

Outback-

supporting people & country in remote Australia

Barry Traill
Director
Outback to Oceans Program
Pew Charitable Trusts
btraill@pewtrusts.org



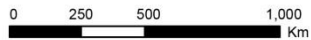
PEW
ENVIRONMENT GROUP











Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994; Datum: GDA1994; Units: Degree





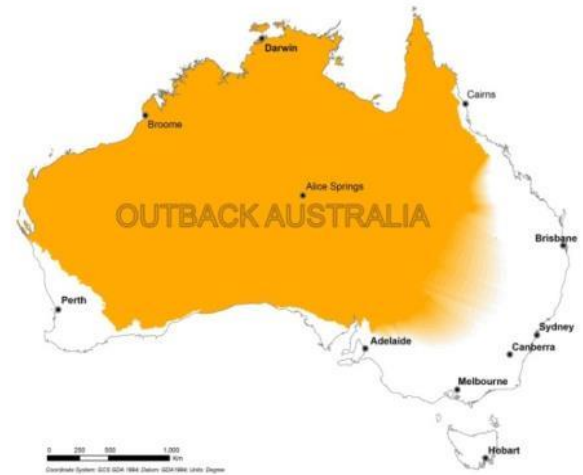






Characterising the Outback

- Area: 5.6 million km² (73% of Australia)
- Defined by a series of inter-related social, environmental and economic traits;
- Highly variable climate
 - extreme inter-year variability in the inland;
 - extreme intra-year variability in the monsoonal north;
- Low primary productivity (vegetation growth);
- Very low (often negative) agricultural profitability;

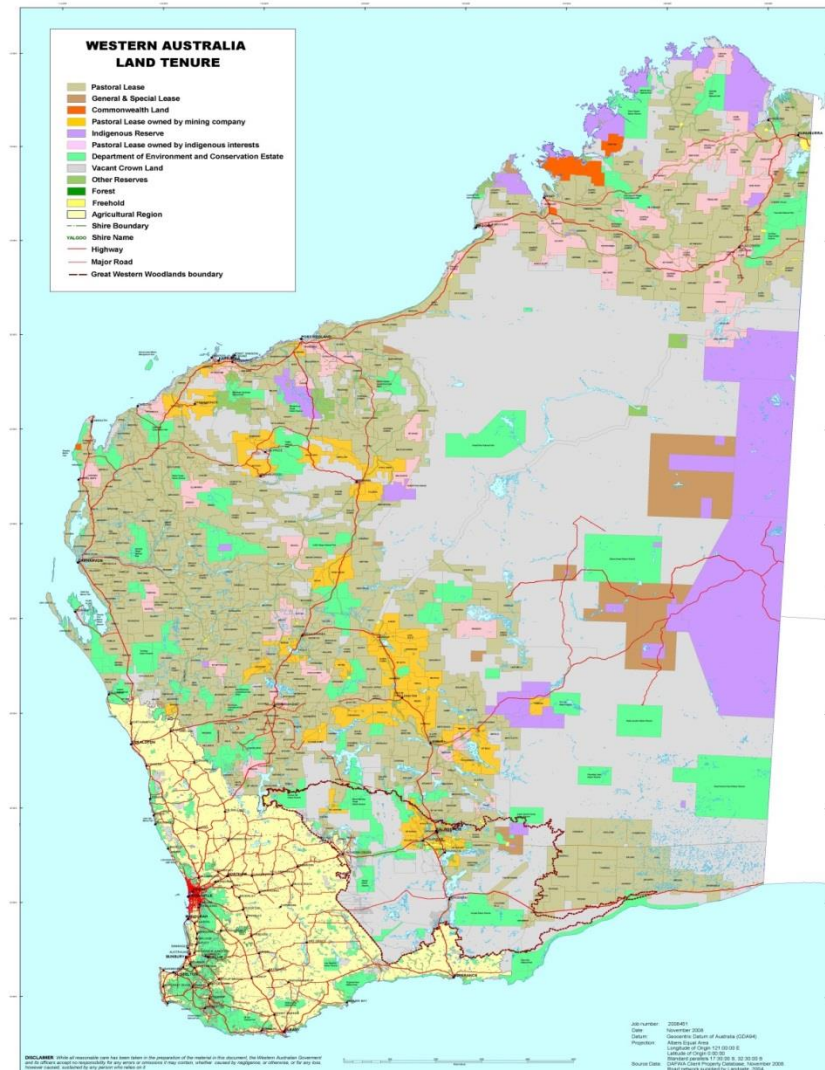


Characterising the Outback

- Land tenures mostly pastoral, Indigenous & conservation rather than freehold
- Simple resource based economy- government services, mining, tourism, pastoral, carbon farming & land management
- Mostly isolated from centres of political power in states and federally
- Very few people
 - 800,000 (c. 4% of Australia)
density in Outback: 0.14 person/km²
cf. world average: 50 person/km
- Relatively high proportion of population is Indigenous

Outback land tenure in Western Australia

- Major changes coming to leasehold lands





David Pollock & Frances Jones, Woolleen
Station, Western Australia



Charles Darwin Reserve

This 68 481 ha reserve protects remnant woodlands and shrublands once common throughout the northern Wheatbelt

Acquired in 2003 by

BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA

with the assistance of Chris and Jacqui Darwin and the Australian Government's National Reserve System Programme

We gratefully acknowledge contributions made by donors and volunteers

We respectfully acknowledge the Badimia, Widi and Binyardi Traditional Custodians of this land

Visits are by prior arrangement only

For further information please contact Bush Heritage Australia
ph 1300 628 873
www.bushheritage.org.au



Hunting, shooting, the lighting of fires and the removal of living or dead vegetation are prohibited



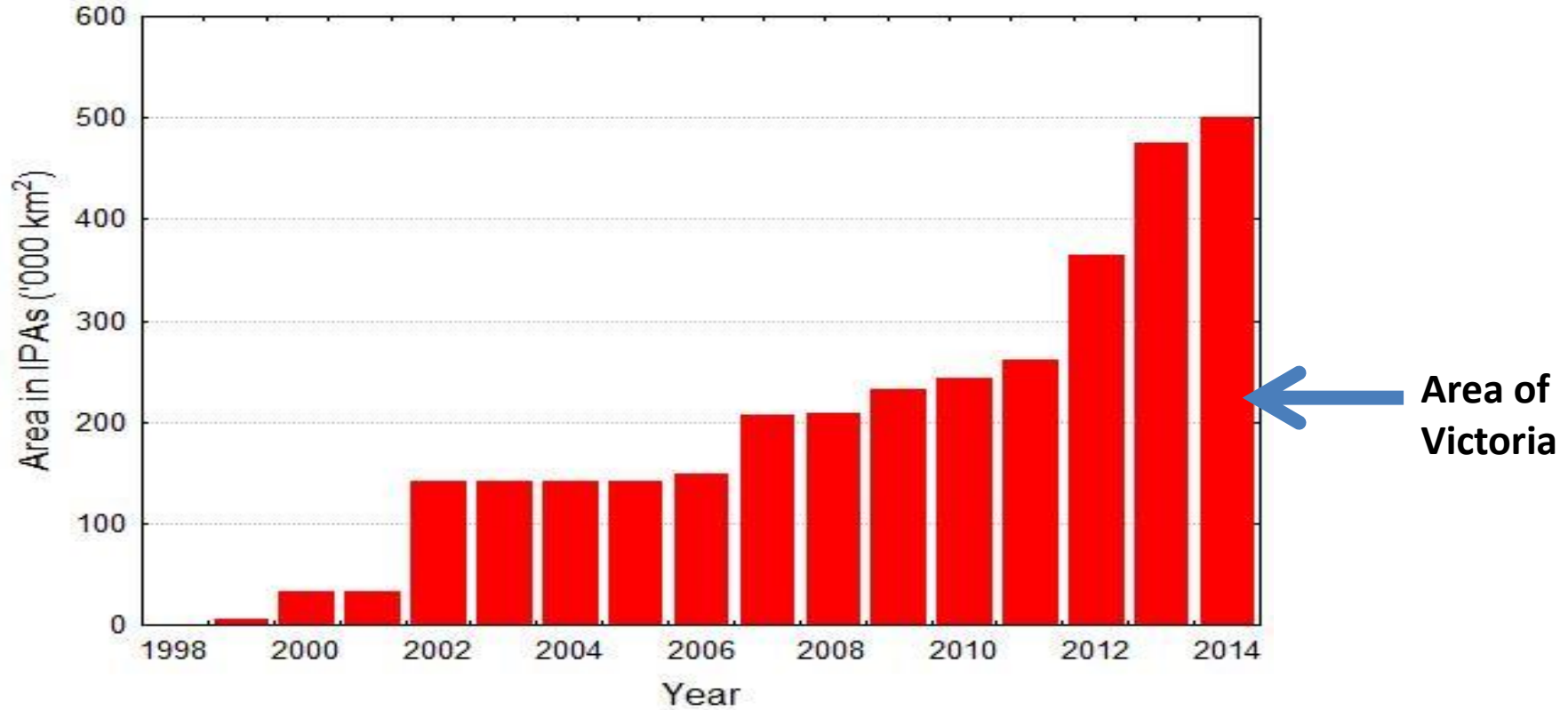
Luke Bayley & son, on former White Wells Station, Western Australia

Rise of fully Indigenous owned and managed lands



Rodney Naborlhborlh, Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area, N.T.

Increase in area of Indigenous Protected Areas



A photograph of a macropod, likely a wallaby or kangaroo, with large, upright ears. The animal has grey fur on its back and sides, and white fur on its chest and belly. It is standing on reddish-brown soil, surrounded by dry grass and some green vegetation. The word "Thanks" is written in white text in the upper right corner of the image.

Thanks

Modern Outback study: download at www.pewtrusts.org.au/outback
or via btraill@pewtrust.org