



Northern Australia's Indigenous Forestry & Forest Products Industry

- History
- Current status
- Growth potential (opportunities & challenges)



Project Number
A.1.1718122



The CRCNA acknowledges the support of our investment partners.



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Business

Cooperative Research
Centres Program



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NORTHERN FORESTRY &
FOREST PRODUCTS
INDUSTRY SITUATION
ANALYSIS

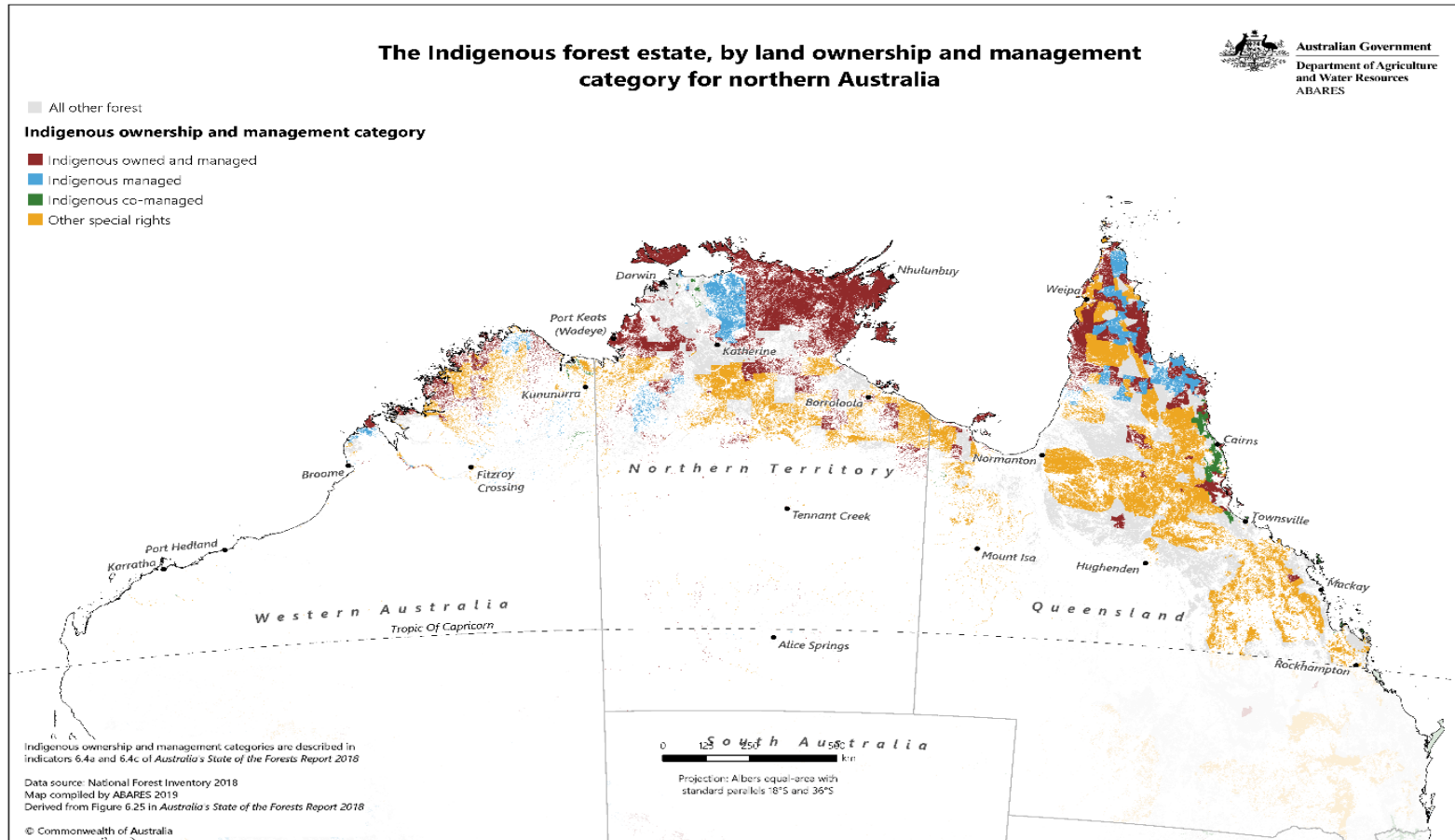
History of Indigenous Forestry in Northern Australia

- Sandalwood – Indigenous labour
- Mission-era community sawmills
- Early government initiatives – plantations
- Lessons?



Indigenous forestry in Northern Australia – current status

Nthn Aus Indigenous Forest Estate – SoF Report (2018)



Area of land and forest in the Indigenous estate, by Indigenous land ownership and management categories for northern Australia

Management category	Land cover type	Area ('000 hectares)			
		NT	northern Qld ^a	northern WA ^a	northern Australia
Indigenous owned and managed	All	61,747	6,124	17,836	85,707
	Forest	11,490	4,747	1,226	17,464
Indigenous managed	All	4,270	3,147	10,504	17,921
	Forest	1,726	2,528	317	4,571
Indigenous co-managed	All	152	1,204	1,644	3,000
	Forest	55	740	57	852
Other special rights	All	37,383	41,410	45,507	124,299
	Forest	5,421	16,224	1,590	23,235
Total Indigenous estate	All	103,551	51,885	75,491	230,927
	Forest	18,693	24,238	3,190	46,122
Total forest in jurisdiction		23,735	35,783	3,662	63,180
Proportion of total forest that is forest on the Indigenous estate		79%	68%	87%	73%

^a Data for forest north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

Indigenous ownership and management categories are described in indicators 6.4a and 6.4c of *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018*

Figures derived from data shown in Table 3.7 in *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018*.

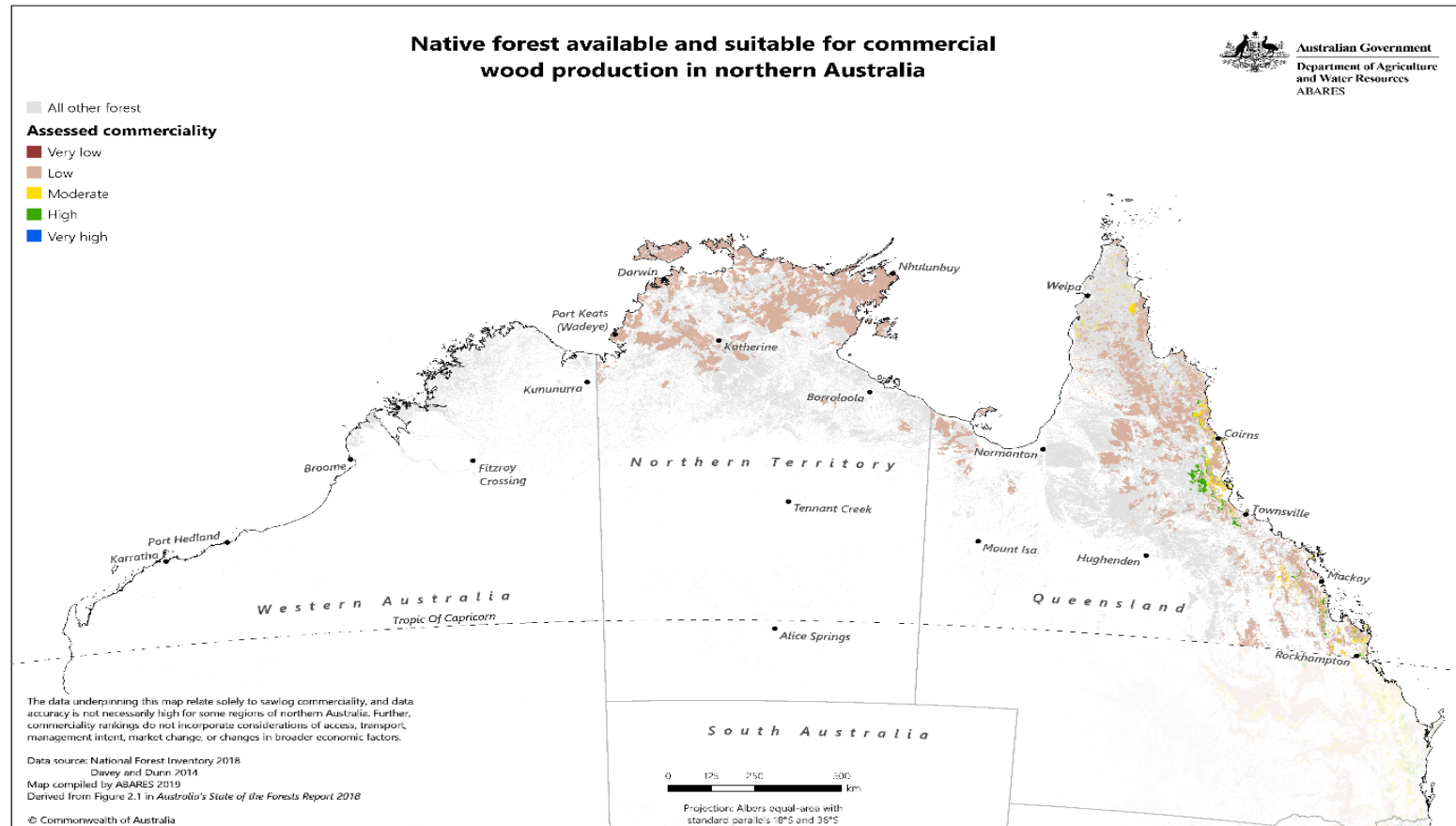
Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding.

Source: ABARES.



How much of the Indigenous forest estate is 'available & suitable for commercial wood production'?

- Lancewood (*Acacia shirleyi*) & Gidgee (*Acacia cambagei*)?



Example Indigenous forestry & forest products enterprises

- Cape York Timber (Cooktown, FNQ) – sawmilling,
- Wik Timber (Weipa-Aurukun, FNQ) – large-scale salvage harvesting from bauxite mines, other enterprises
- Gumatj Sawmill (Nhulunbuy, Arnhem Land, NT) – small-scale harvesting, milling and value-adding
- Tiwi Plantation Company (Tiwi Islands, NT) – large-scale plantations
- Small-scale woodcarving, didgeridoo & furniture enterprises



Growth potential – what are the future prospects?

- **Key challenges?**

- resource security, policy/regulatory environment, infrastructure & supply chains, industry capacity & skills, forest productivity, data paucity...

- **Key opportunities?**

- domestic & international markets, value-adding, lesser-known species, silvo-pastoral systems, mine-site rehabilitation, silviculture for improved productivity, synergies with existing industries (mining), investment...





Please add your thoughts to the question sheets provided
Thank-you

