

30 years of restoration of Littoral Rainforest from Sydney through to the Mid Coast NSW



What is Littoral Rainforest (LRf)?:

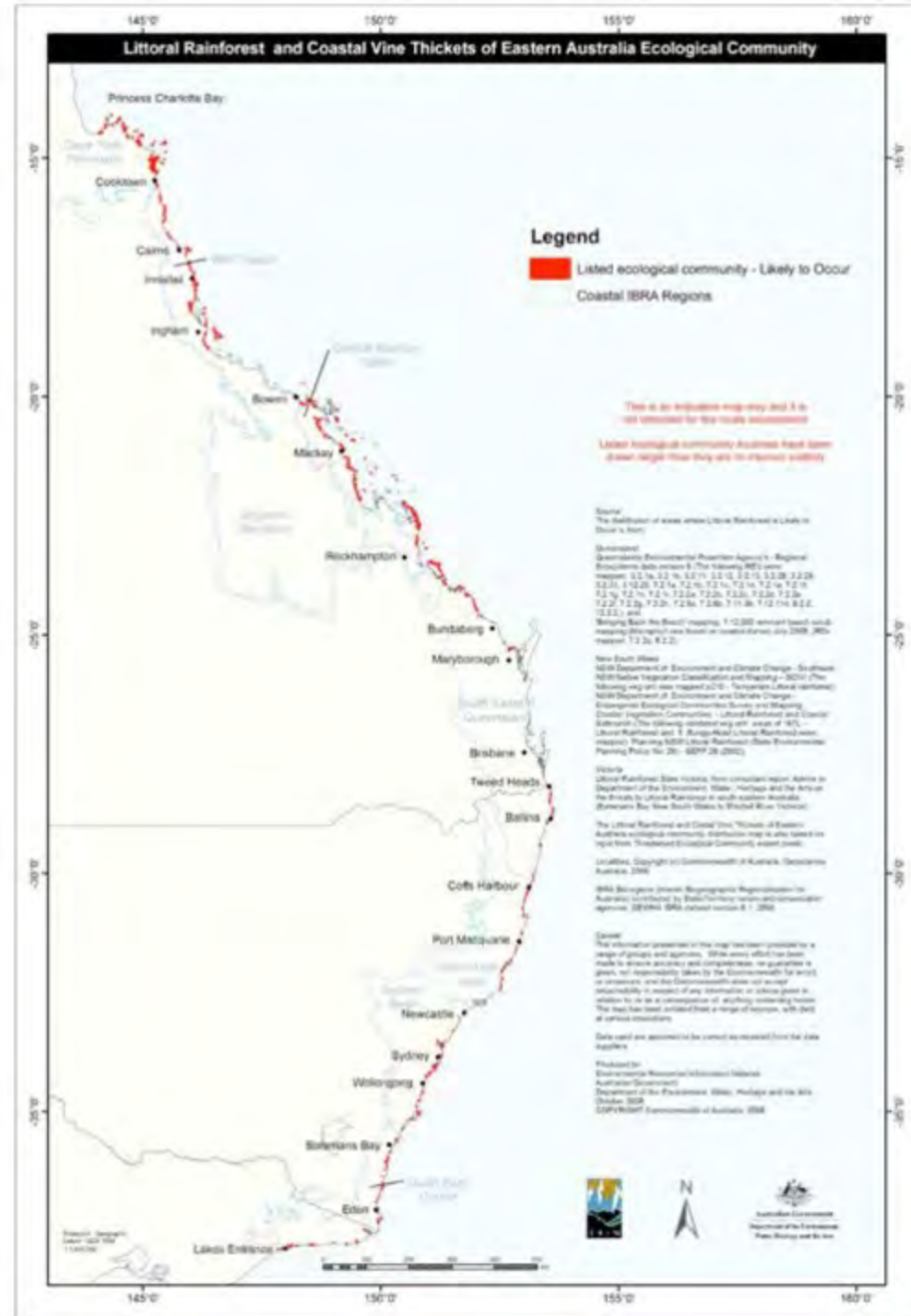
- Closed canopy fire sensitive mesic vegetation community
- Within sheltered sections of the littoral or coastal zone
- Occurs on a range of geologies
- Critically Endangered under the federal EPBC Act
- Endangered under NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Intergrades with a range of other vegetation communities
- Mega diverse coastal zone



Where is LRf?:

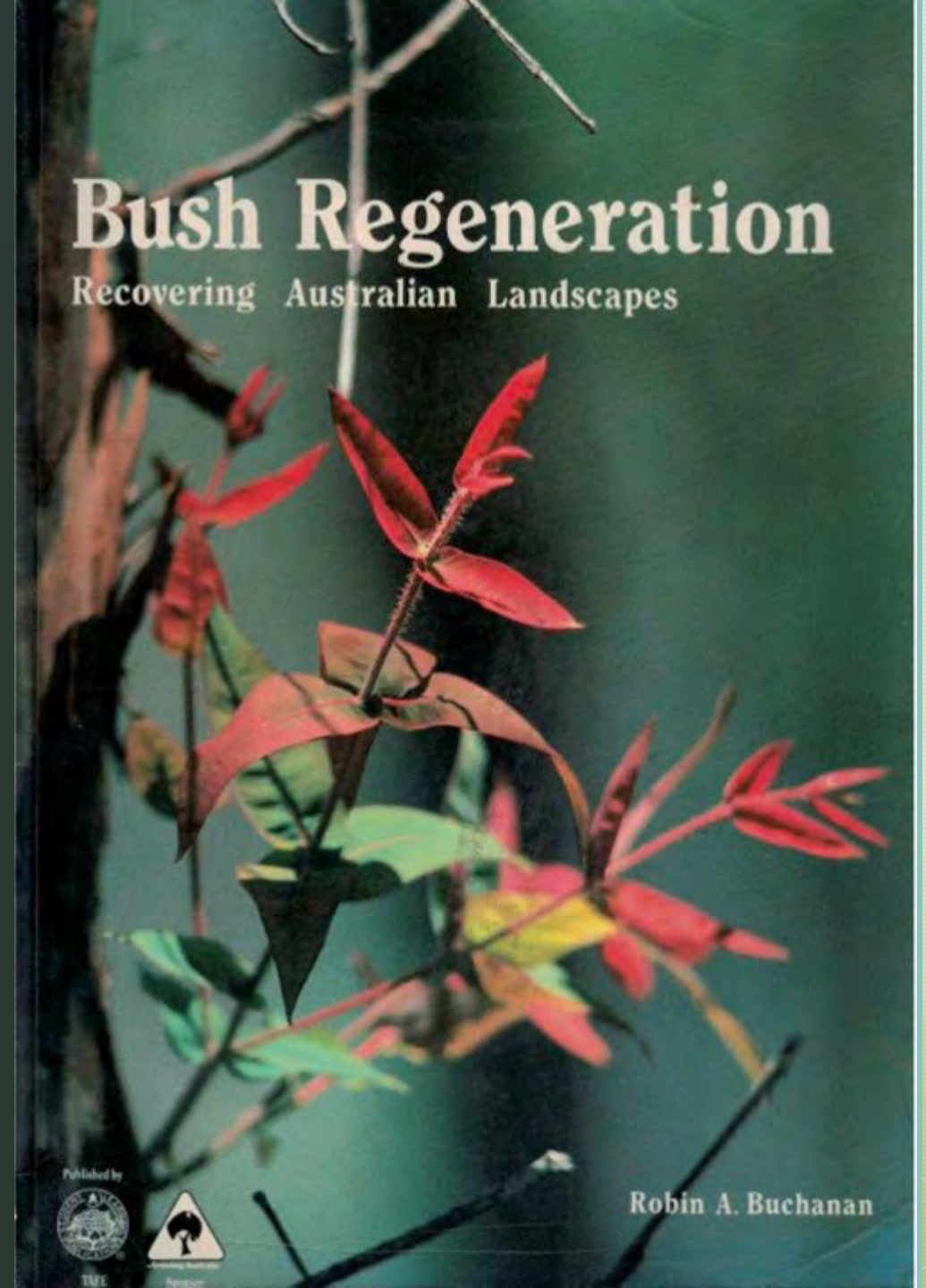
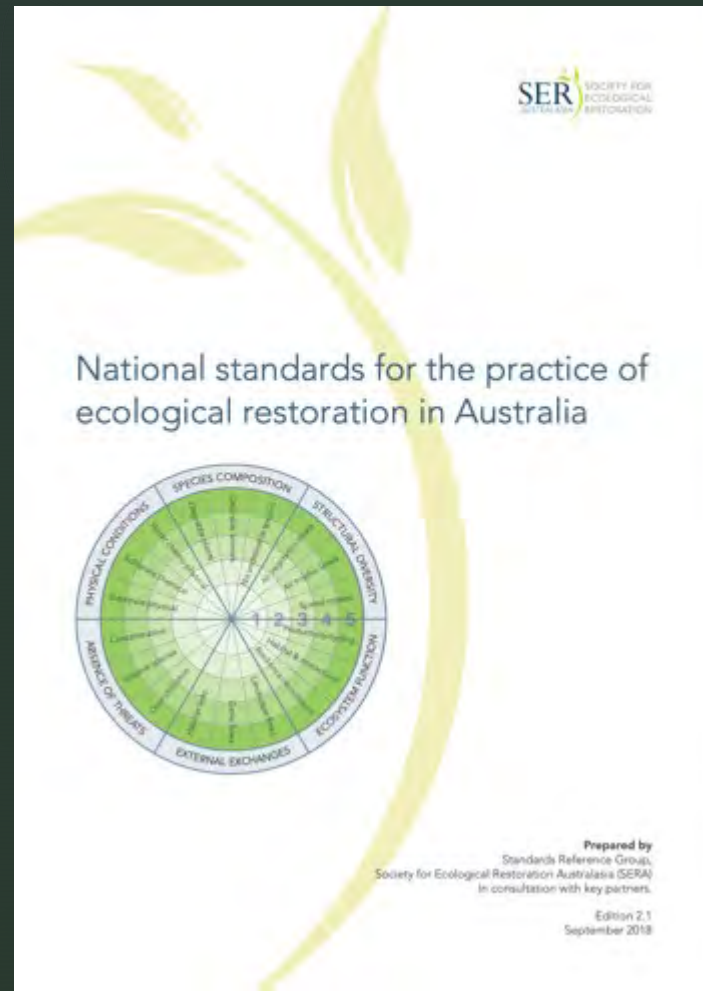
- 16,135ha in Qld, 1,624ha in NSW, 279ha in Vic
- NSW: estimated 433 patches with majority in 1-10ha range

LRF & CVT distribution
In east coast Australia (source:
epbc policy statement 3.9)

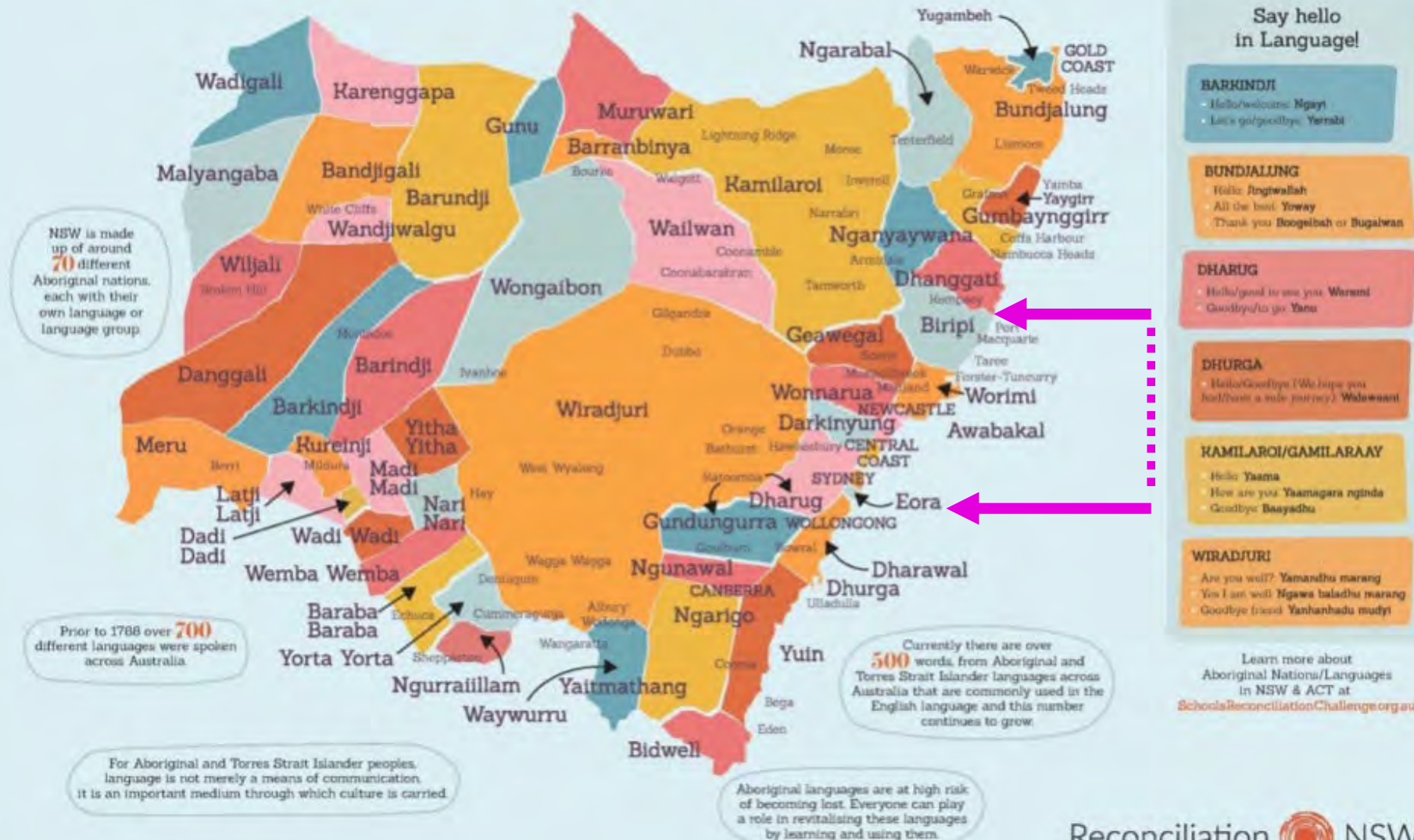


My Background:

- Bush Regenerator / Ecological Restoration
- 30 years
- Sydney through to Lower North Coast of NSW
- Worked in more than 50 LRf sites



ABORIGINAL NATIONS/LANGUAGES IN NSW & ACT



Understanding LRf:

- LRf is among the least understood vegetation communities regarding restoration
- A good place to start understanding LRf is at the “Leading Edge” towards prevailing wind



- Leading Edge LRf usually grades into tightly pruned knee height rain “shrubland” then into taller shrubs and trees & then into other ecological communities



LRf is pruned daily by salt-laden winds and intense sun which can have...



...minor to major canopy impact

Cape Hawke NSW spring 2023



Threats are many
and include:

- Weed invasion



- Smothering by native Vines
- Vines are a “double edged sword” in LRf



Site Interpretation:

- Release event
- Uniform age class
- Trees developed with a well-formed leading edge & in close competition with each other
- Leading edge damage has gradually but severely impacted the upwind vegetation
- The result - start again!



Danger Zone



The result of inappropriate weed removal at the leading edge of LRf can be Devastating...

Recommendations for effective Leading edge restoration:

- Selective weed removal
- Prune weeds
- Timed weed removal
- Leave woody frames
- Work from underneath
- Prune vines selectively
- Be careful of summer NE winds



Wind barriers made from natural materials
– note the extensive new growth and developing
natural regeneration in this photo





A few highlights:

- Prioritise “canopy release”
- Prioritise individual threatened species









