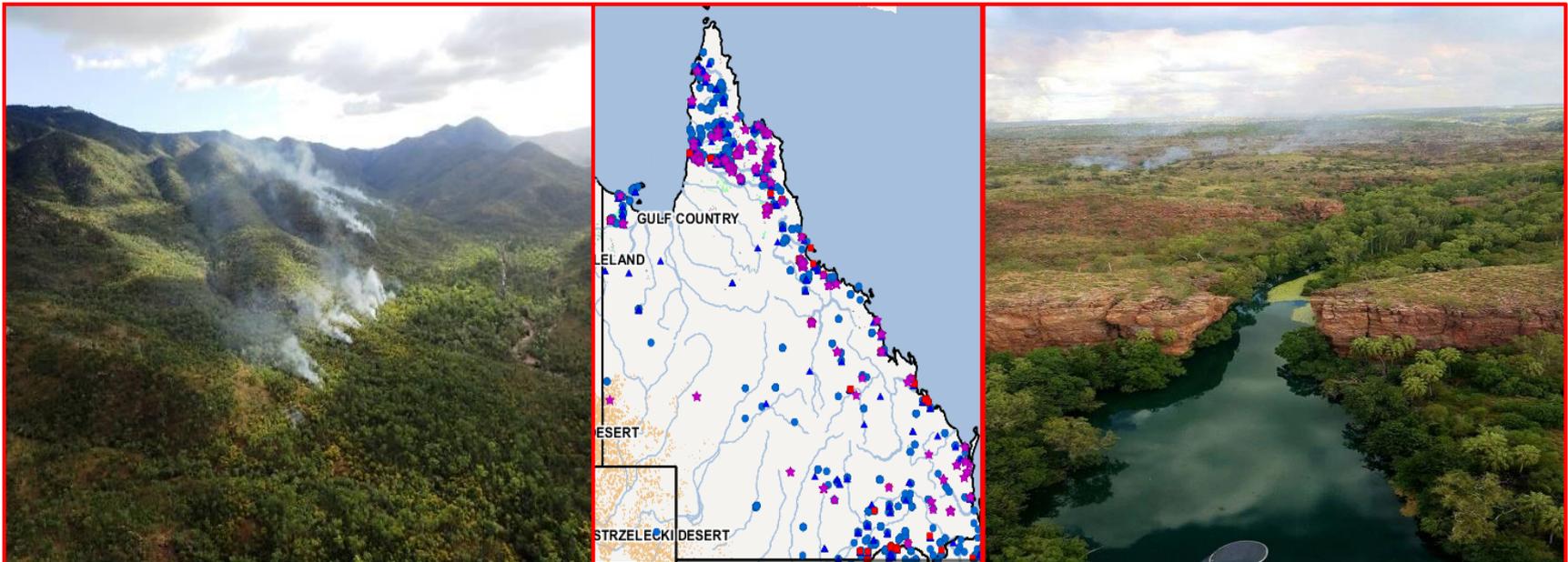
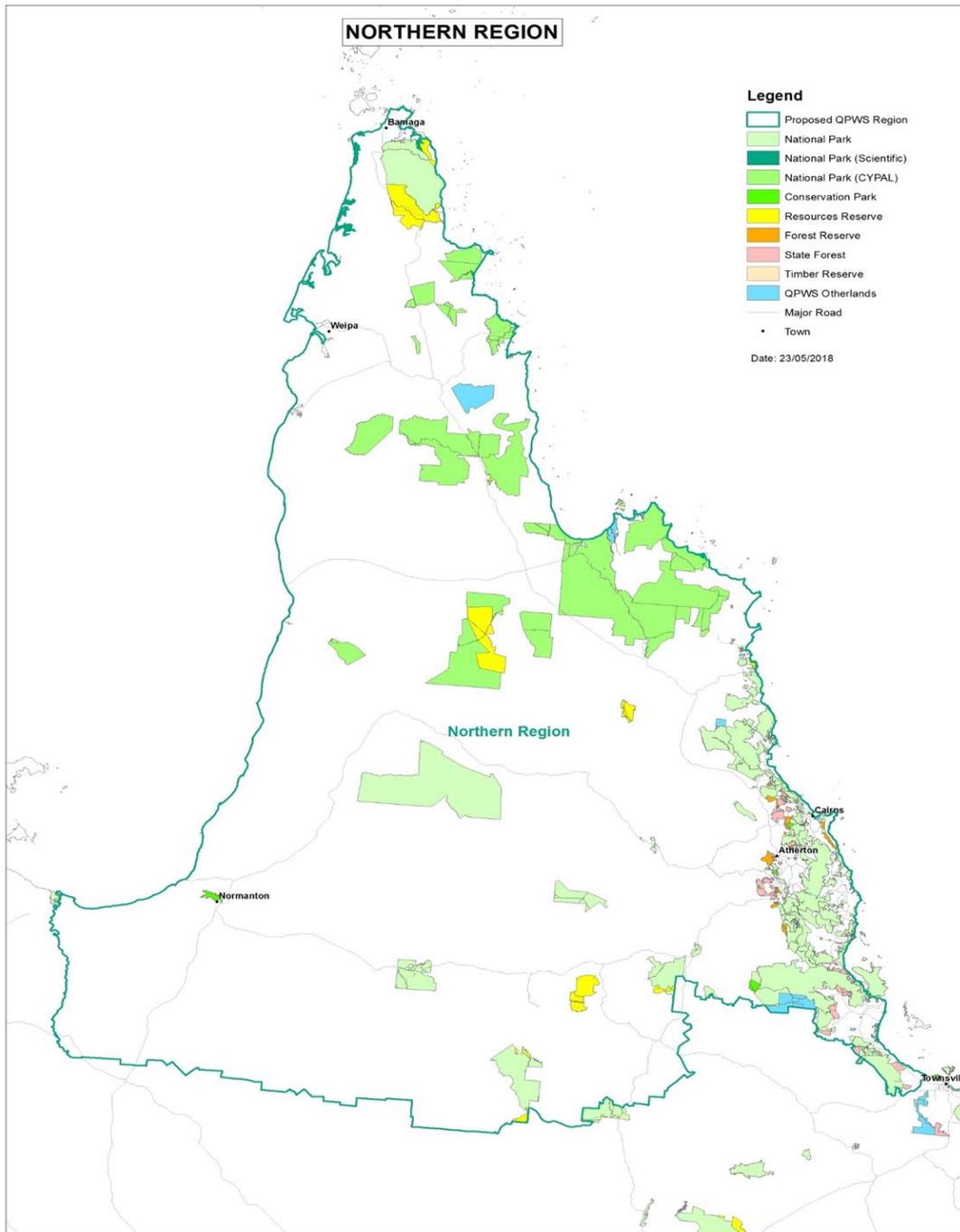


North Australian Fire Managers Forum 2018 Townsville



**Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Northern Parks and Forests
Jurisdictional Report**



2017 Northern Parks and Forests

Prescribed Burning Overview

- **Northern Region** had a successful prescribed burn program for 2017, assisted by starting as early as possible and having a good seasonal spread of conditions to account for landscape variance.
- Highlights included a positive shift towards early season “campaign” burning in the Dry Tropics management unit (i.e. staged planned burns) which provided an excellent opportunity for newly trained or relatively inexperienced CL’s, OO’s and IC’s under controlled conditions.
- There was improvement in planned burning on critical conservation projects with respect to both outcomes and application (Daintree/Mt Windsor burning for northern bettong, coastal transitioning pockets, traditional fire pathways–Kulla)

Prescribed burning continued.....

- **Central Region** also had a successful 2017 prescribed burn season conducting 36 burns and assisting with another 2



- Highlights included considerable learnings associated with post cyclone landscapes – particularly Byfield NP and Airlie Beach (Georges Point) as a result of TC's Marcia and Debbie respectively.
- Implementing patchy, low intensity burns within altered fuel composition and favourable burning parameters whilst protecting damaged and vulnerable fire sensitive communities with compromised fire control lines is a challenge, but not an insurmountable one.
- Urban interface burns in Rockhampton and Townsville continue to be a priority for the region.

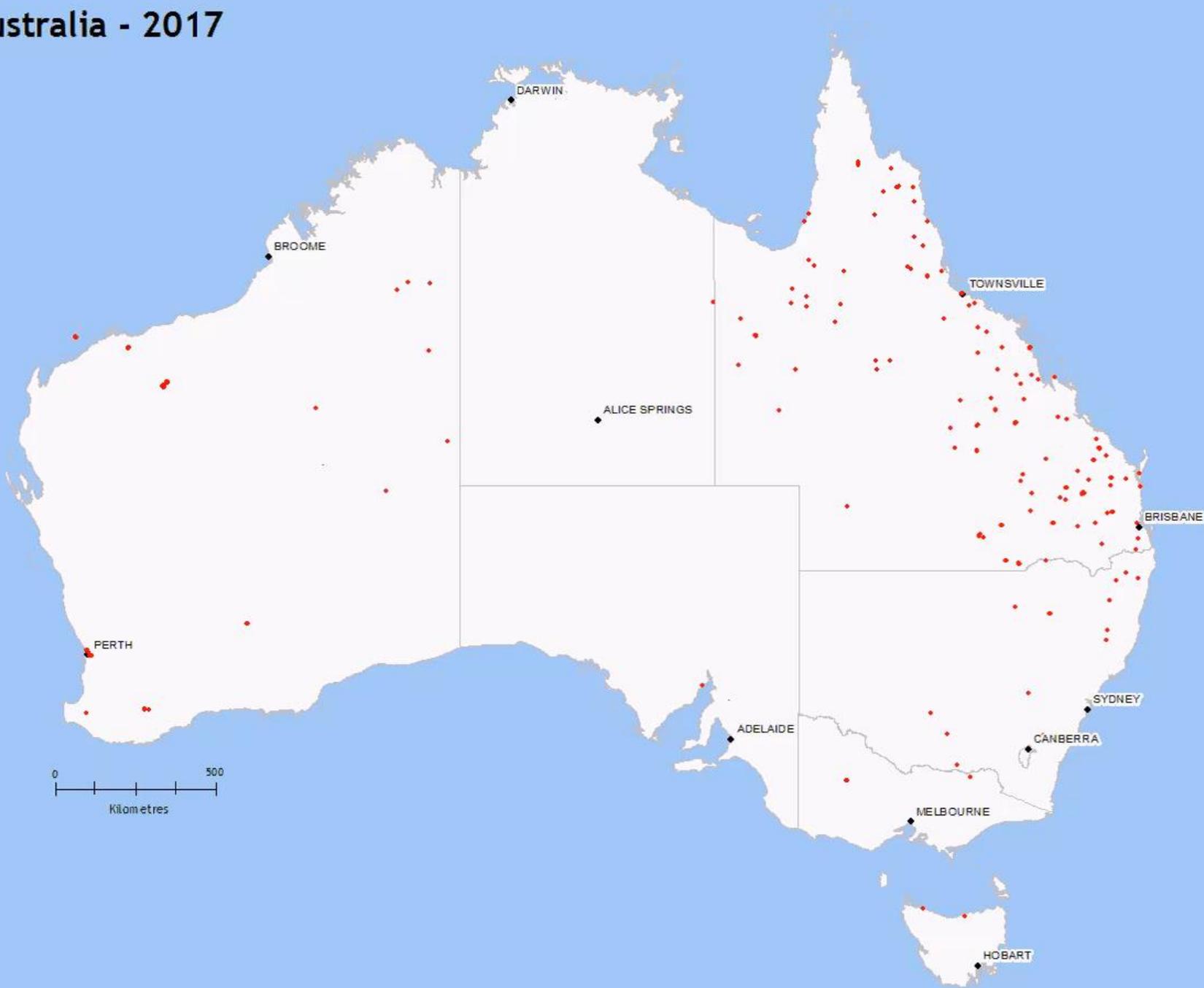
Wildfire

- Northern Region attended 61 Wildfires that accounted for >450,000Ha.
- Of note was increased interagency collaboration, not without its challenges but a positive step forward.
- Central Region responded to around 30 wildfires – approximate is due to regional border/FLAME. The largest of those being the Byfield fire and assistance with defence country.
- Interestingly, issues arose with joint IC arrangements with the IDF. As the fire was on defence country they were reluctant to take on IC owing to legislative constraints.

Fire in Australia - 2017

● Fire Hotspots

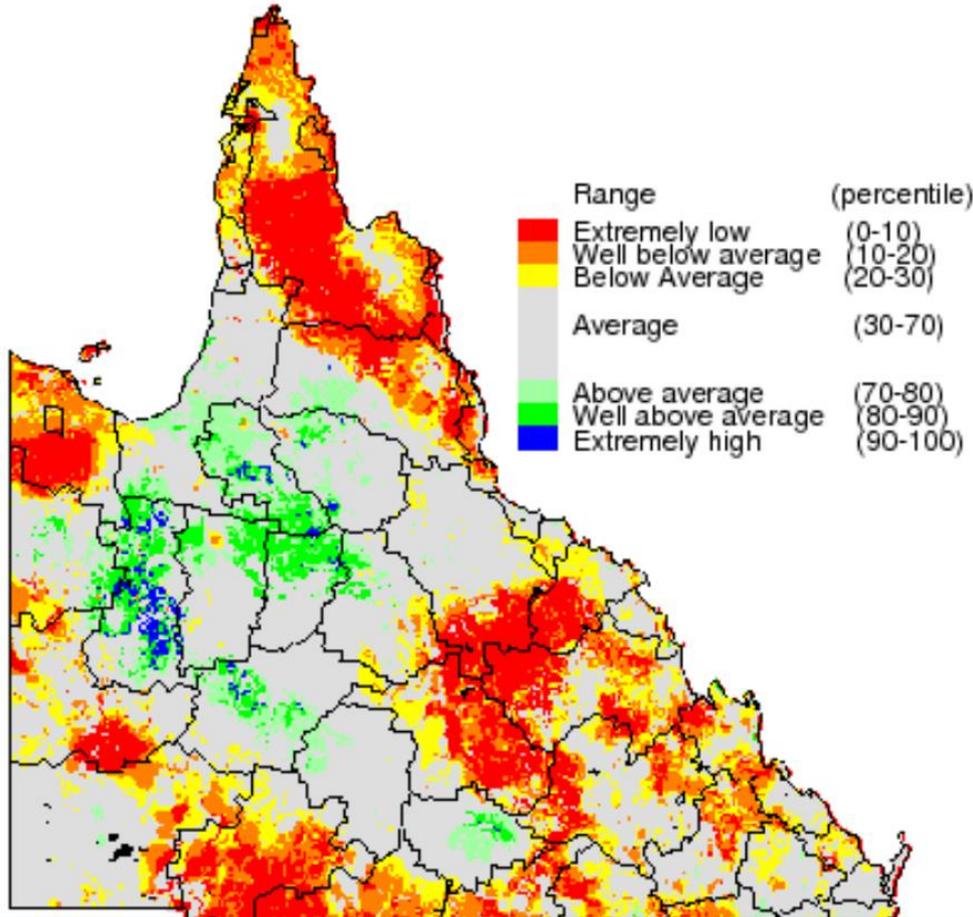
■ January



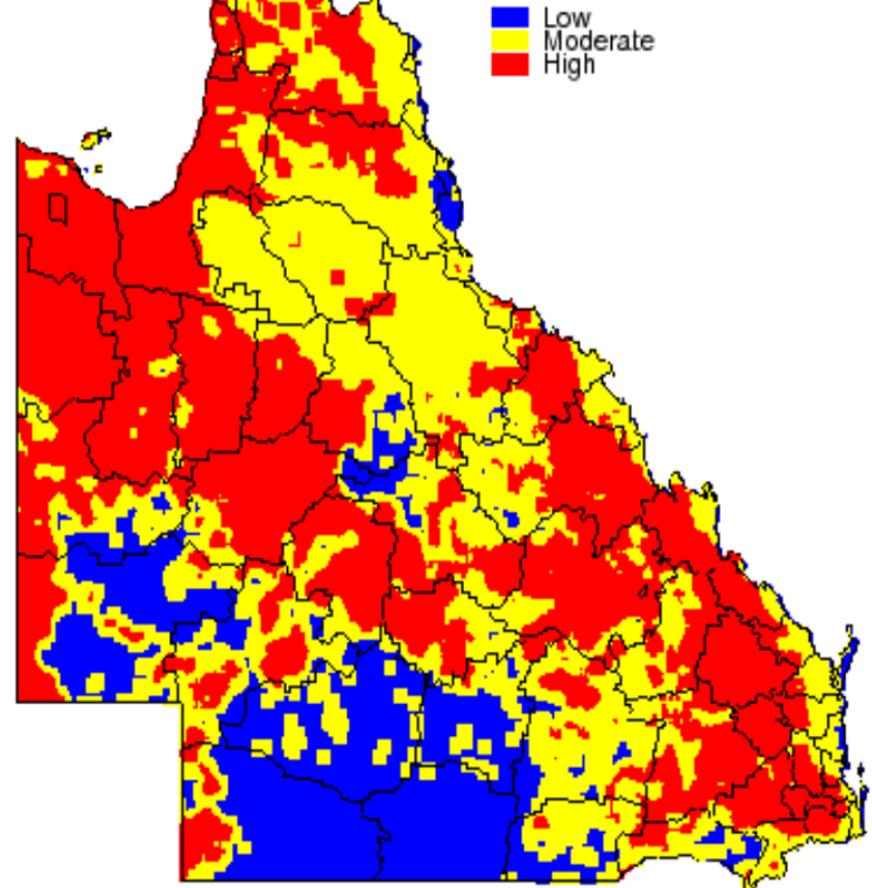
2018 thus far.....

- Northern Region winding down operations in the dry tropics owing to re-ignition. It has been a good season thus far and will now focus on the coastal strip and Tablelands interface areas over the next few weeks.
- Central Region took time to begin aerial op's in earnest owing to the issues with contractor accreditation for AIB's. This has largely been rectified but has had a small impact on the annual aerial burning program. Having said that some very good results have been achieved by both regions thus far including;

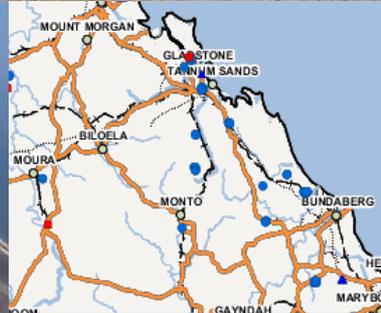
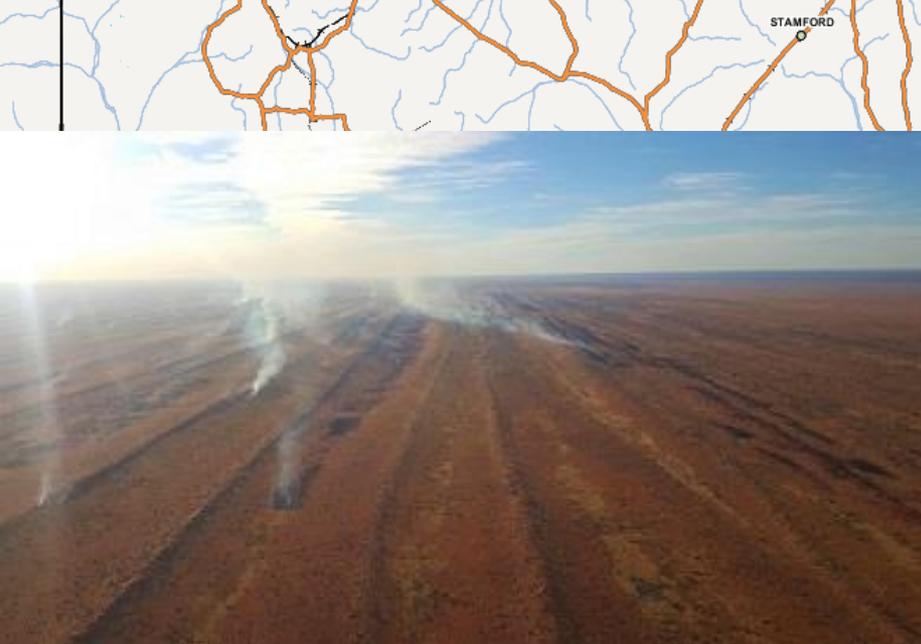
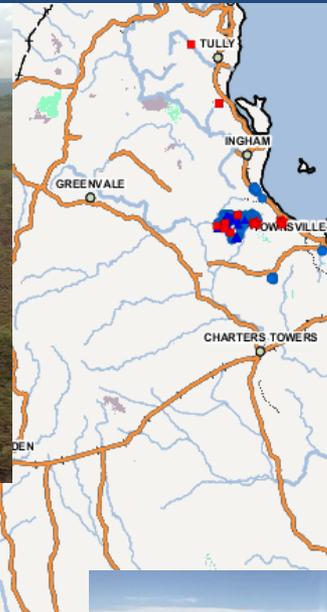
Available Soil Water (0-100 cm) Relative to Historical Records from 1957 May 2018



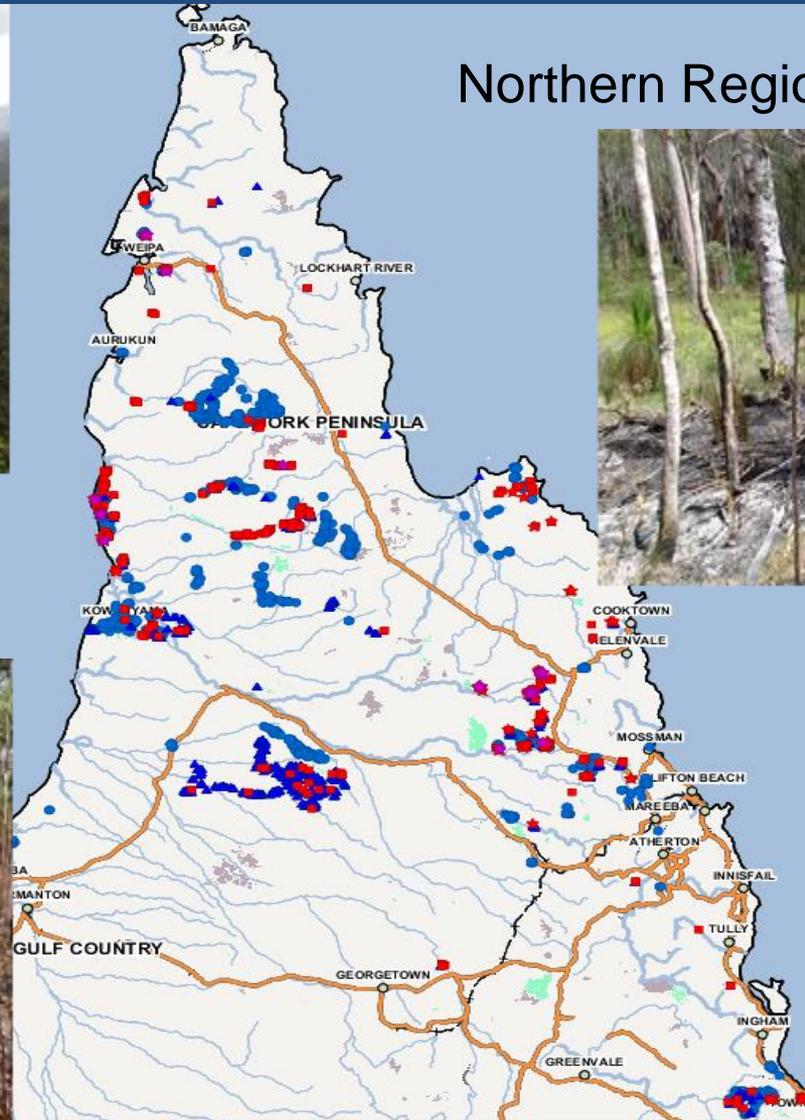
Potential Grassfire Risk May 2018



Central Region



Northern Region



Developments in legislation, policy and planning:

FLAME

- ❑ Database continuing to evolve. Excellent reporting tool and state repository for fire related information.

Values Based Management Framework - VBMF

- ❑ Designed to ensure the appropriate (current/desired) level of management is directly aligned with the assessed value of the area.
- ❑ Continues to validate management actions and provide guidance in areas of uncertainty.
- ❑ Ensures high + LOS parks are prioritised and accountable.

....continued

JOINT MANAGEMENT

- Attendance at planned burns and wildfire events hampered by training requirements.
- Carbon economy in the north impacting management action.

AVIATION

- Specifications for all aerial operations currently under review.
- Compliance with policy addressed in reference to nationally accredited Aerial Incendiary Bombardiers.
- Incendiary Operations Supervisor role to be reviewed – awaiting for guidance from national training committee.
- Increasing aviation knowledge capacity – creating a culture of raising the bar.

Emerging Issues and Opportunities

- ❑ Adequate risk profiling – alignment with risk standards and guiding principles. Risk is a highly interpretive consideration.
- ❑ Decentralisation of high + LOS estate potentially an issue
- ❑ Traffic Management – availability in remote areas very difficult to manage.
- ❑ Fire vehicle weight compliance – see slide.
- ❑ Carbon Opportunities – QLD governments \$500 million investment into promoting carbon abatement across the land sector – vegetation and savanna burning specifically.
- ❑ Not as easy in QLD owing to tenure issues in CYPAL lands in particular.

Opportunities continued.....

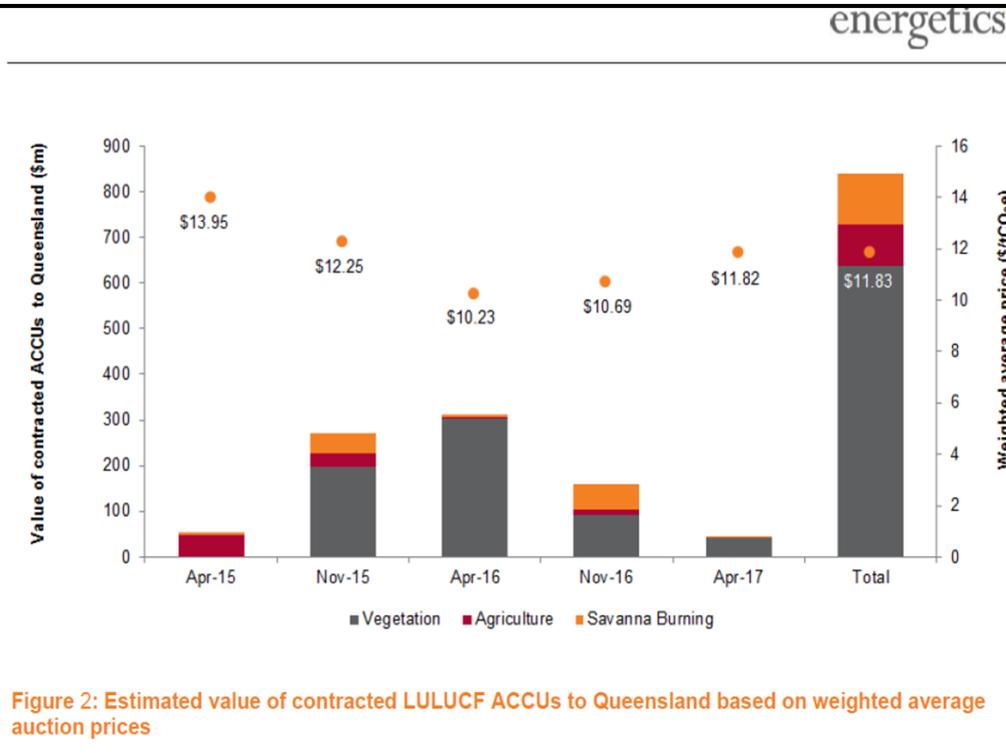
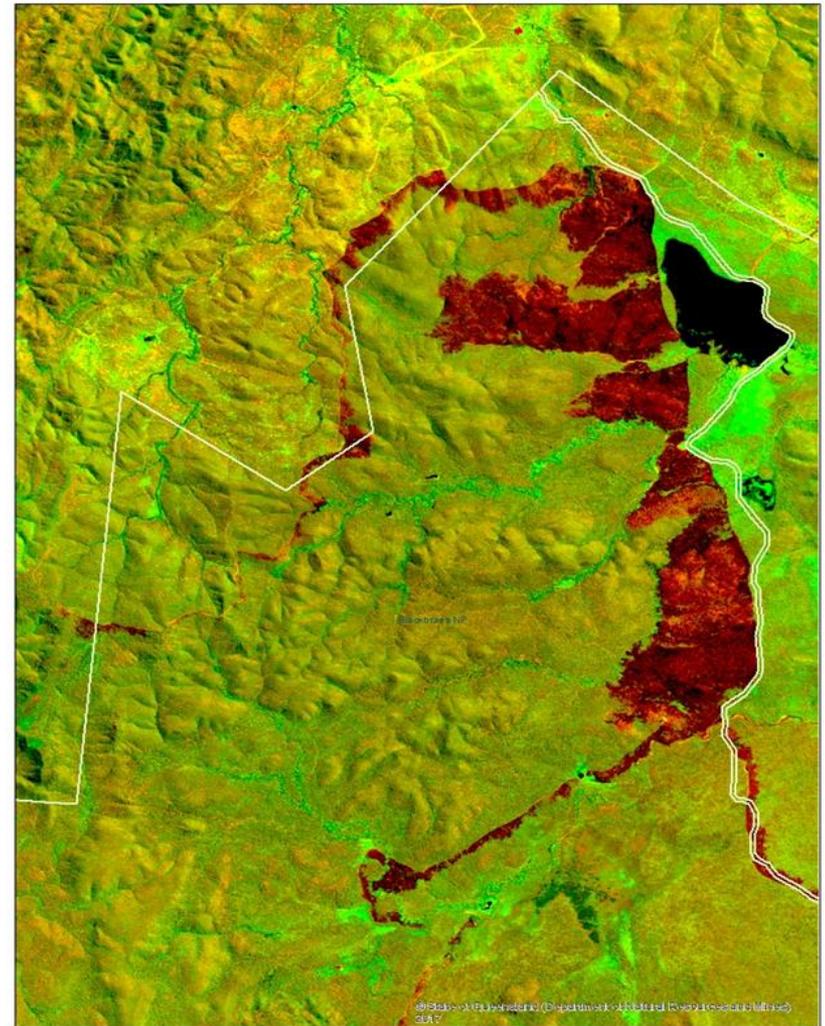


Figure 2: Estimated value of contracted LULUCF ACCUs to Queensland based on weighted average auction prices

Advances in Mapping

- PLANET has been identified as a key mapping platform to cross reference LandSat and Modis derived data.
- Point of difference is its availability – instant. This allows fire managers greater vision of results in a far more efficient manner to support informed management decisions.



Aerial Incendiary Machine Operator Training Woodstock Airfield May 2018



Weight Compliance

- Drivers must operate vehicles consistent with Departmental policies and procedures, manufacturer specifications and the road rules. All QPWS vehicles must operate within the legal Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM), Gross Axle Load Rating (GALR) and towing capacity (Gross Combination Mass - GCM) specified by the manufacturer.
- This has led to significant change in the make up of the QPWS Fire Fleet and how it is managed. Processes to ensure operations are within the GVM and axle limits have been developed by the State Fire Team and are actively implemented throughout the state.

Fire Fleet Modernisation

