Local Communities in Tasmanian Grasslands Conservation



415,445 ha predominantly privately managed agricultural landscape with scattered remnants of native grassland

Less than 4% protected - one of Australia's most under-reserved bioregions

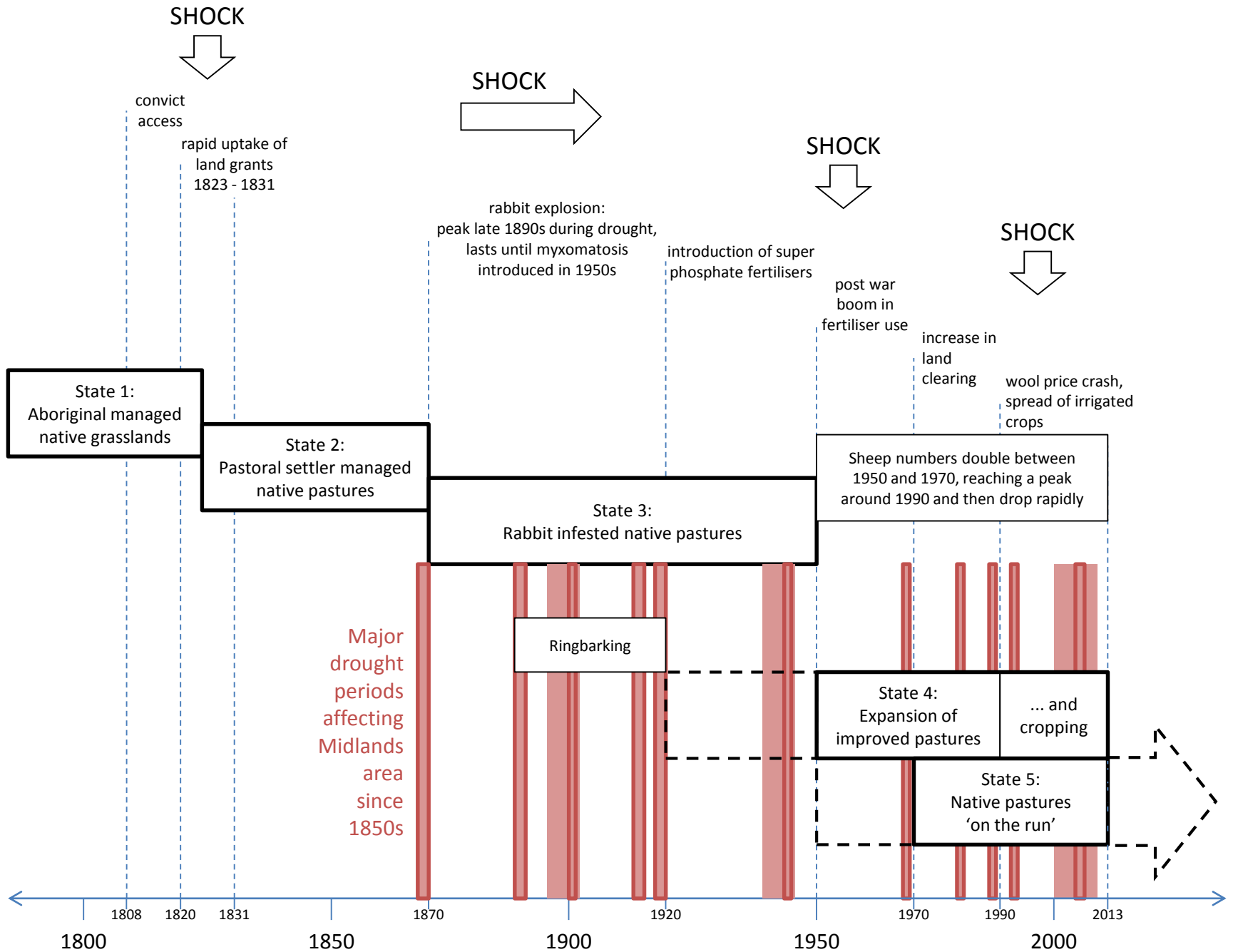
One of 15 national biodiversity hot spots

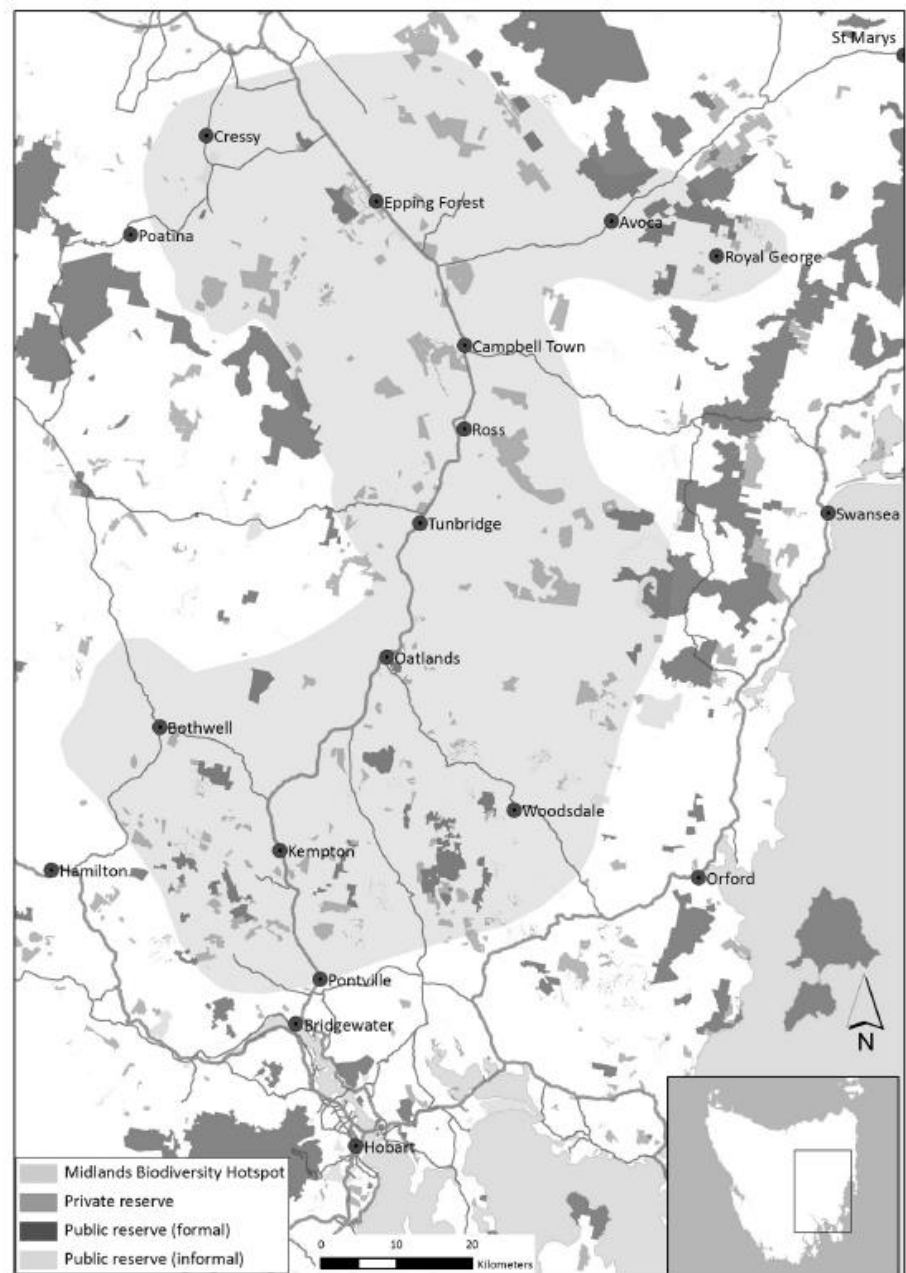
Conservation in this landscape requires collective action of individual landholders

Silver Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardierei*) and Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) with a rich diversity of herbaceous species

Lowland native grassland a Matter of National Environmental Significance under *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*









# Legislation and Policy

## Australian Government:

- Administers legislative powers over MNES
- Develops guiding strategies and frameworks
- Provides finance

## Tasmanian Government:

- Administers *Threatened Species Protection Act*
- Administers private reserve programs
- Supports capacity development
- Provides incentives





# Socio-economic Drivers of Change

Local land use decisions influenced by enterprise profitability, terms of trade

Land use mix changing as irrigation enables farmers to increase dairy, crops, horticulture, viticulture, reducing area of native grasslands

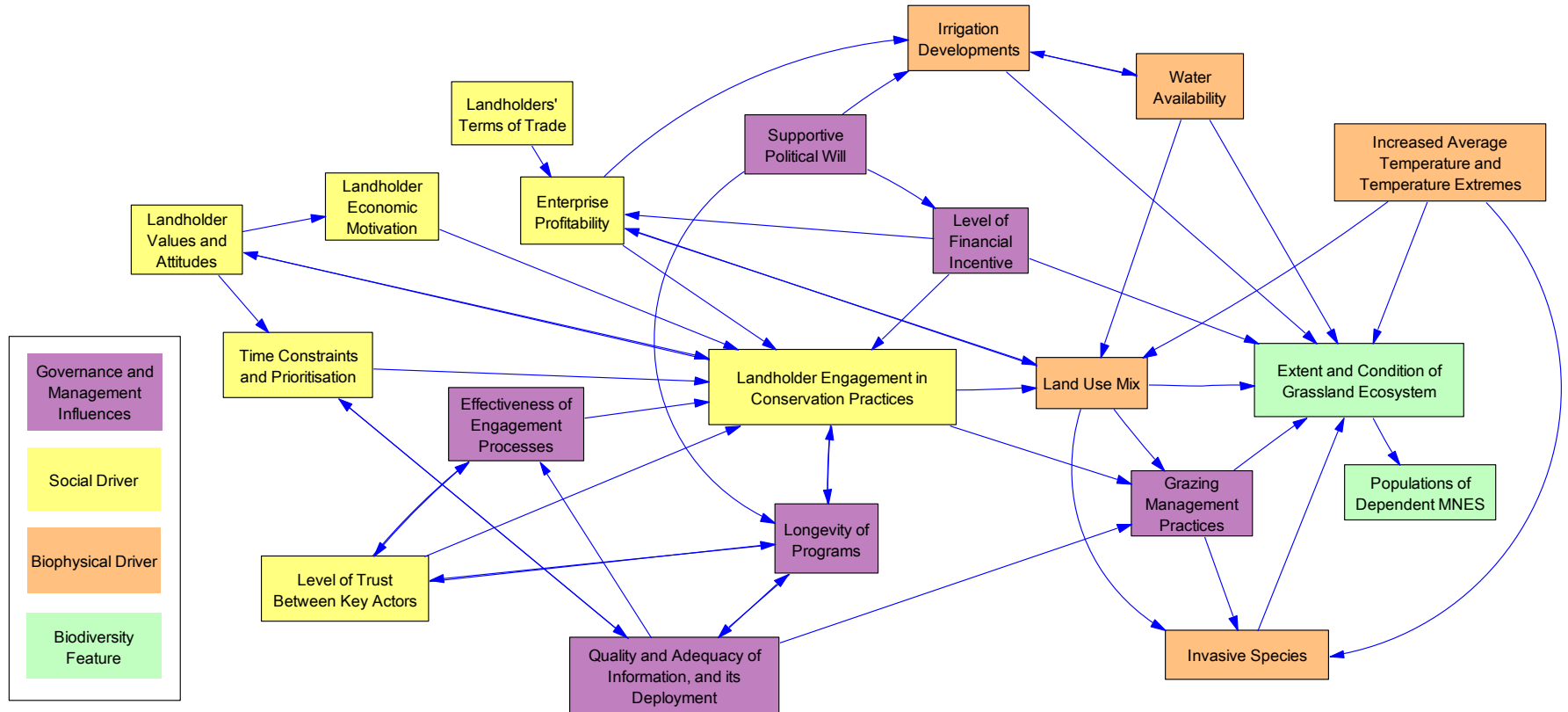
Landholder values, time constraints, level of trust influence biodiversity outcomes through effects on pro-environmental behaviours

Longevity of programs, supportive political will and leadership affect the support and incentives for local community conservation actions

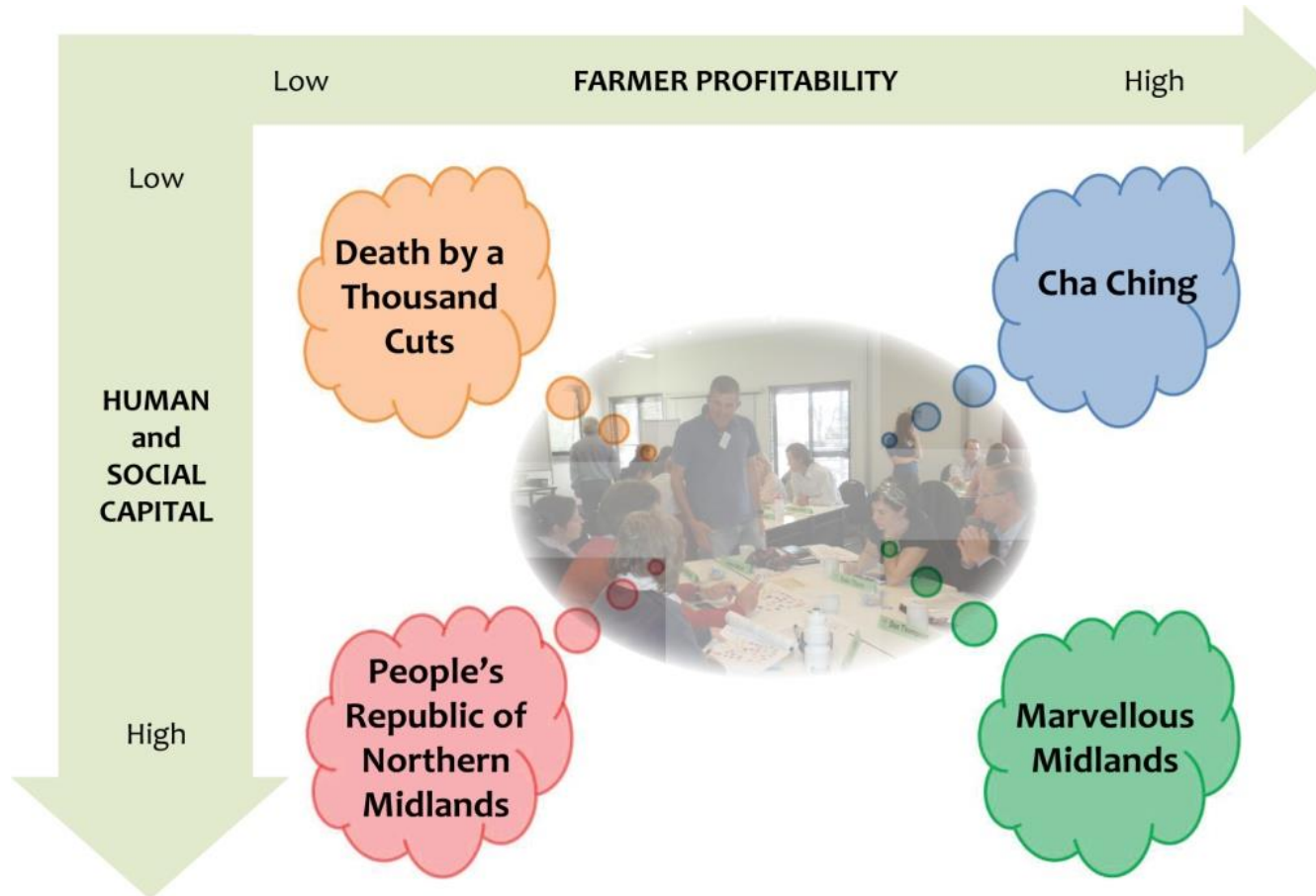
Effectiveness of engagement influences human and social capital, which underpin capacity for local conservation action



# Social-ecological System Model



# Midlands Scenarios



# Midlands Conservation Programs

Conservation on Private Land by Program	Area
Private Forest Reserves Program 1997–2006 (PFRP) <sup>a</sup>	10 571
Non Forest Vegetation Program (NFVP) <sup>a</sup>	6781
Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) <sup>b</sup>	7499
Forest Conservation Fund Direct Approach (FCFDA) <sup>c</sup>	3357
Midlands Biodiversity Hotspots Project (BHP) <sup>d, 1</sup>	1391
Midlands Biodiversity Hotspots Tender (MBHT) <sup>c, 2</sup>	6602
Protected Areas On Private Land (PAPL)	149
FCF Revolving Fund (RevFund) <sup>c</sup>	640
Roaring 40s Eagle Nest Protection Program (R40s) <sup>c</sup>	80
<b>All conservation areas on private land</b>	<b>37 070</b>
Conservation on Private Land by Tenure	Area
Private Land in perpetuity (on Tasmanian Reserve Estate TRE)	25 012
Private land Variable term Agreements (on TRE) <sup>3</sup>	10 715
TLC Land in perpetuity (not on TRE)	580
TLC Stewardship Contracts (not on TRE) <sup>4</sup>	763
<b>All private reserves in Hotspot</b>	<b>37 070</b>
<b>All public reserves in Hotspot</b>	<b>32 704</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>69 774</b>

# Midlandscapes Project

Partnership between local community, Tasmanian Land Conservancy,  
Bush Heritage Australia and Tasmanian Government





# Key Elements of Midlandscapes

- Agreed Conservation Action Plan and accompanying Business Plan developed through participation with local community
- Technical Working Group
- Full-time coordinator
- Staff for community liaison, site assessments, outcomes measurement
- Diverse tools:
  - Conservation covenants
  - Property acquisition: ‘purchase and hold’, ‘revolving fund’
  - Biodiversity Hotspot Tender and Forest Conservation Fund
  - Offsets funding
  - Midlands Conservation Fund for stewardship contracts that pay local landholders to provide conservation outcomes

# Benefits of Midlandscapes

Multi-level collaboration, devolved decision-making and local self-organisation:

- Improves invasive species management
- Supports landholders' conservation values
- Extends local conservation practices
- Improves quality of information
- Builds trust
- Enhances program longevity
- Generates political support
- Increases level of financial incentives



# PPA Governance as Partnership

## Success Factors

- High level of local engagement
- Embedding of partners in non-hierarchical organisational structures
- High levels of transparency and shared input into decision-making
- Time to develop relationships
- Mutual respect and trust between partners
- Clear collective vision and plan
- Strong leadership
- Regular inclusive reviews
- Adaptive capacity
- Local economic benefits
- Secure annual core funding
- Deployment of multiple flexible tools



# Challenges of Public – Private Conservation Partnerships

- Legitimacy
- Accountability
- Sustainable funding
- Ongoing commitment
- Transaction costs
- Capacity to adapt



# Next Steps for PPAs

- Clarify definition and types
- More comprehensive national / international inventories
- Improve knowledge sharing and information
- Improve monitoring and management effectiveness systems
- Demonstrate public benefits
- Strengthen government policy commitment and support
- Demonstrate conservation ‘in perpetuity’:
  - PPA status transcends changes in ownership
  - Legislated status
  - Formal commitment to long-term protection
  - Certification and compliance





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