

Designing Incentives for Achieving Biodiversity Targets in the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM Region

Research commissioned by the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM

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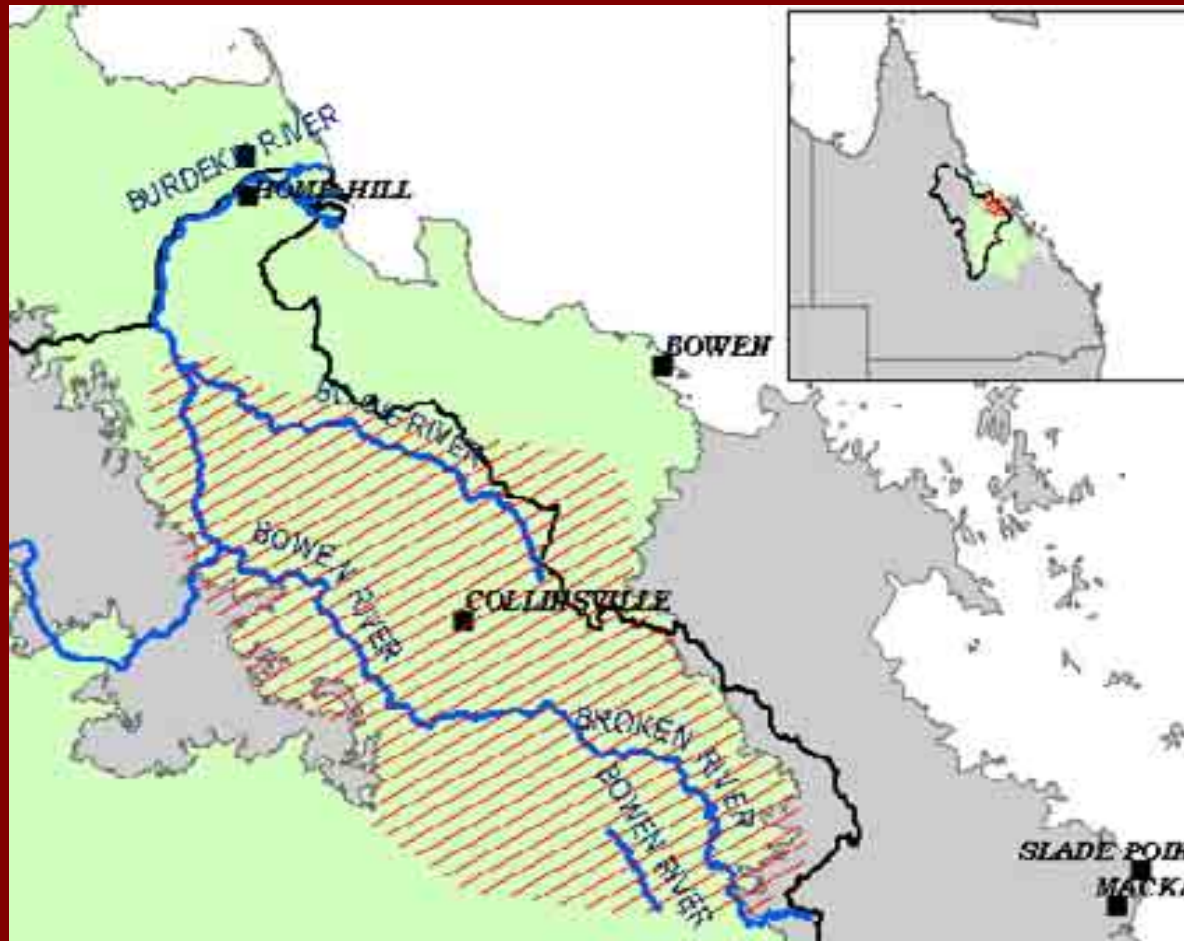
Outline

- Purpose of research
- Exploration of three incentives
 - Debt for conservation swaps
 - Public recognition incentive
 - Stewardship payments
- Exploration of social dimensions

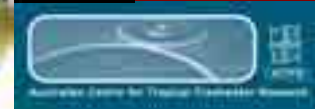
Methods used

- Literature review
- Statistical analysis of Greiner et al (2003) data
- Empirical research
- Landholder stories

Study area



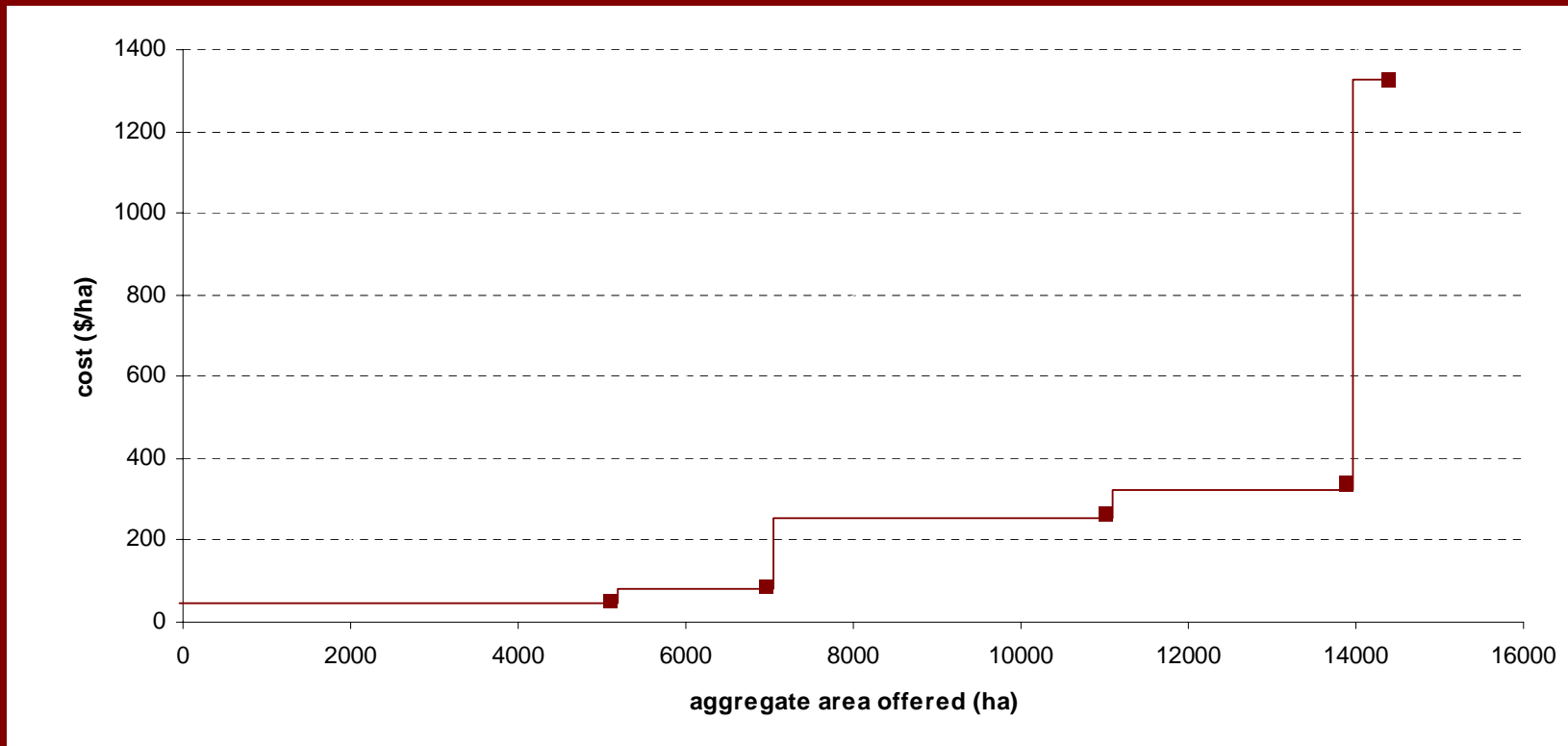
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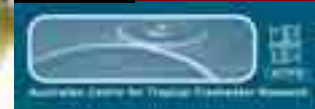
Link between debt, grazing intensification and biodiversity decline

- Landholders rated impact of debt as 'highly negative'
- Statistical analysis significant for high equity and adjusting stock numbers
- Also, established through literature review

D-F-C-S linked to a competitive tender to maximise efficacy



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Critique of D-F-C-S

- Debt- for-conservation swaps has potential to safeguard some areas cost-effectively and possibly over long periods
- However, inequitable, no intrinsic motivation, high transaction costs and possible perverse outcomes

See Greiner and Lankester (2006). Land Use Policy. Forthcoming.

Stewardship payments

- More equitable
- However, annual recurring payments creates uncertainty and may also affect intrinsic motivation
- Efficiency maximised through auction

More detailed analysis in Comerford, Clousten and Greiner (2006)

Landholder stories

- Recognition is a potentially effective incentive
- Participation mostly by motivated landholders
- Diverse range of stories
- Not necessarily 'conservation success' stories
- Effectiveness needs further evaluation

Social dimensions

- Most landholders had intensified
- Lifestyle a key motivator
- Mixed interpretations of biodiversity
- Less productive areas most favoured for conservation
- Varied ideas on conservation agreements
- Main barriers identified as financial
- Extension important
- Feedback on past programs

Conclusions

- Diversity of situations, conservation needs and ways people manage
- Mix of incentives best
- D-F-C-S may have potential
- Stewardship payments more equitable
- Auction system most efficient
- Recognition is a potentially effective incentive
- Care with incentive design and implementation