

ALA Future Directions

Two-way Aboriginal engagement with the ALA

Dr Emilie Ens and the Yugul Mangi Rangers

MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY

SYDNEY ~ AUSTRALIA



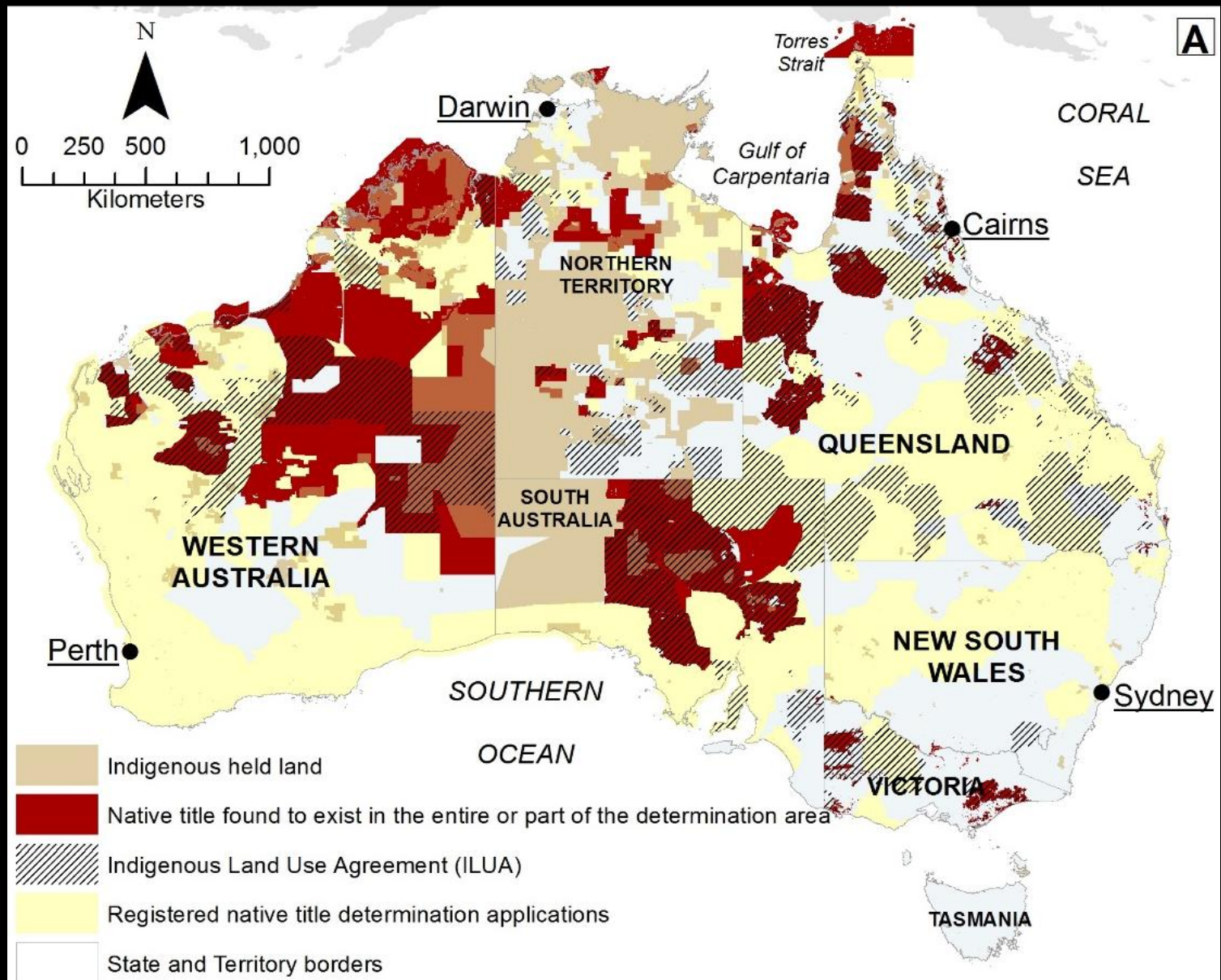
Why limited engagement between ALA and Aboriginal Australia to date?

- What Aboriginal information?
 - Species names, cultural info?
 - What format? Written, audio, visual?
 - Perceived “loss” of knowledge
- Intellectual Property
- Too much info? 250+ language groups
- What will Aboriginal people get out of it?
- Different priorities of Aboriginal knowledge holders and biologists

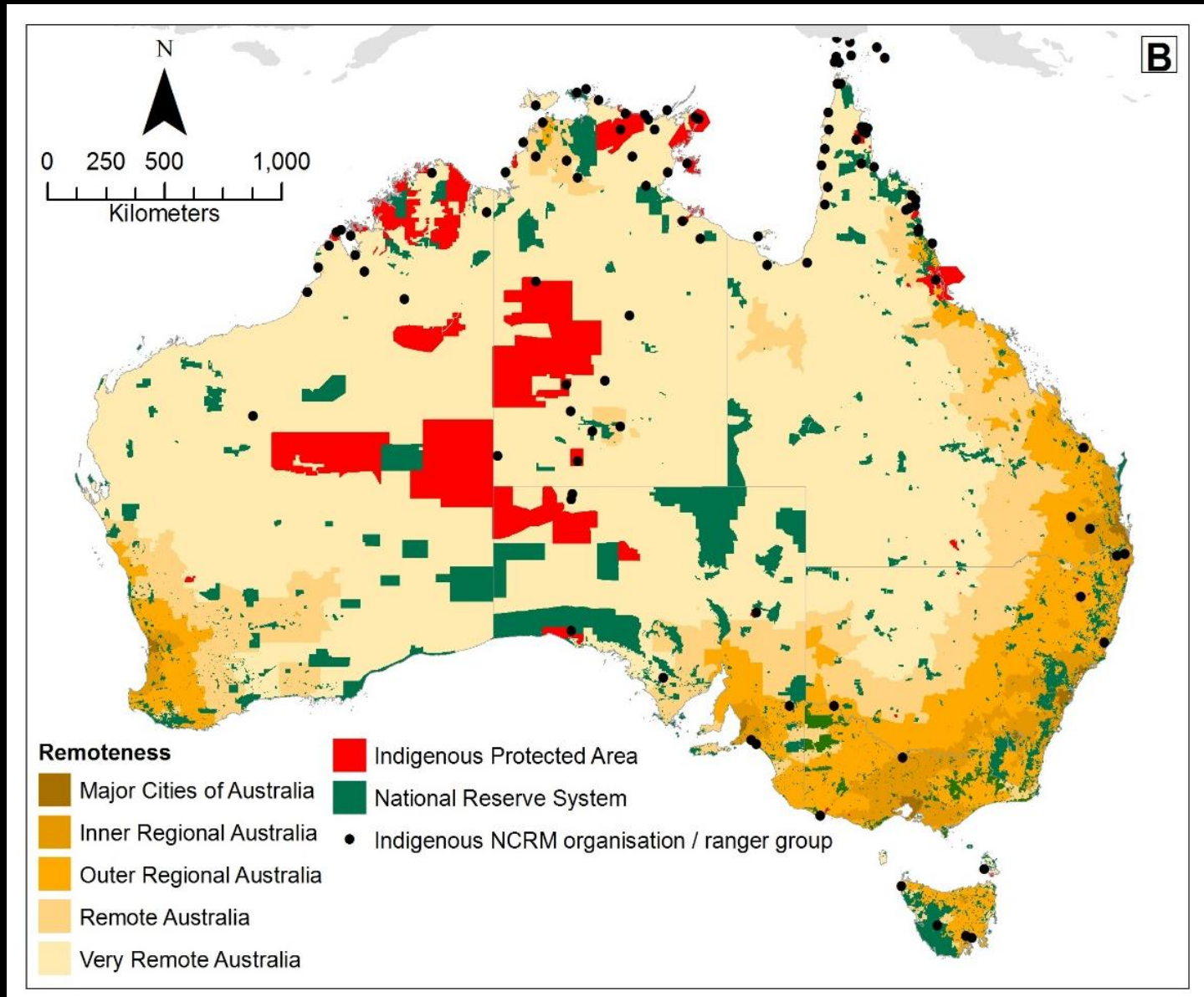
However, many opportunities for the ALA, Aboriginal people, broader public

- Based on the size of Aboriginal estate
- Geographic significance – remoteness
- Scientific significance – lack of Western scientific data
- Biodiversity value of Aboriginal land
- Enhanced funding and resourcing opportunities
- Recognition of Aboriginal knowledge
- Socio-economic opportunities
- Social cohesion and greater cross-cultural understanding and respect

Australian Aboriginal estate



IPAs and the National Reserve System



What can we do?

- CSIRO group just showed us some ways we can enhance cross-cultural engagement
- We offering a localised, contextual case study that will show what Aboriginal people can get out of the ALA and also what they can give

TWO-WAY ENGAGEMENT

- *But we need to ensure* that everyone benefits i.e. Aboriginal people and the scientific (broader) community

MUTUAL BENEFITS

Proposed case study: Two-way engagement with the ALA from Ngukurr, SE Arnhem Land



1000 people
95% Aboriginal
Very remote
3 hours drive to Katherine
6 hours drive to Darwin

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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

SE Arnhem Land IPA and IBRA regions



SEAL IPA

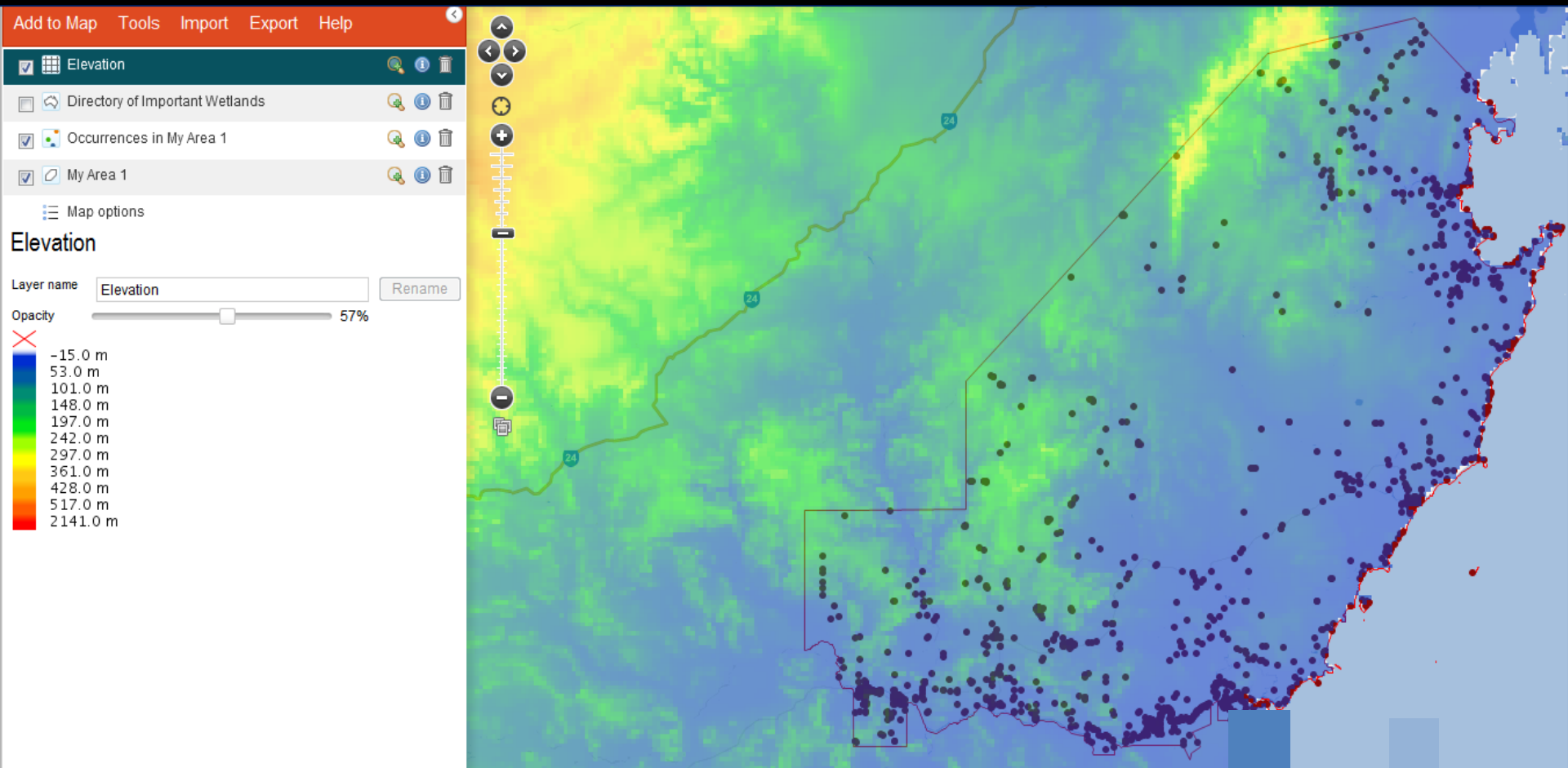
IBRA regions (% protected):

- Central Arnhem (5-10%)
- Gulf Fall Uplands (5-10%)
- Gulf coastal (10-15%)
- Top End Coast (>30%)

ca. 20,000km²

ca. 12 Rangers since 2002

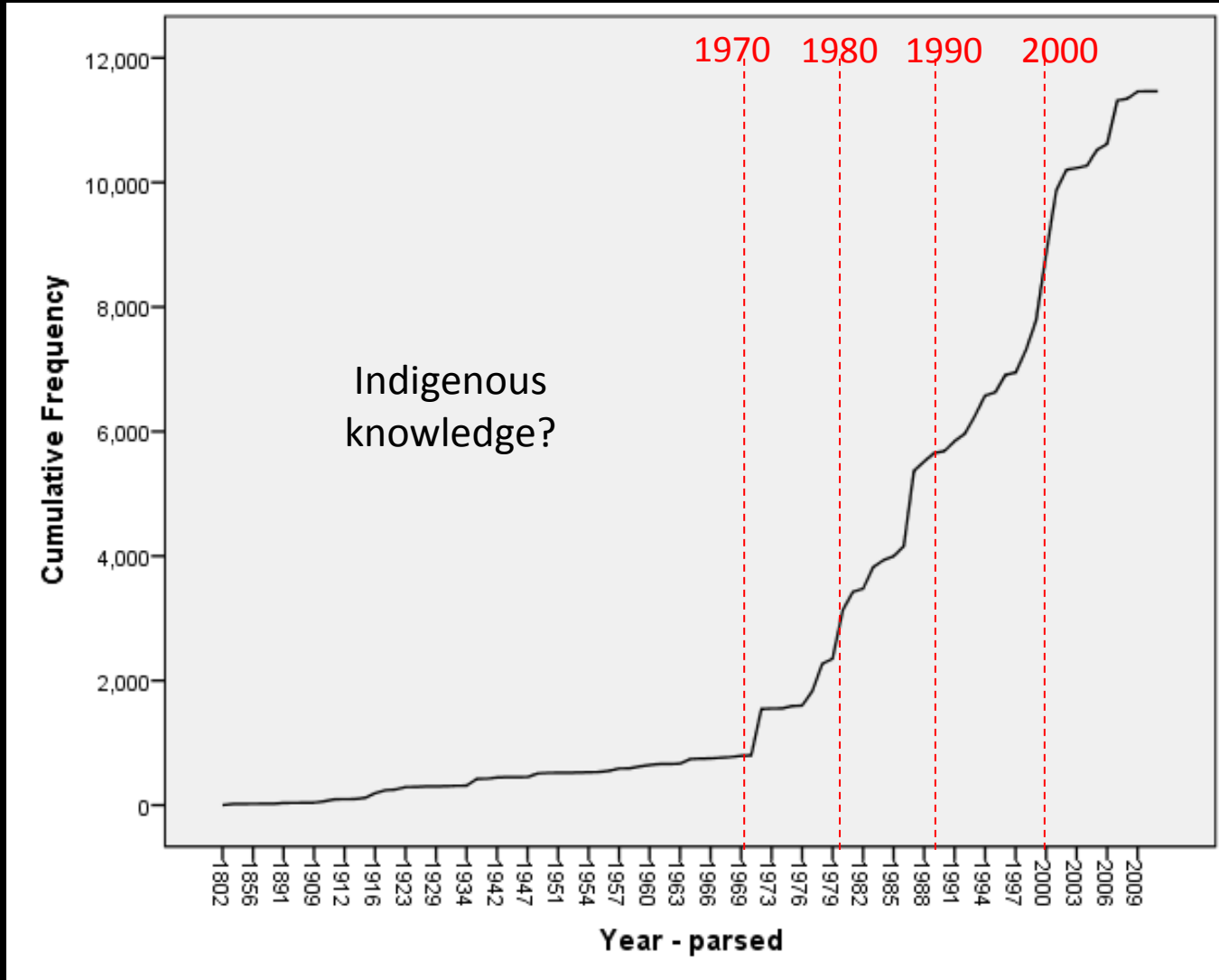
ALA species records for the SEAL IPA



ALA species records for the SEAL IPA

Life form	ALA species richness	Total records	Kakadu NP
Plants	915	7255	2000+
Birds	254	6361	280
Reptiles	73	926	117
Invertebrates	43	132	10,000+
Mammals	31 (incl. 5 exotics; 12 bats)	182	60
Frogs	22 (incl. cane toad)	320	29
Molluscs	21	72	
Fish	18	52	53
Bryophytes	5	8	
Crustacean	1	1	
Fungi	1	1	
TOTAL	1384	15,310	

SEAL IPA species recorded by date



Case study: Two-way Aboriginal engagement with the ALA



Yugul Mangi Rangers want to do more biodiversity work



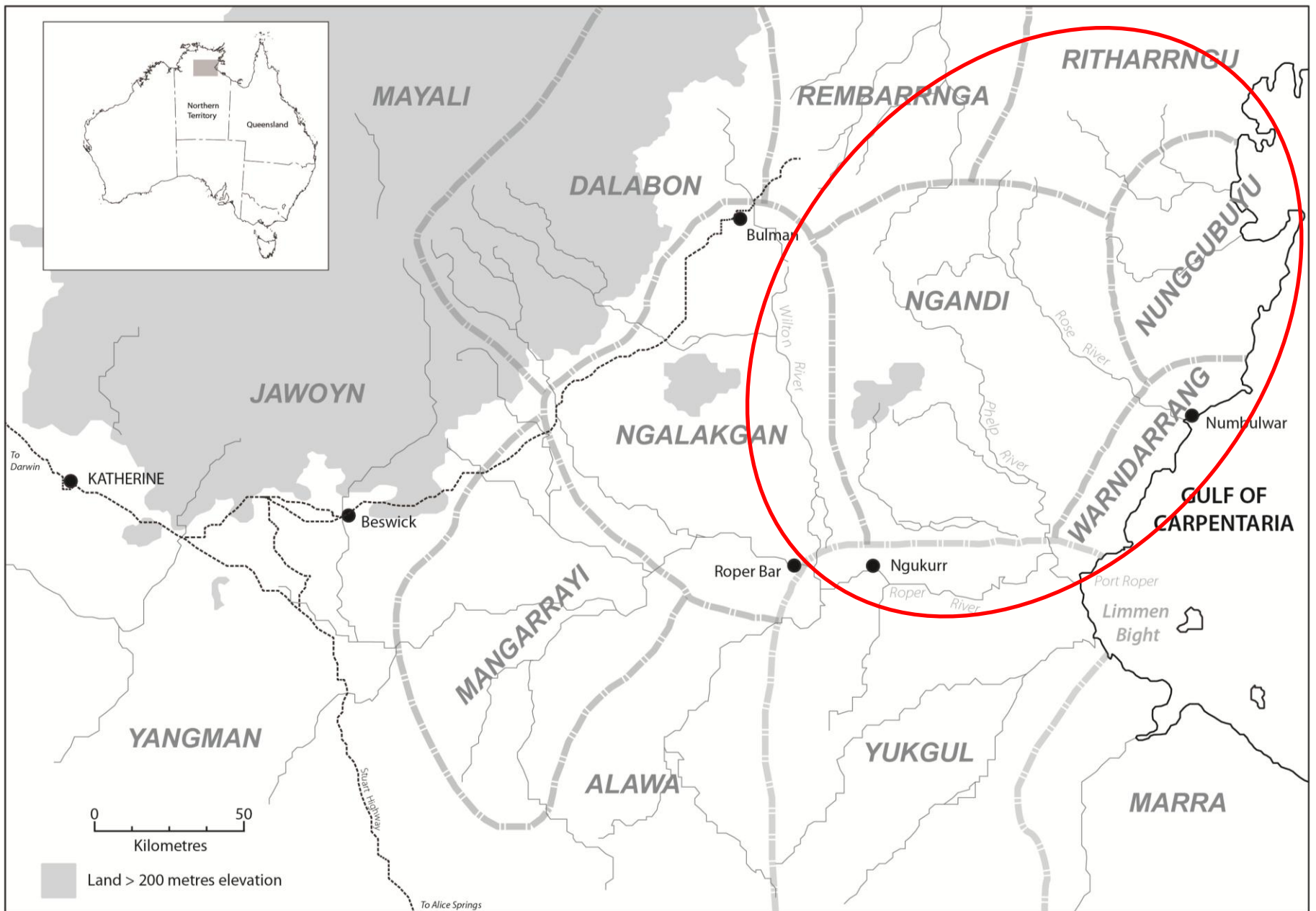
Northern brown bandicoot found on the 2007 Maria Island fauna survey with NTG



2007 Spraying Weed of National Significance *Parkinsonia aculeata*

Local biodiversity research resources





Language groups around Ngukurr with the rough IPA area circled in red

Community involvement



Working with the Ngukurr Language Centre



National Science Week – Indigenous Science Event



Working with external scientists



Multi-media recording

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20°C



HC550 HYPERFIRE

RECONYX





Cool species found so far...some known, some not!



Case study: Two-way Aboriginal engagement with the ALA

Objectives

1. Gain prior informed consent and set up an MoU for this work with the NLC and Yugul Mangi Aboriginal Development Board (senior TO's)
2. Work with Rangers and TO's to continue to collect species inventory data for the SEAL IPA using scientific and Aboriginal names
3. Record information about species of cultural significance (where allowed)
4. Build local capacity for species inventory, multimedia recording and data-basing
5. Facilitate intergenerational transfer of knowledge through on-Country trips

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Case study: Two-way Aboriginal engagement with the ALA

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6. Extract species and other data from the ALA
7. Add species data to the ALA
8. Develop a case study for the ALA website on how we did all of this
9. Then promote the case study to other Aboriginal communities

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7. Add species data to the ALA
8. Develop a visual case study for the ALA website on how we did all of this!
9. And finally, promote the case study and ALA opportunities to other Aboriginal communities

Thanks for your time! And thanks to the ALA for inviting us to be part of their future direction!



Young Yugul Mangi Rangers Maritza Roberts and Karen Yunupingu on top of Ganiarrang Hill near Ngukurr