

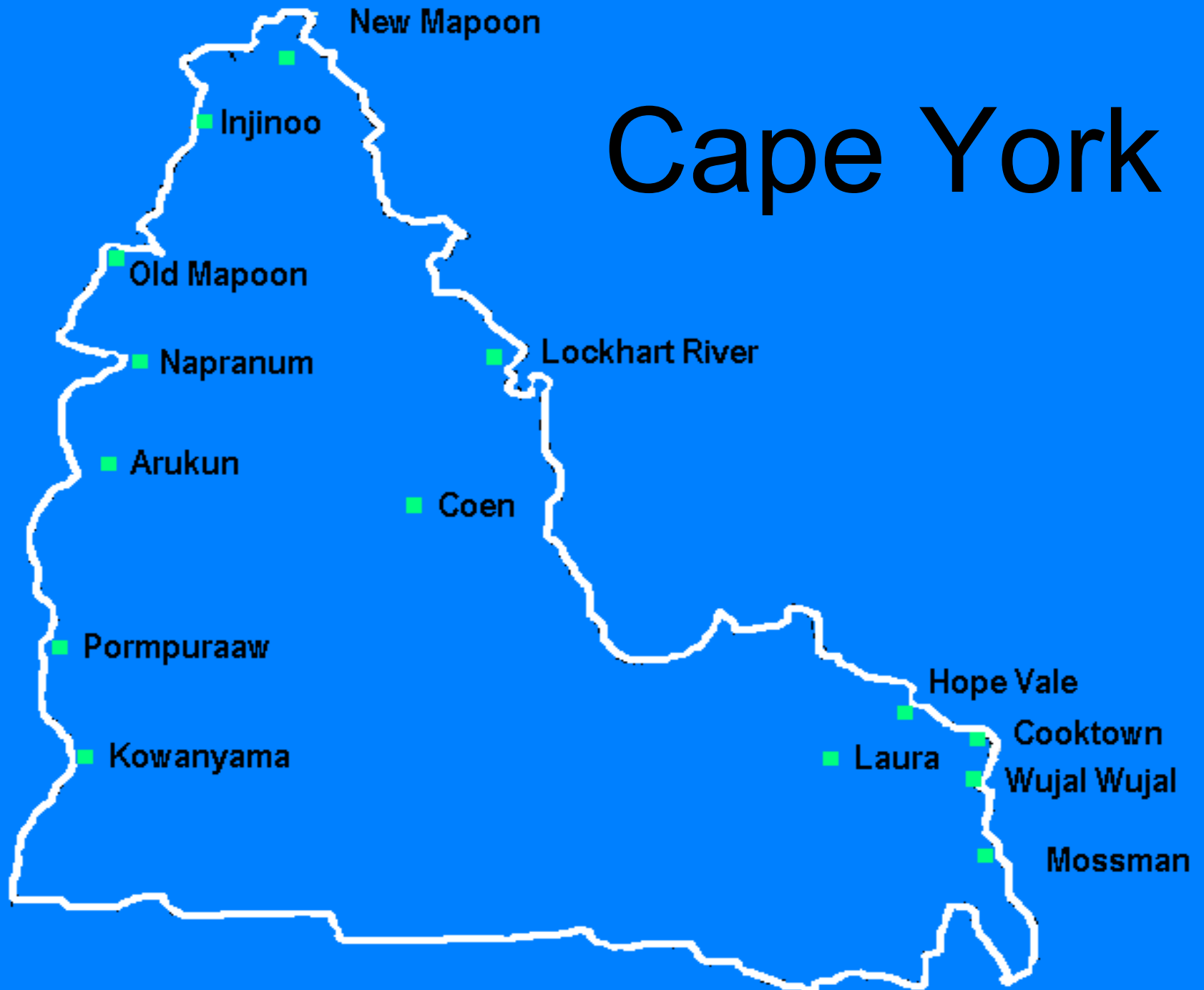


# Cape York Institute

For Policy & Leadership

## **Land use and natural resource management**

# Cape York



















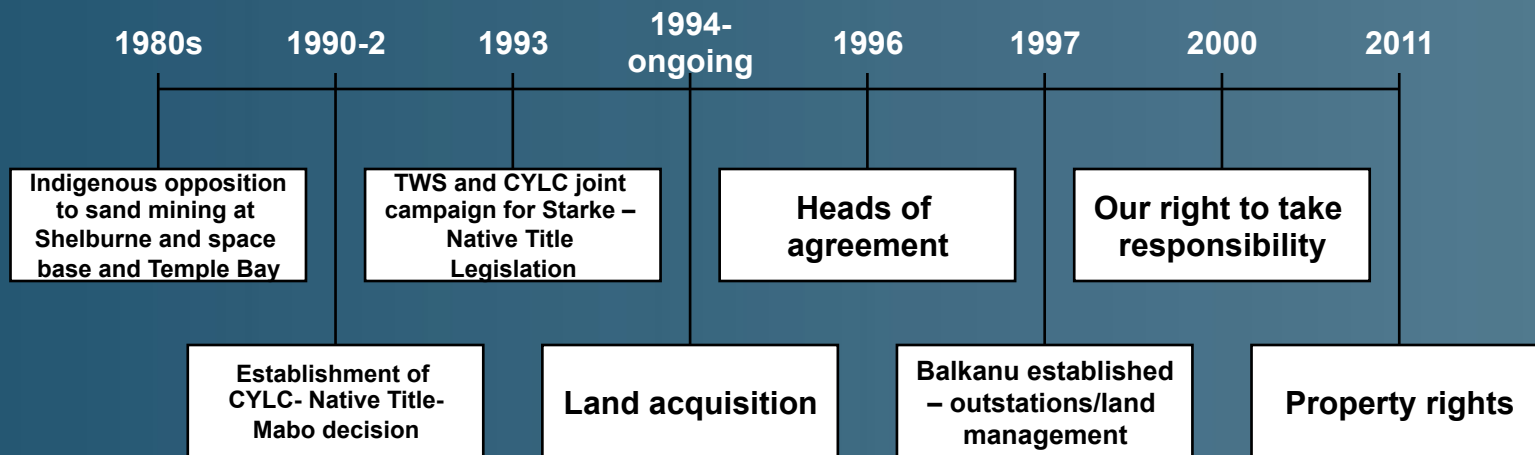






# Land and Sea Management - History

**CYLC and Balkanu were established on land issues. For the last ten years, however, the regional focus has been on social and economic reform.**



**Over the last 10 years, we have focused resources on the reform agenda, while the land agenda has been taken over by government and The Greens. Now that the reform agenda entrenched, we need to take back the leadership role in land issues.**

# Cape York is in the final year of Welfare Reform trials



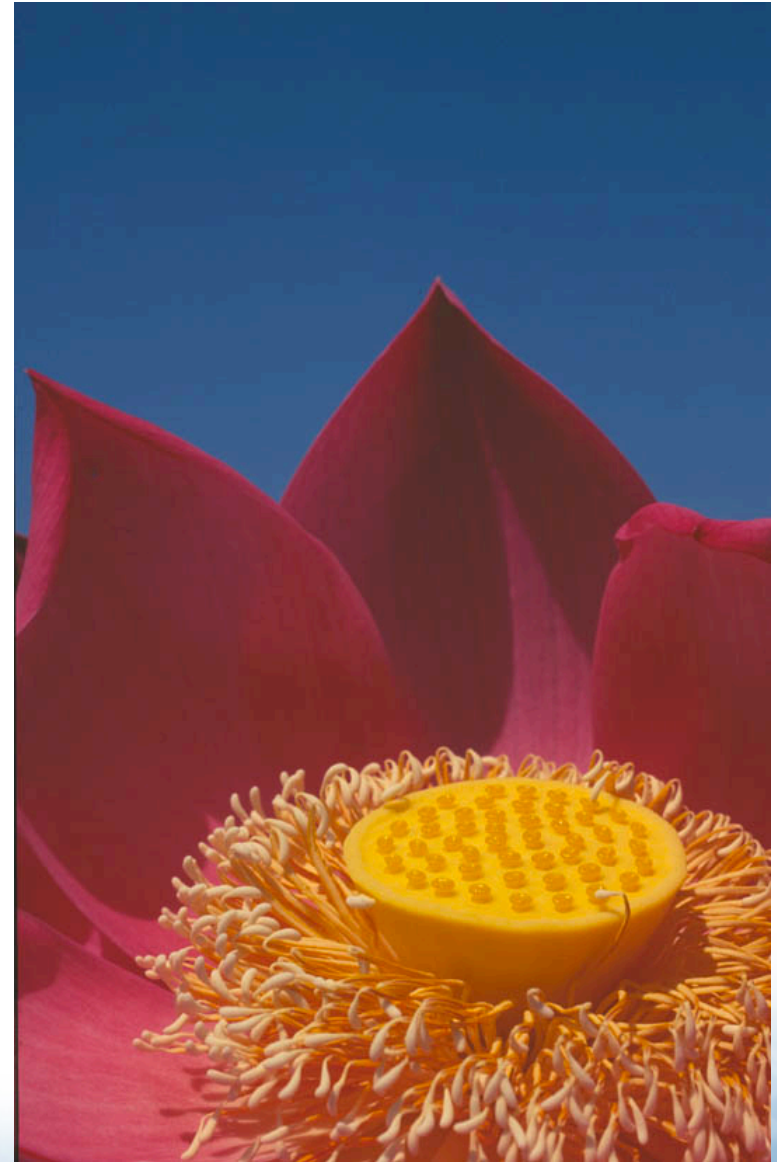


# Current areas of work

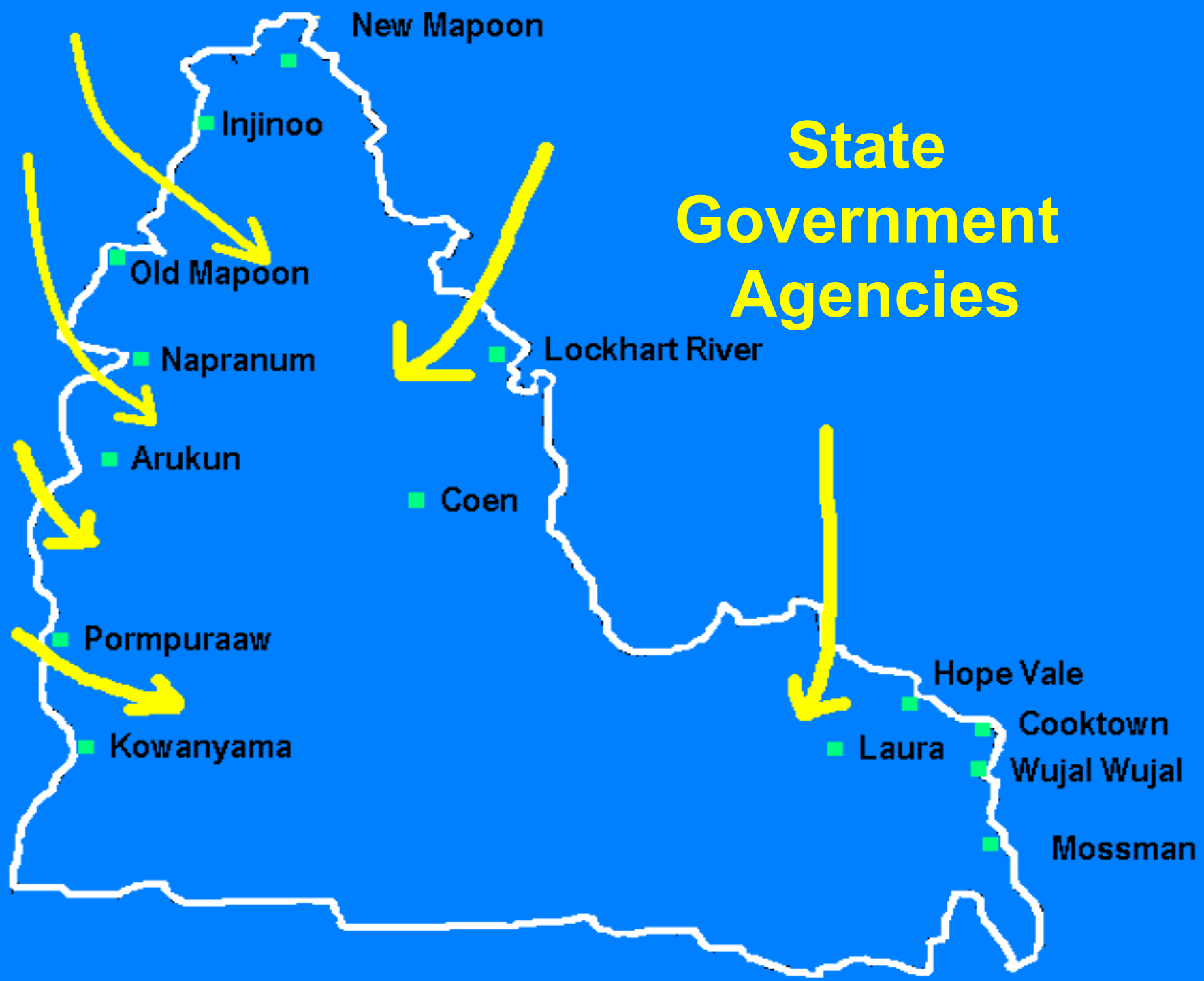


## Land use and resource management

- Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) including carbon.
- Cost of regulatory burden on indigenous land.
- Property Rights
- Opportunity cost of wild rivers and other environmental regulation
- Maximising the job and enterprise opportunities in environmental management
- Effective conservation

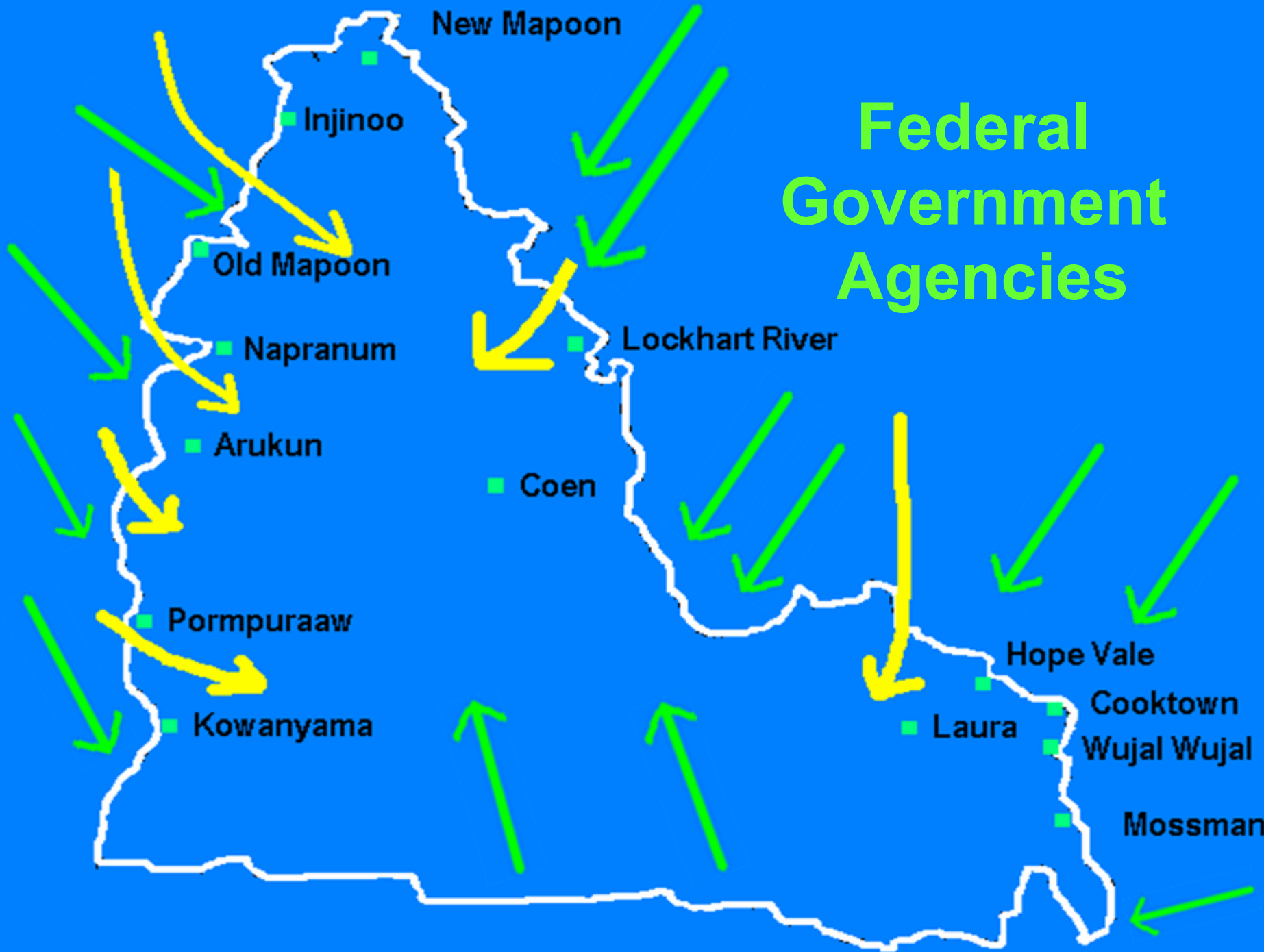


# State Government Agencies





# Federal Government Agencies



New Mapoon

Injinoo

Old Mapoon

Napranum

Arukun

Pormpuraaw

Kowanyama

Lockhart River

Coen

Hope Vale

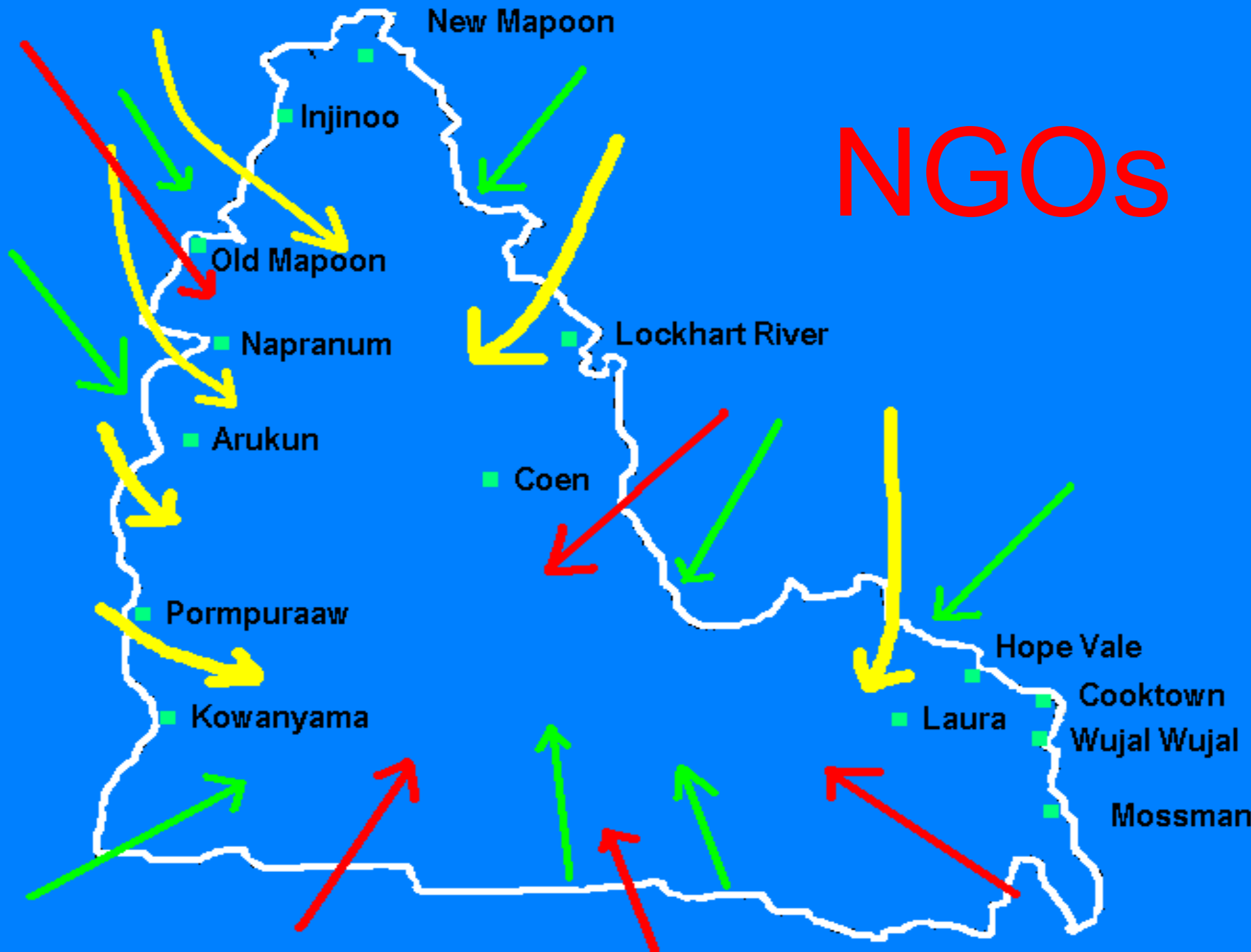
Laura

Cooktown

Wujal Wujal

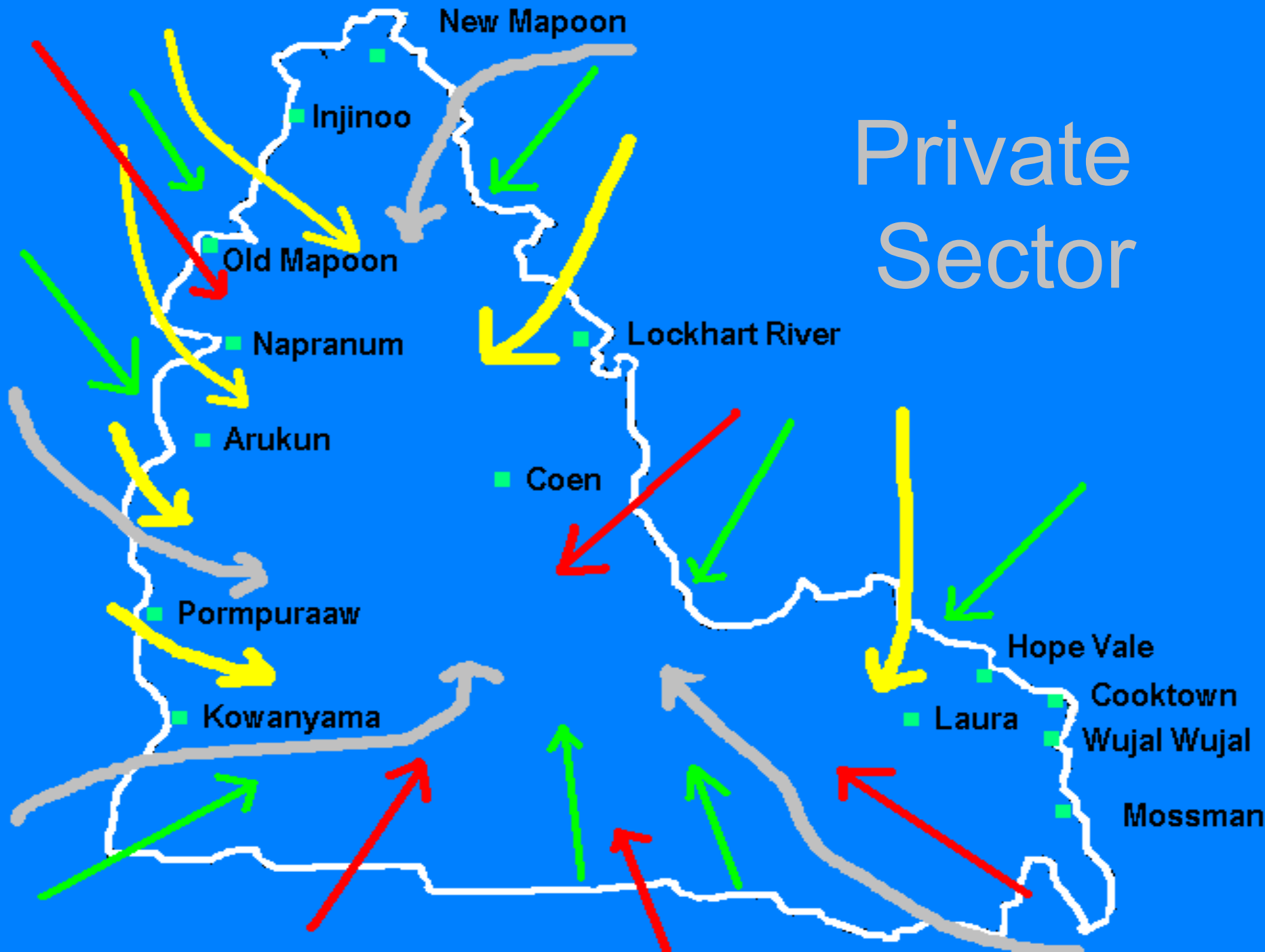
Mossman

# NGOs

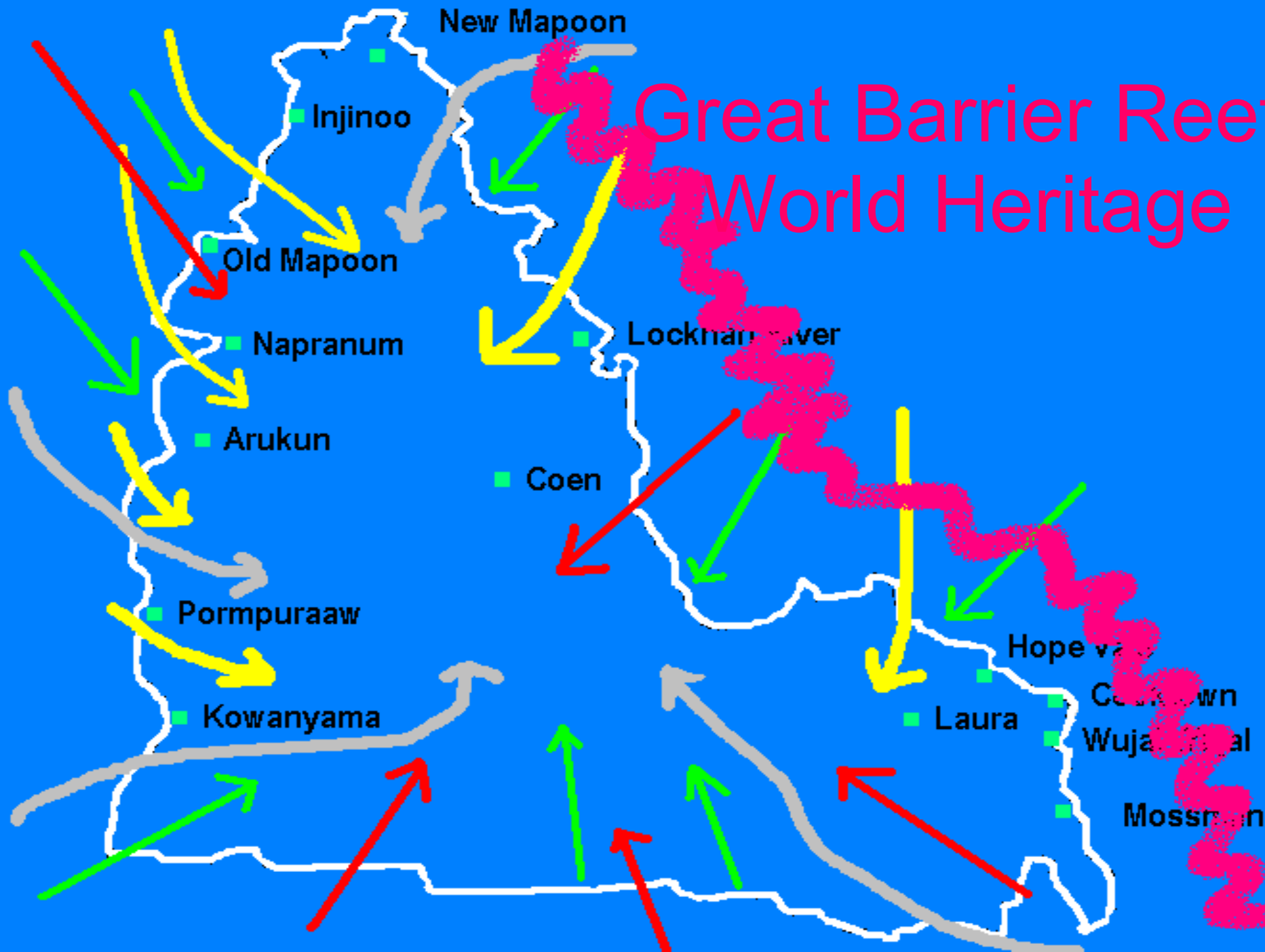




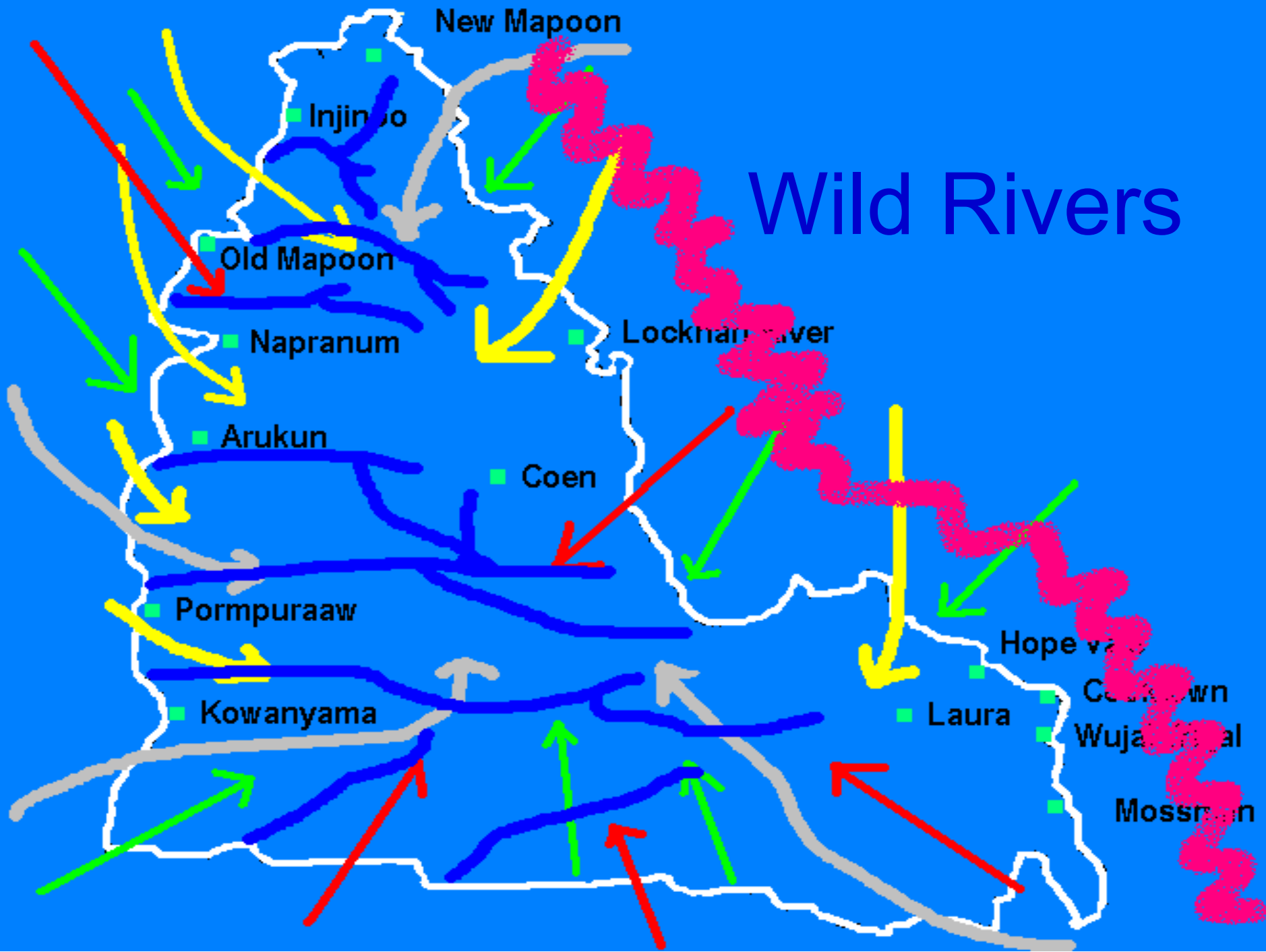
# Private Sector



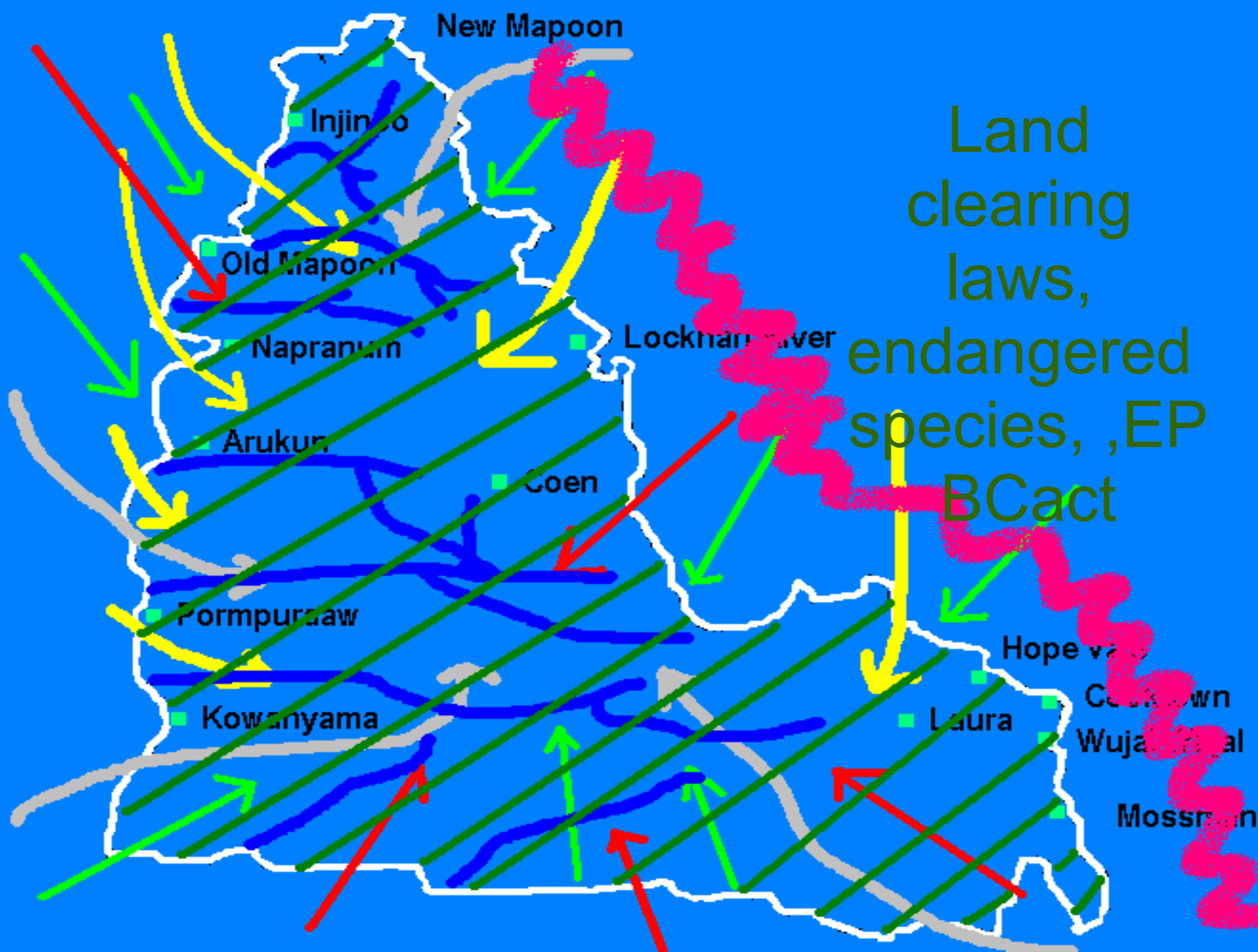
# Great Barrier Reef World Heritage



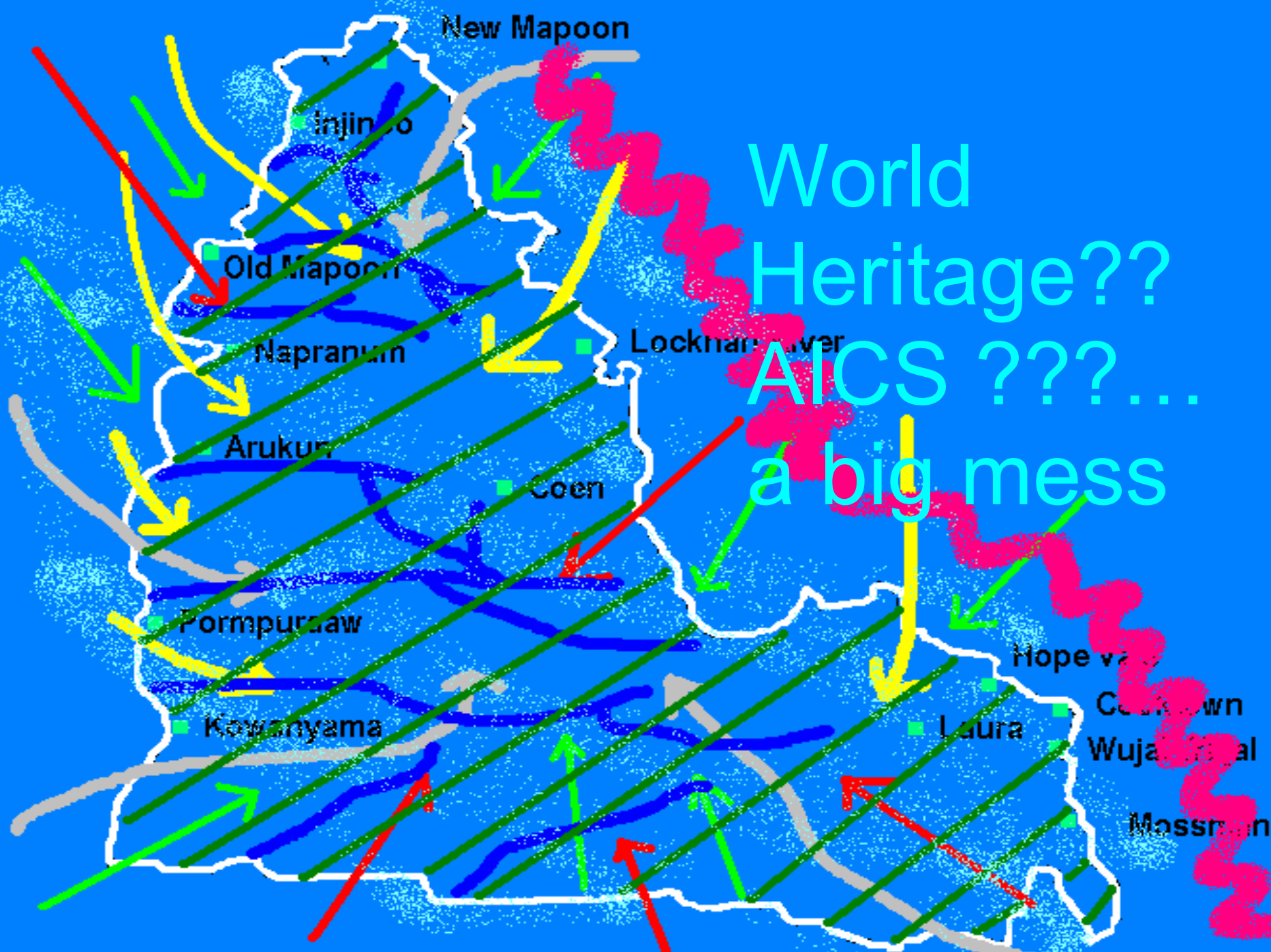
# Wild Rivers







Land clearing laws, endangered species, EPBCact



New Mapoon

Injinoo

Old Mapoon

Napranuan

Arukun

Coen

Pompueraaw

Kowanyama

Lockhart River

Hopevale

Laura

Cooktown

Wujal Wujal

Mossman

World  
Heritage??  
AICS ???...  
a big mess

## **Despite all these resources and laws and the importance of the region environmental management is failing**

- 2 million + feral pigs
- 200 + major weeds
- Uncontrolled poaching continues
- Unsustainable and underfunded ranger programs
- Disempowerment of TO's – removal of responsibility
- High level bio-security risks
- Ecosystem service opportunities diminished

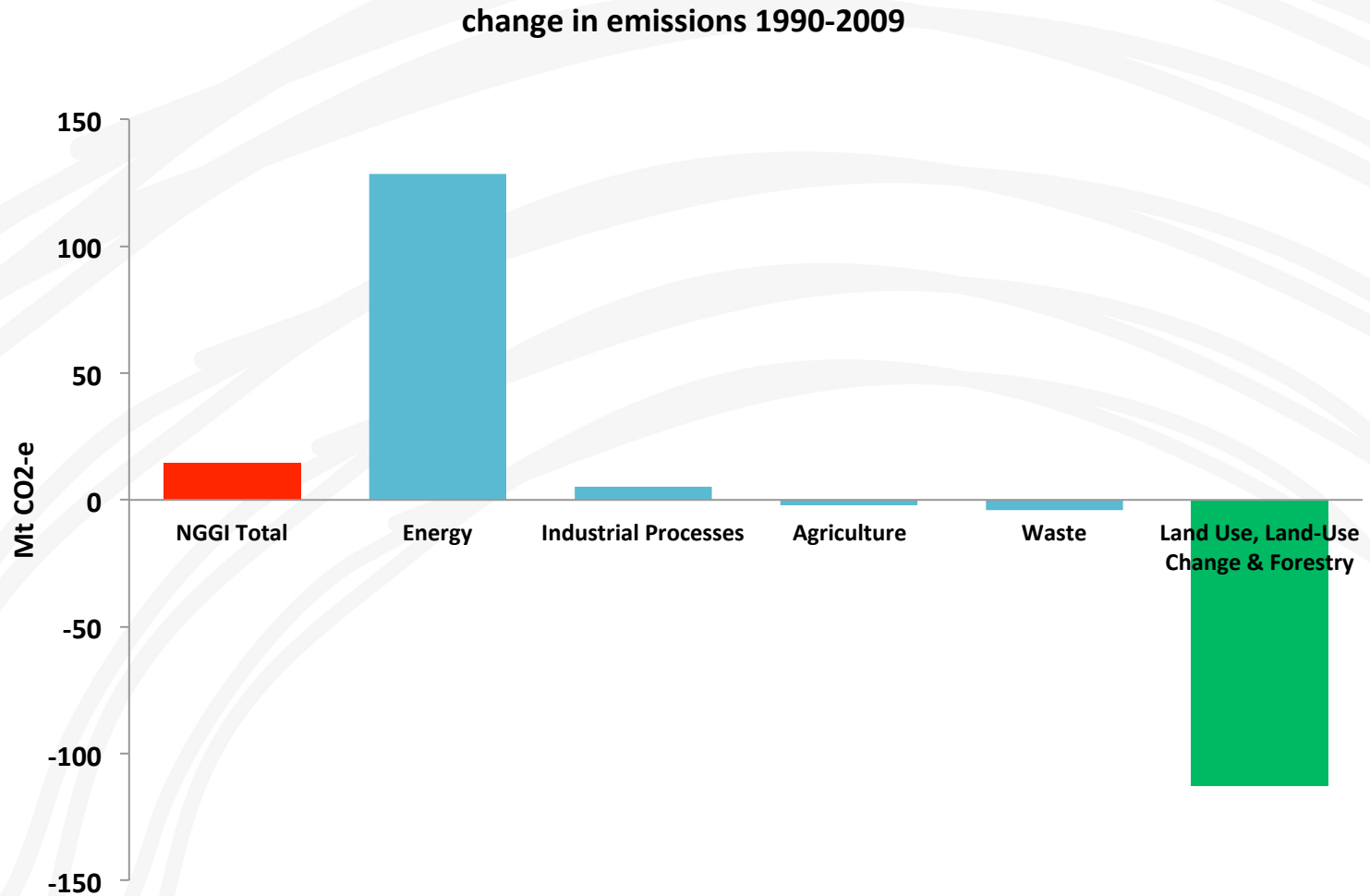


# There are many challenges in achieving land justice and effective conservation

- Over the last decade Aboriginal property rights have been severely diminished by conservation laws
- These laws have a proportionally larger impact on Aboriginal lands
- Green and political pressure to protect “what’s left” in Australia is focussing on the top end including the largest remaining Aboriginal Homelands
- The environmental development costs of the south are being offset cheaply through acquisition of environmental value or offsets in Cape York while leaving the management liability with those who can least afford it
- Ensuring Traditional Owner consent and Governance
- The Government will never sufficiently fund conservation

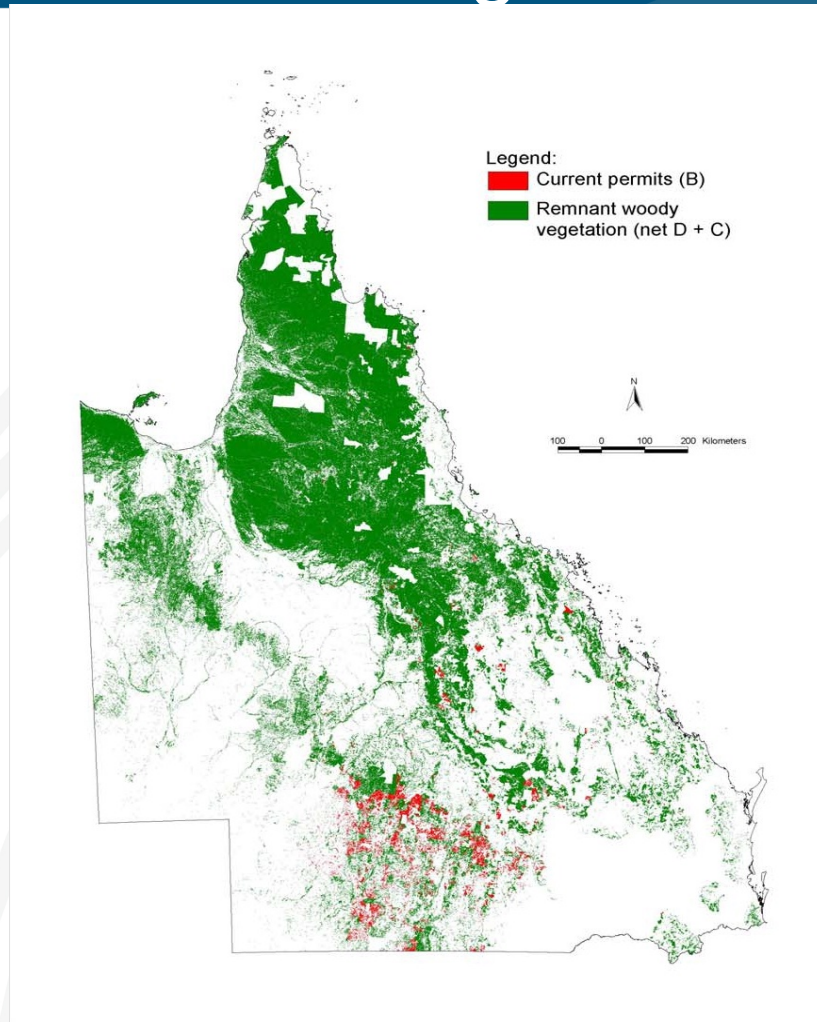


# How Australia will meet its Kyoto target?





# The majority of remaining remnant woody vegetation is in Cape York



# Valuing Cape York carbon

- 10 per cent of Aboriginal freehold land in Cape York is 150,700 hectares.
- CO<sub>2</sub>-e released by clearing freehold remnant land in Queensland is 216 tonnes per hectare
- Based on 150,700 hectares not cleared for land use change, the potential CO<sub>2</sub>-e release avoided is over 32 million tonnes.
- Based on a carbon permit price of \$23 per tonne CO<sub>2</sub>-e, the potential value of the avoided land clearing would be at least \$736 million.

# Only remnant carbon opportunities remain for Cape York

- Kyoto Protocol rules exclude forests established prior to 1990
- ‘additionality’ required for inclusion in carbon abatement
- Kyoto ‘flexibility mechanism’ rules largely exclude Cape York, but favour transitional economies such as PNG and Indonesia
- Some potential opportunities in the Carbon Farming Initiative and voluntary greenhouse abatement markets





# There is an emerging and unfair 'carbon gap' emerging on Cape York

- Australia will meet its Kyoto target largely due to land clearing controls, which have sheltered other Australians from acting to reduce their emissions
- Cape York Peninsula has made a significant, but unrecognised, contribution to Australia meeting its Kyoto target
- Opportunities for participation by Cape York indigenous communities in a future carbon market are limited
- Cape York indigenous communities have a liability for land management, but few of the potential carbon market benefits

# What are we trying to achieve?

## **The development of an Aboriginal controlled conservation agenda that;**

- Places Traditional Owners in the driver's seat
- Provides sustainability and scale to ranger programs
- Shifts the land management model from a green welfare model to one that incorporates enterprise, private investment and ecosystem services
- Engages land management industry with welfare reform – Land management is aspirational and has high capabilities
- Respects Aboriginal land ownership and property rights
- Provides the scale and quality of management that the region deserves, in perpetuity

