P AVAILABILITY Project – Sampling and Interpretation for industry

Jim Fletcher
DPI Beef Extension Officer

Queensland Government

Developing an efficient Phosphorus supplementation program on Phosphorus deficient country in the northern parts of Queensland is a cost positive exercise.

There are **two rules** that apply to that statement though.

1. Being able to adequately determine if your operation is **P Deficient** or **P Adequate**
2. Getting enough Phosphorus into them…Navigating the management issues that come along with feeding supplement in the wet,

   like getting it out, maintain intakes, shelter etc.

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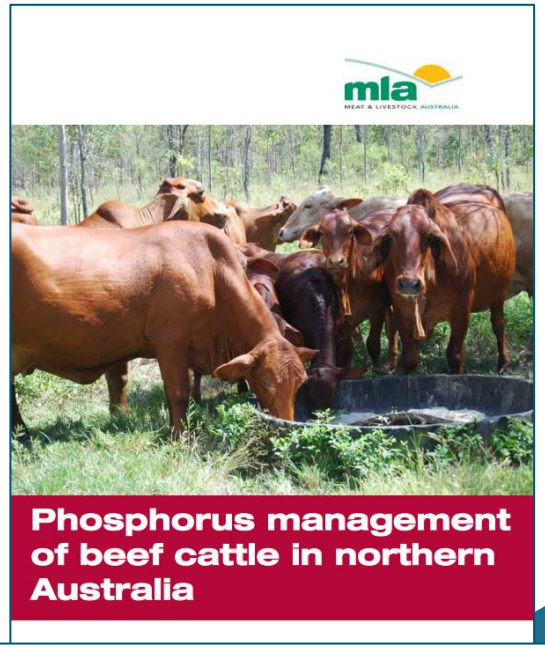
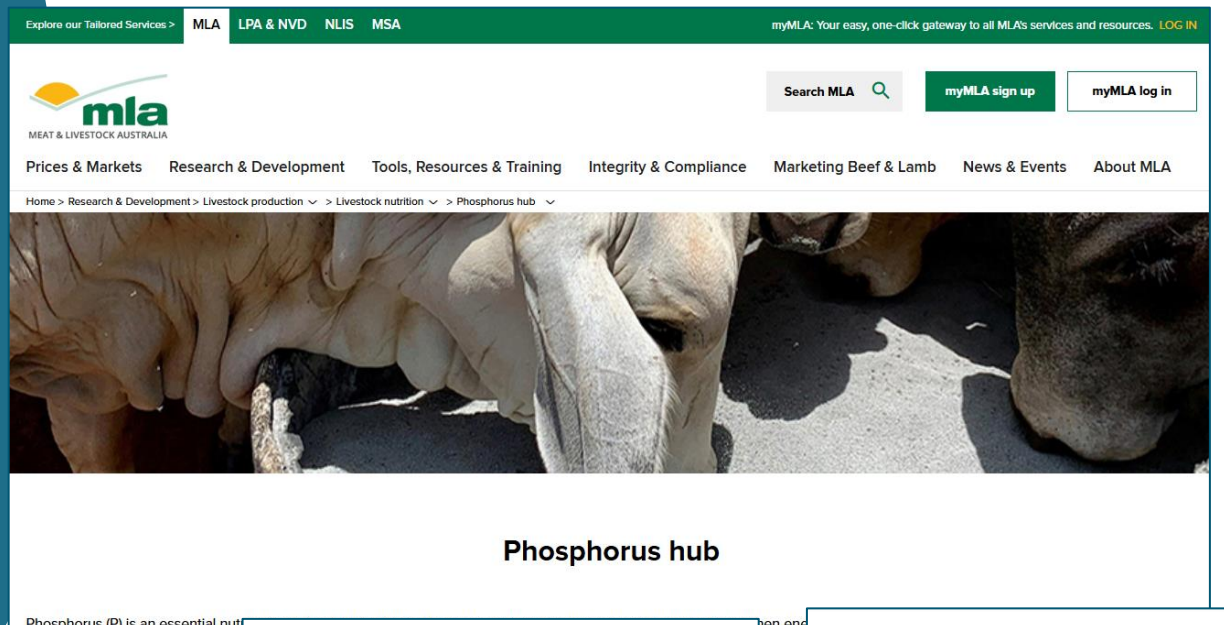

Phosphorus management of beef cattle in northern Australia


Phosphorus management of beef cattle in northern Australia
Second edition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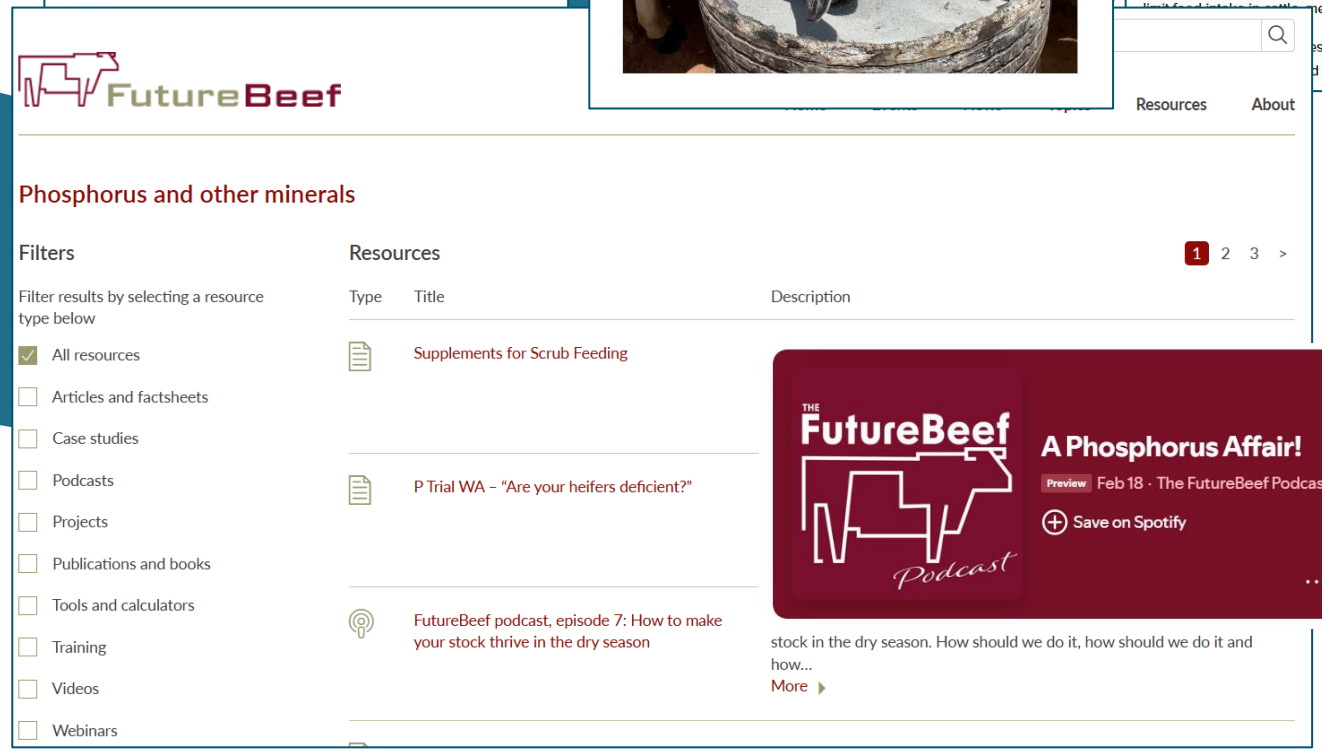
Phosphorus hub
Phosphorus (P) is an essential nut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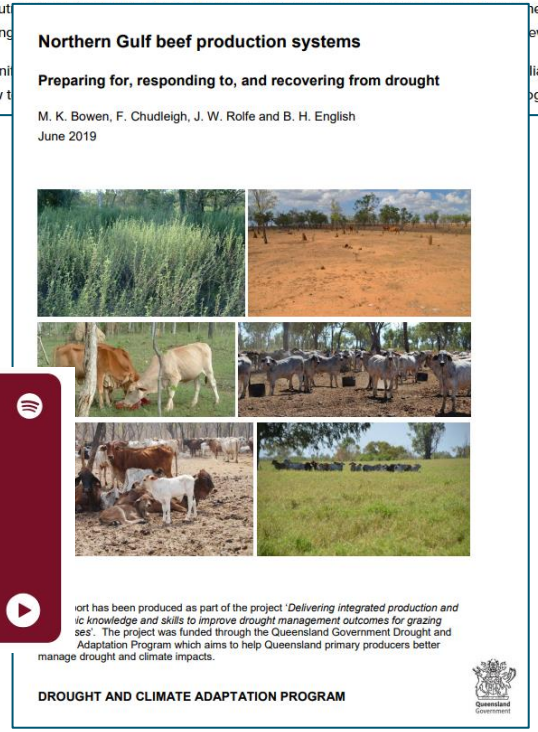
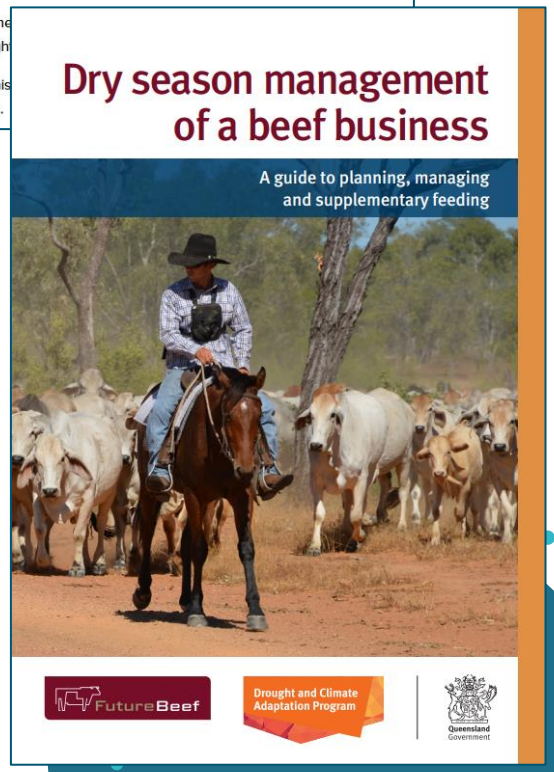

Northern Gulf beef production systems
Preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought
M. K. Bowen, F. Chudleigh, J. W. Rolfe and B. H. English
June 2019
DROUGHT AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAM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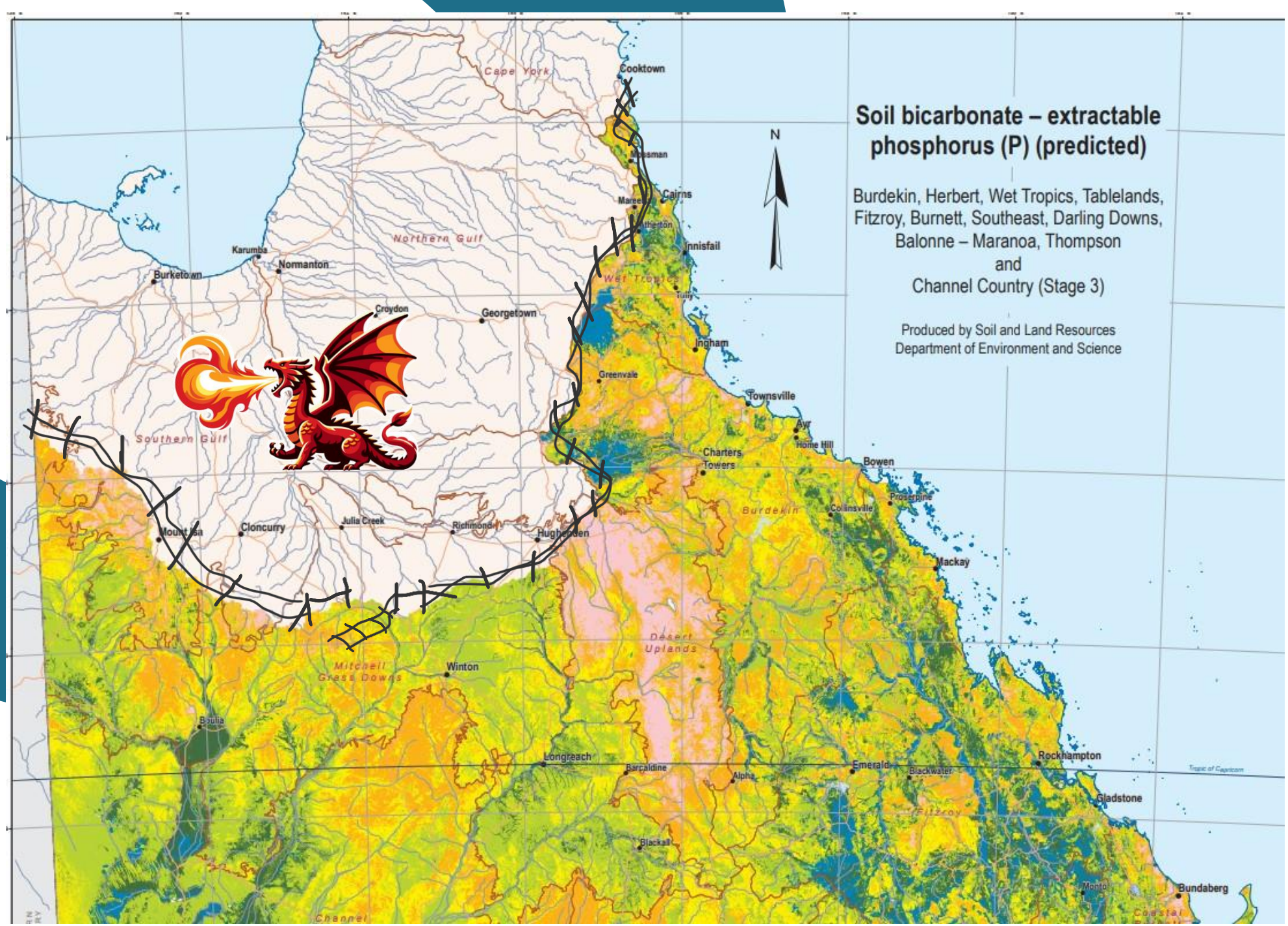

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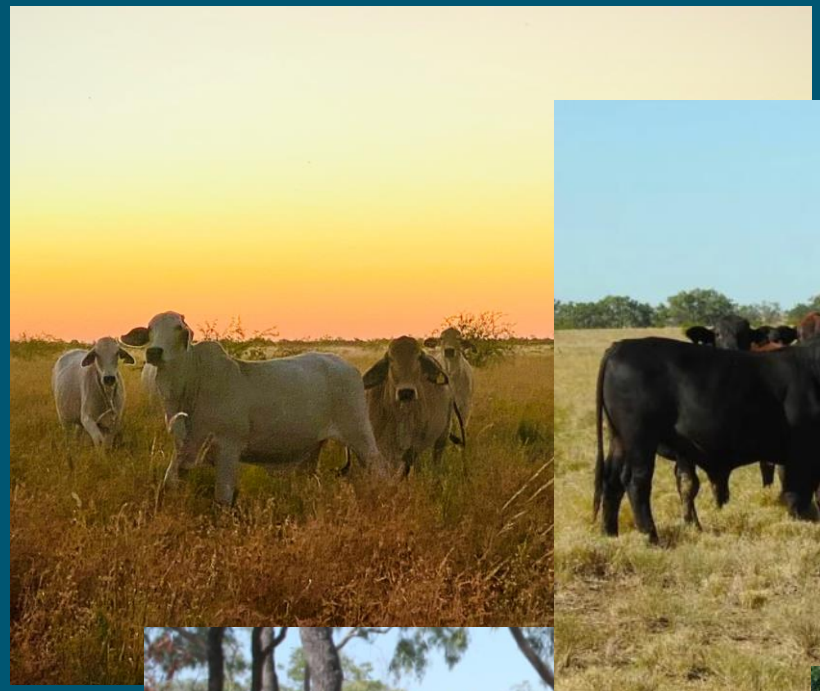

Source - ABC website

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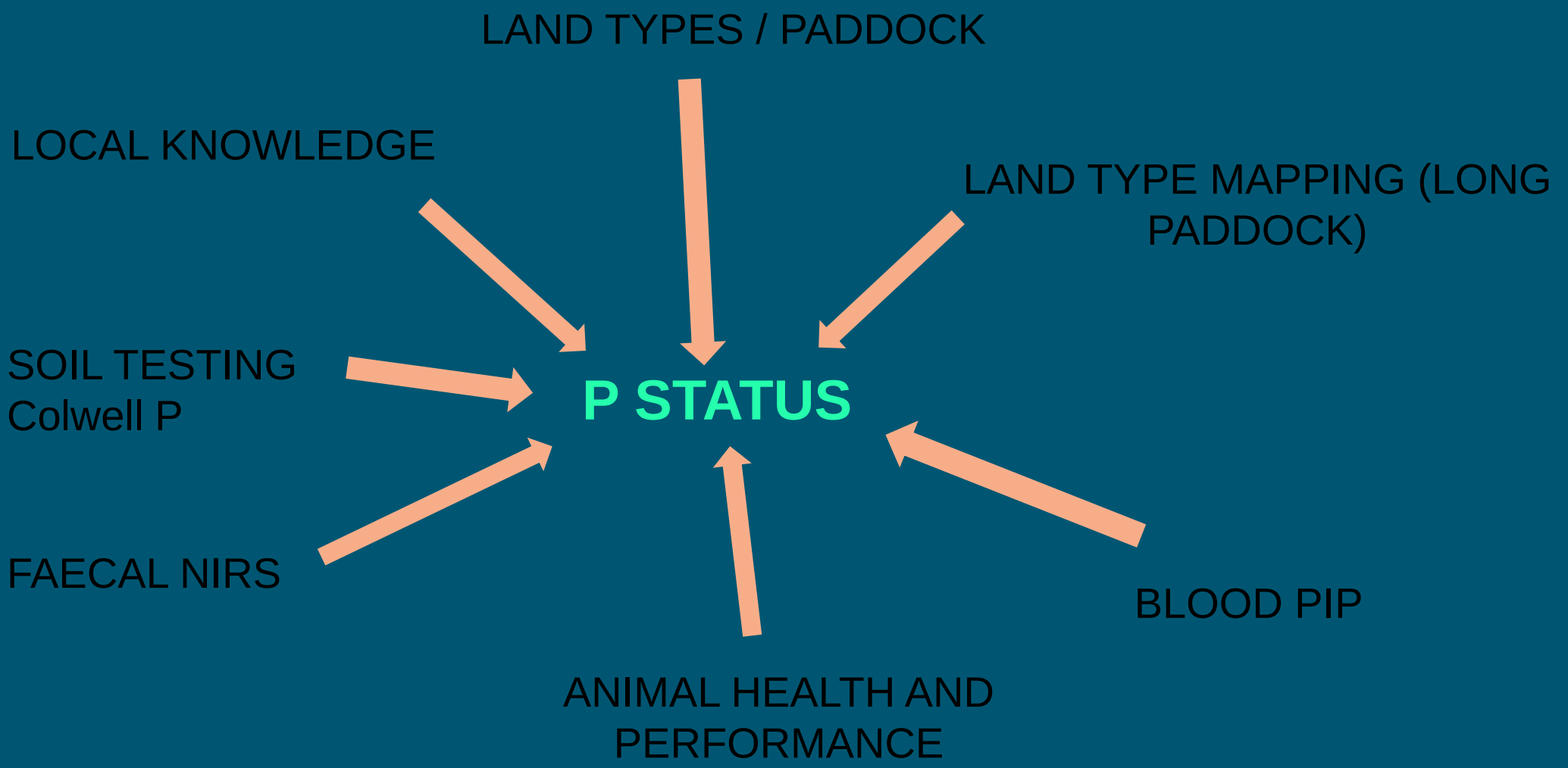
What goes into identifying your Phosphorus status?



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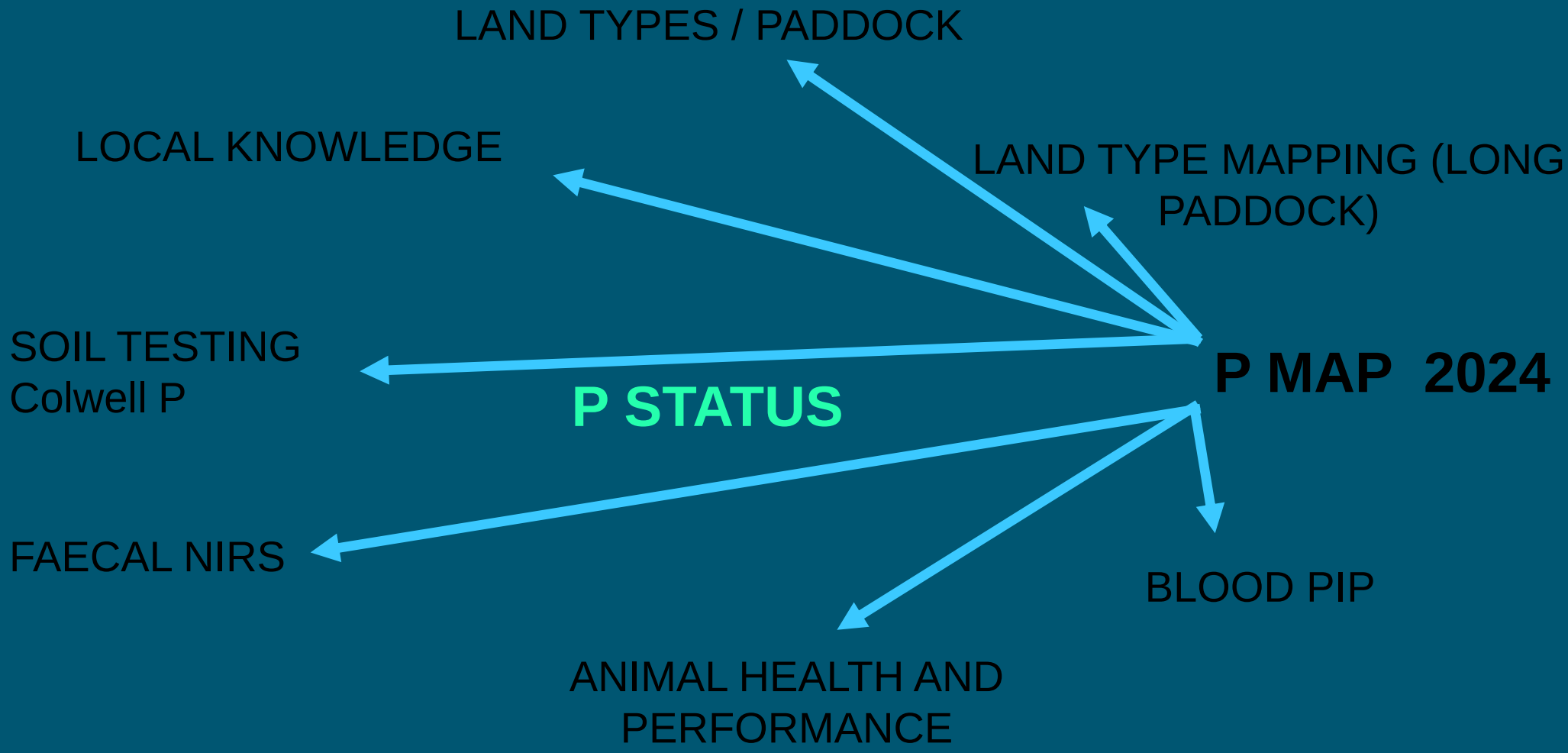

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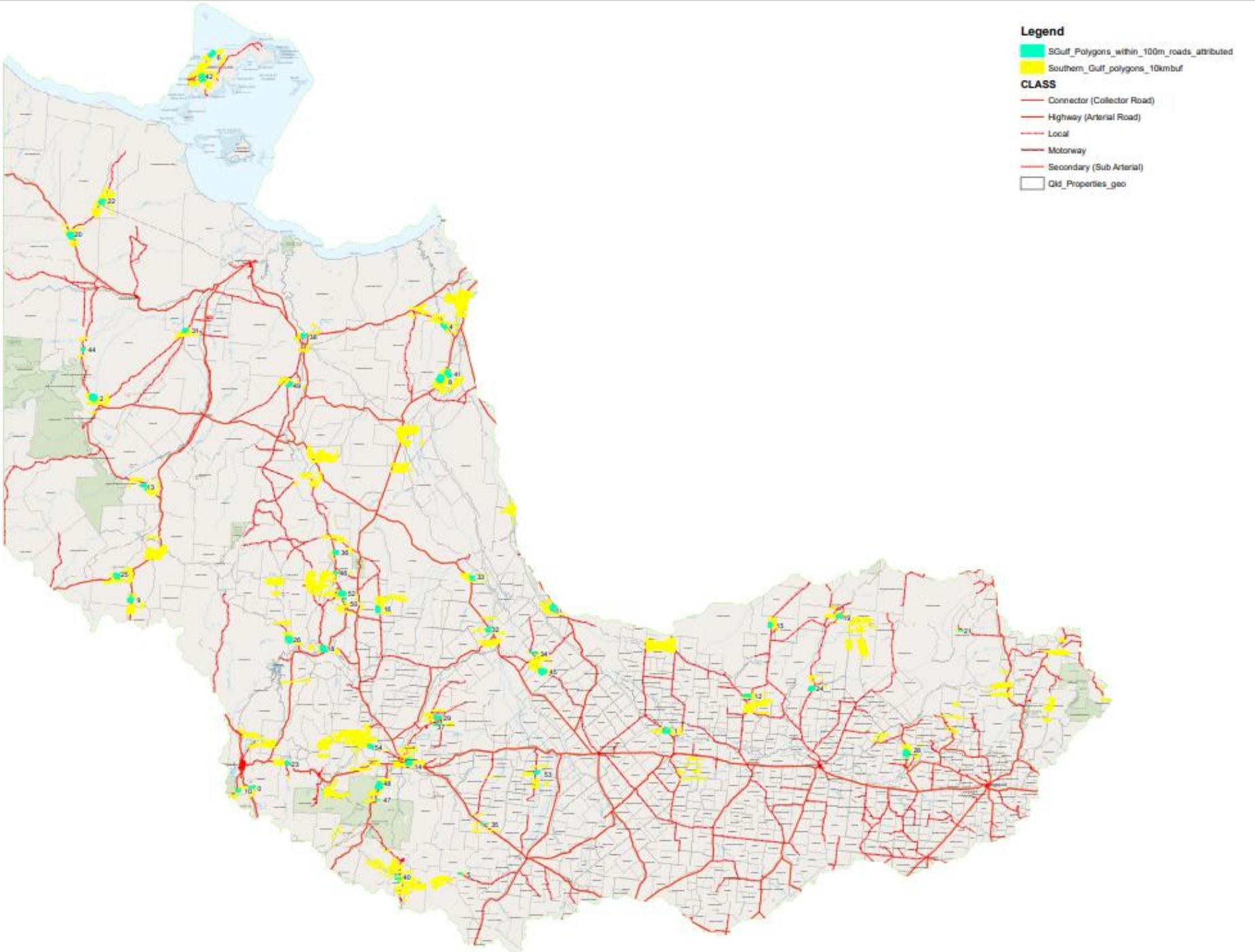
GROUND TRUTHING WORK



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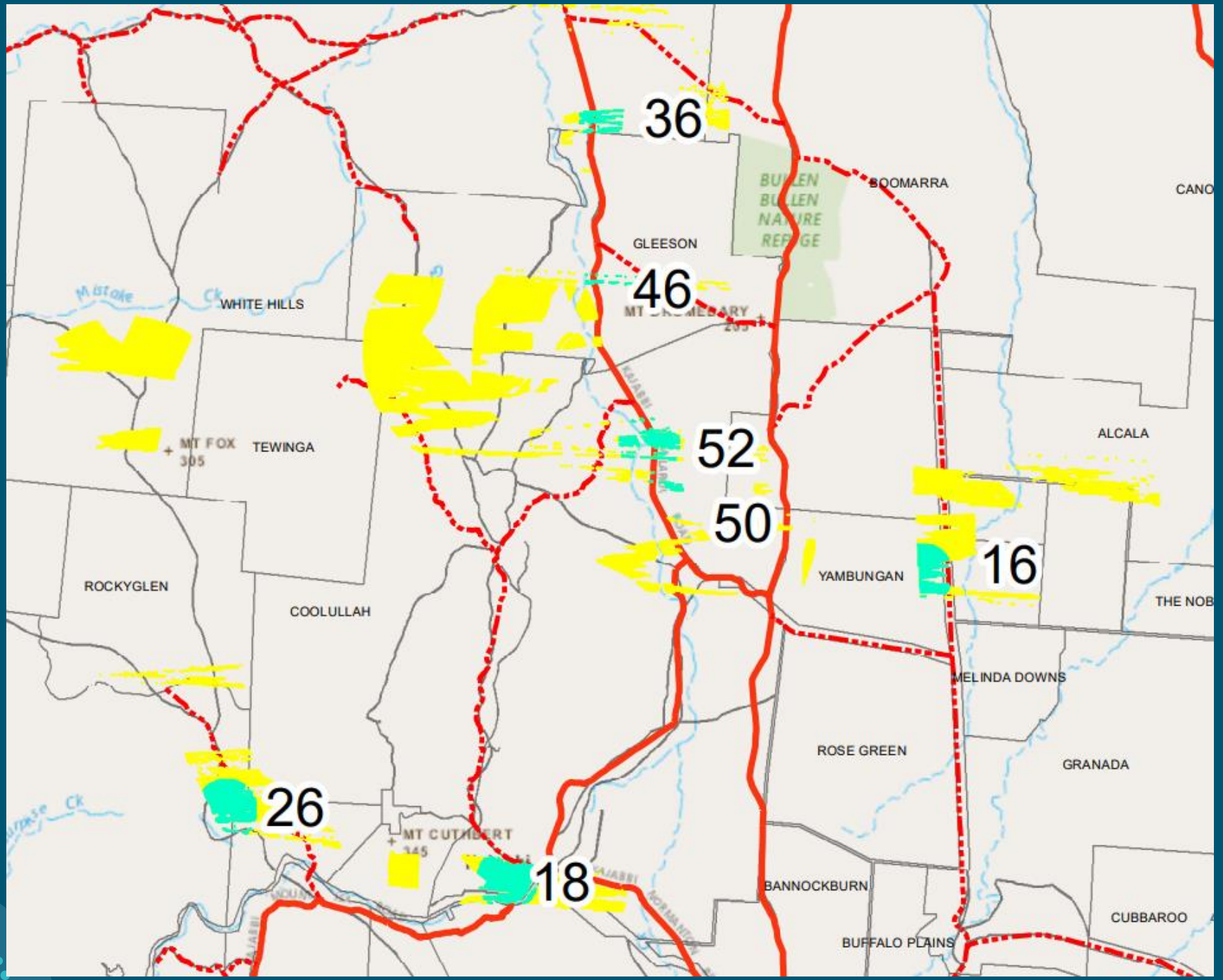

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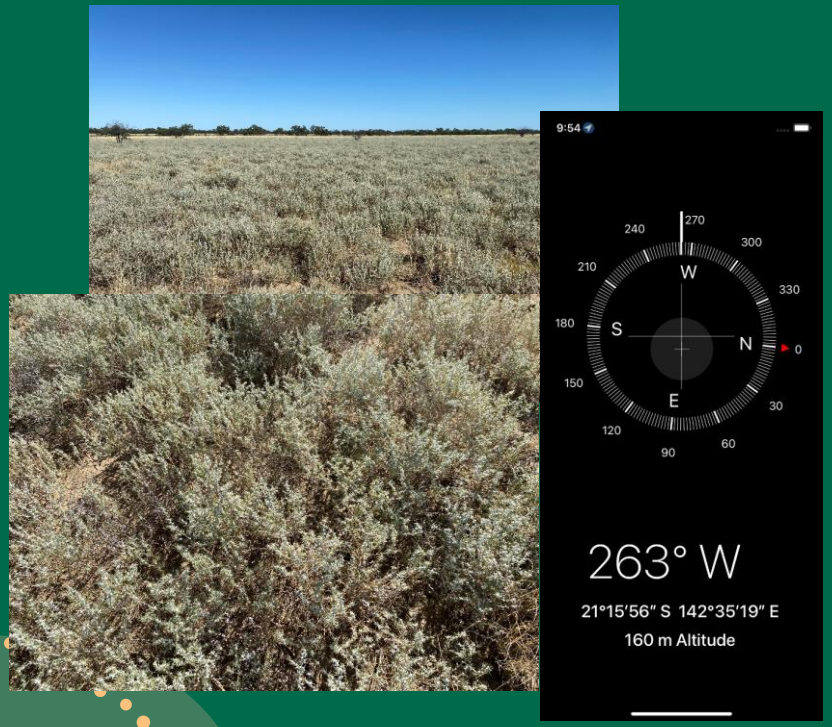
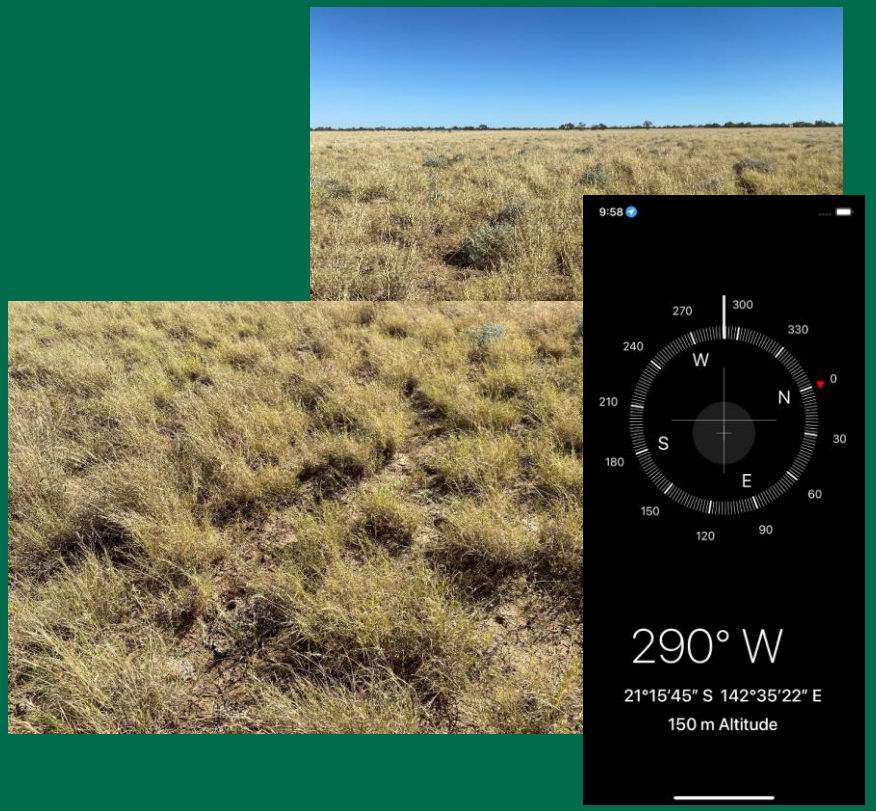
Methodology

- Minimum of ten samples taken from each site and amalgamated into a single sample for testing
- 0 – 10 centimetres soil horizon sampled within a 20 x 20 metre quadrat. (challenging in some areas !)
- Geo reference the site. (WGS84)





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Site Description

- Pasture composition / health
- Good / average / poor country
- Ground cover %
- Degraded areas?

Landform

- Location in the catchment area?
- Drainage
- Flood activity

Soil type

- Colour / Texture

GLM Land Type

14 Southern Gulf Land Types (15 NG Land Types)

Veg Community

- Rough guess at the main types of trees
- Weeds

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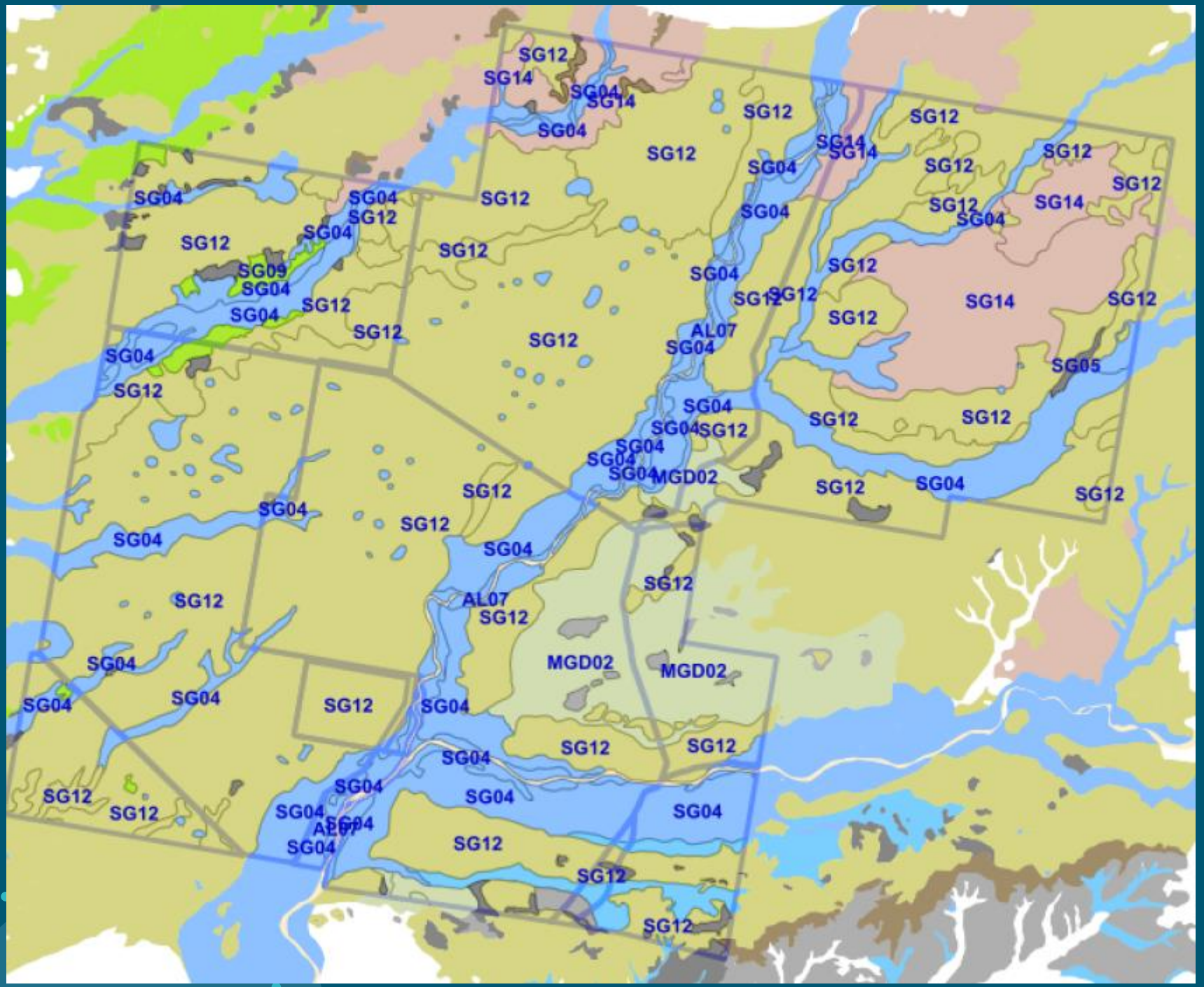

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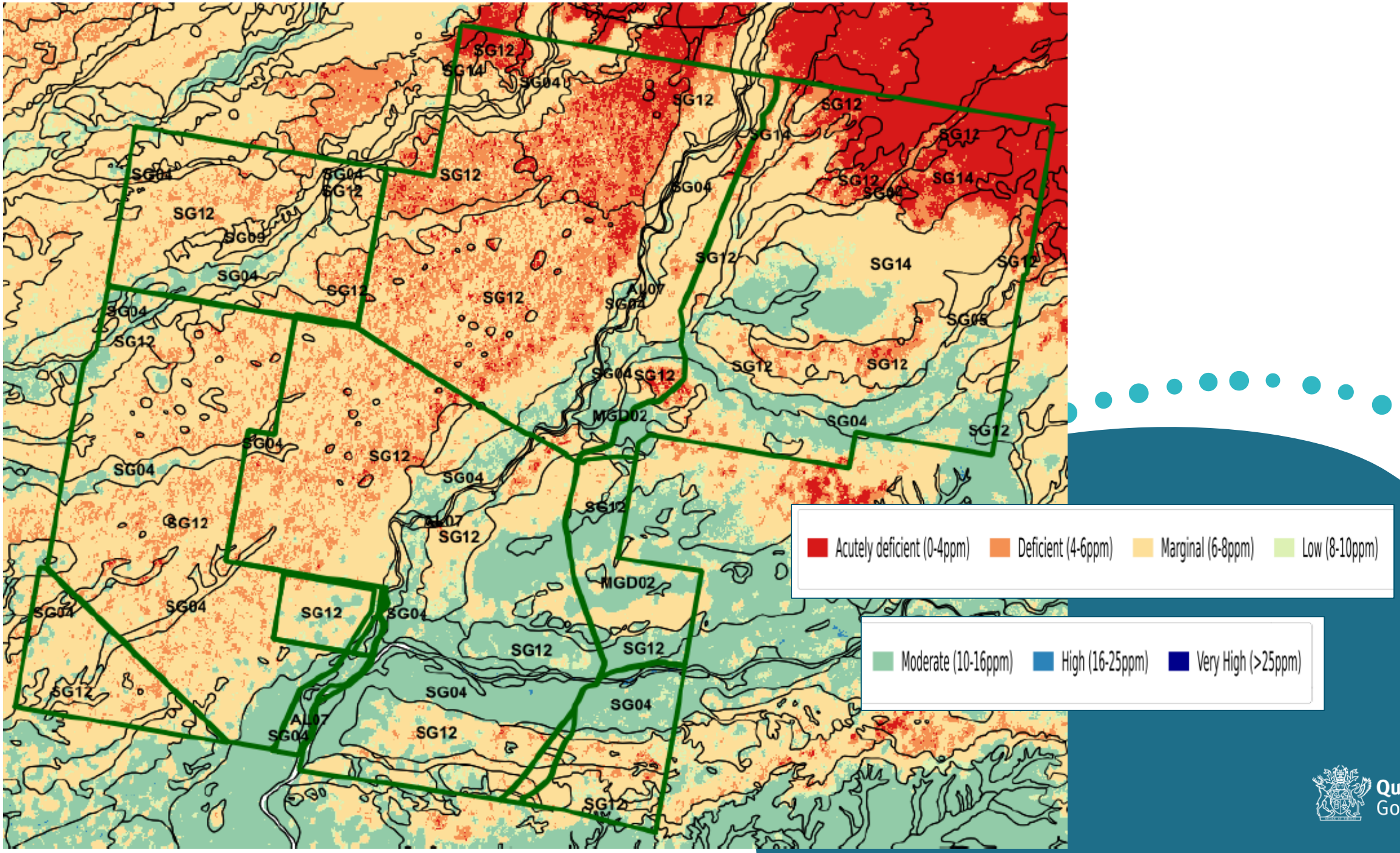

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Reflections on the work

THE P-MAP HAS PASSED MUSTER SO FAR

LANDFORM AND TOPOGRAPHY IS A KEY INFLUENCE ON WHERE THE P RESOURSE LIES

GOOD TO IDENTIFY THE VARIABILITY OF P ACROSS THESE REGIONS

NEVER ASSUME

“ 58 mg/kg Colwell P at Riversleigh Station”

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Thank You