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R&D027: Getting ground cover right – thresholds and baselines for a healthier reef

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Summary of Issue

- Need for tools to measure landscape health in reef catchments
- Team has history of tool development
 - GCI
 - Rapid assessments
 - Land condition mapping
 - VegMachine
- Current project to evolve and extend these





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Project objectives

1. Produce an improved Ground Cover Index product and analysis routine.
2. Produce validated spatial data of ground cover and land condition for the FBA and NQDT regions.
3. Enhanced land monitoring support packages and publications for the FBA and NQDT regions.





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Approach: Team, Methods

Team

- DEEDI, DERM, CSIRO

Methods

- DERM to improved GCI
- CSIRO to develop ABCD mapping
- DEEDI to do rapid assessments
- DERM, CSIRO, DERM identify better groundcover thresholds
- DEEDI to package/deliver in FBA and NQDT regions



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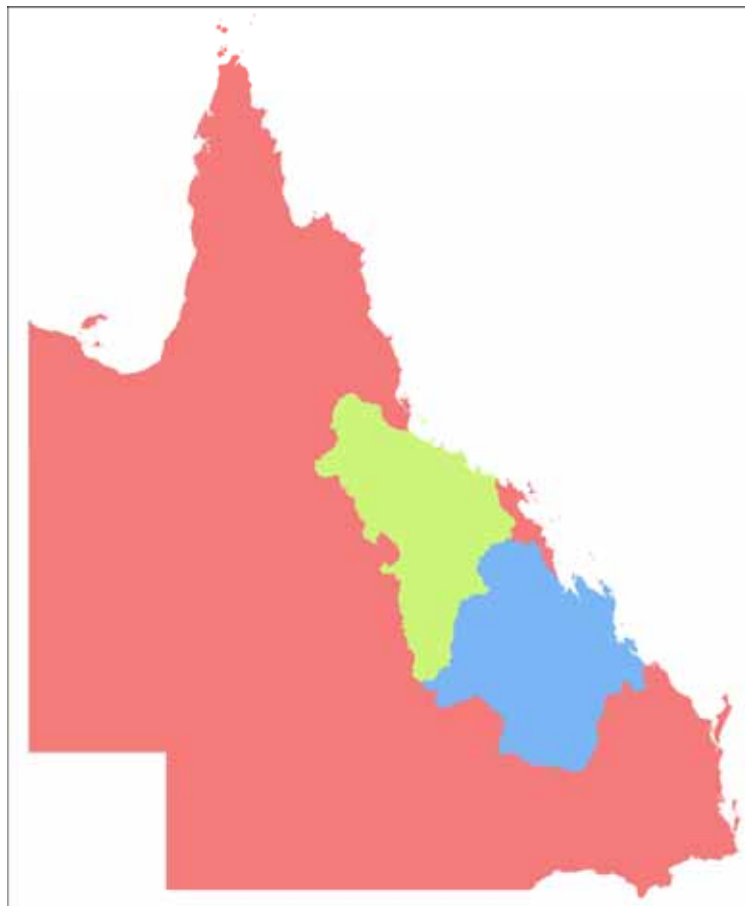
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Geographic scope



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Synergies – Reef Rescue & external

Reef protection

Paddock to reef work

NQDT and FBA reef work

Plenty of willingness to cooperate



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Management Implications

1. Regional bodies have better capacity to report landscape scale change.
2. Regional extension staff have better suite of extension and engagement tools.
3. Land managers have access to products through existing network of extension officers.





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End user engagement & delivery

1. Packaging end products for better uptake
2. Training for regional extension staff to use end products
3. Summary materials for regional level reporting



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