

# Towards continental dynamic estimation of irrigated areas to assess irrigation agriculture water use

Jorge Peña Arancibia, Juan Pablo Guerschman, Tim McVicar, Albert Van Dijk, Mohammed Mainuddin, Francis Chiew, Justin Hughes, Dushmanta Dutta, Jai Vaze and others

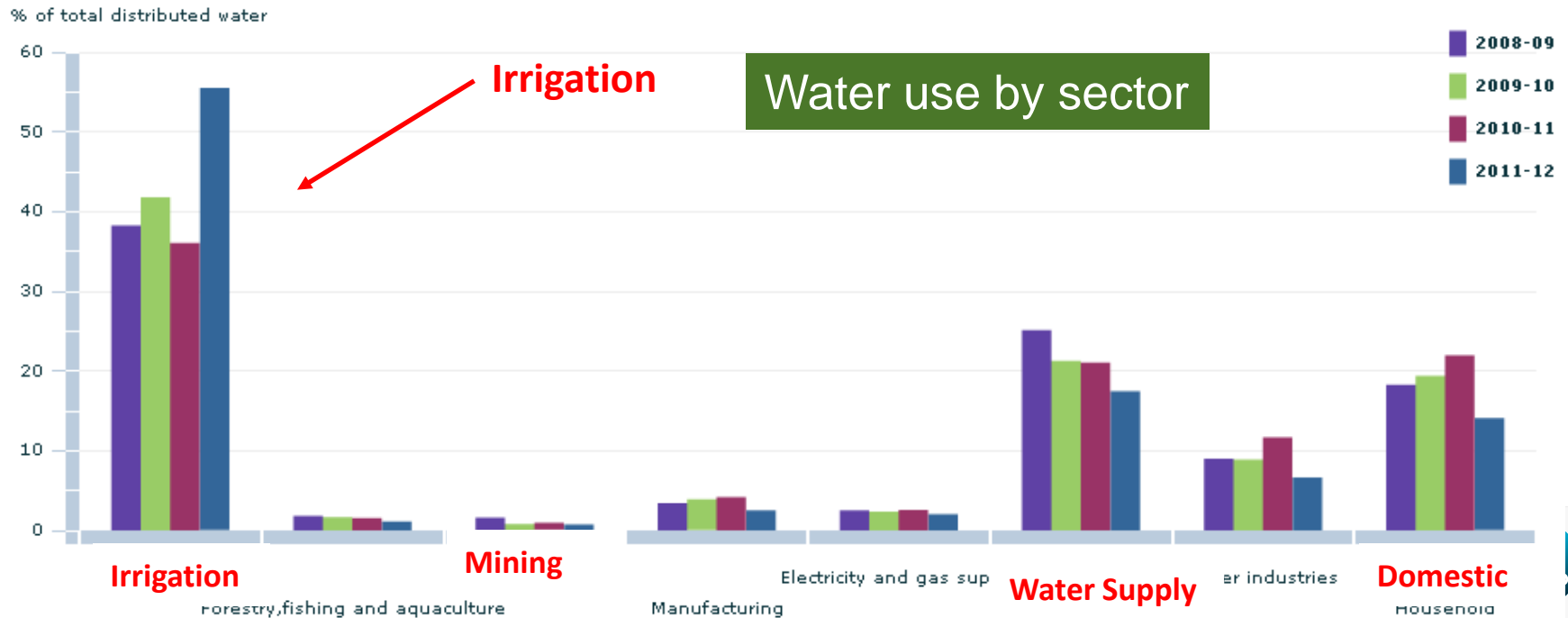
29 October 2014

CSIRO LAND AND WATER FLAGSHIP

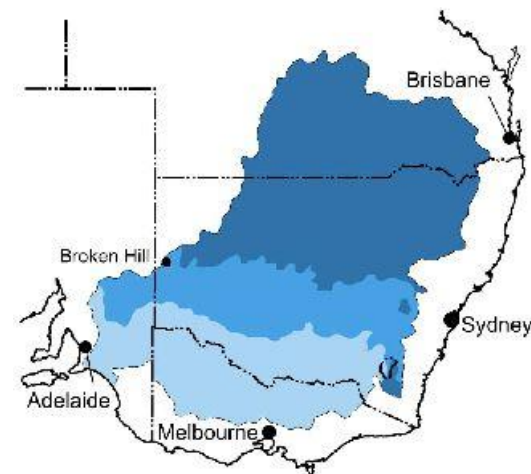
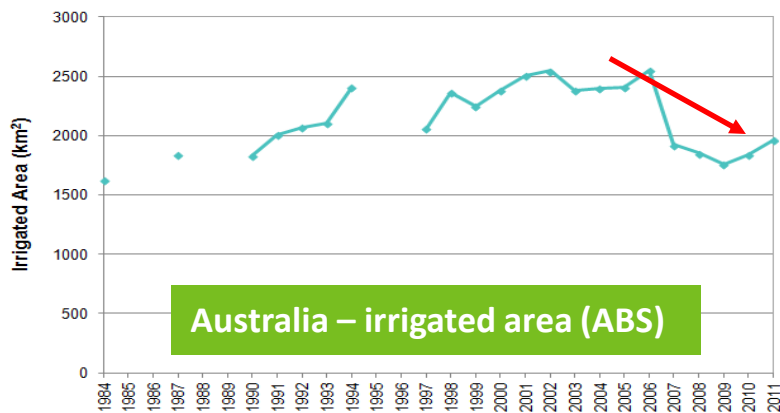


# Irrigated Agriculture (2011–2012): facts and figures (ABS)

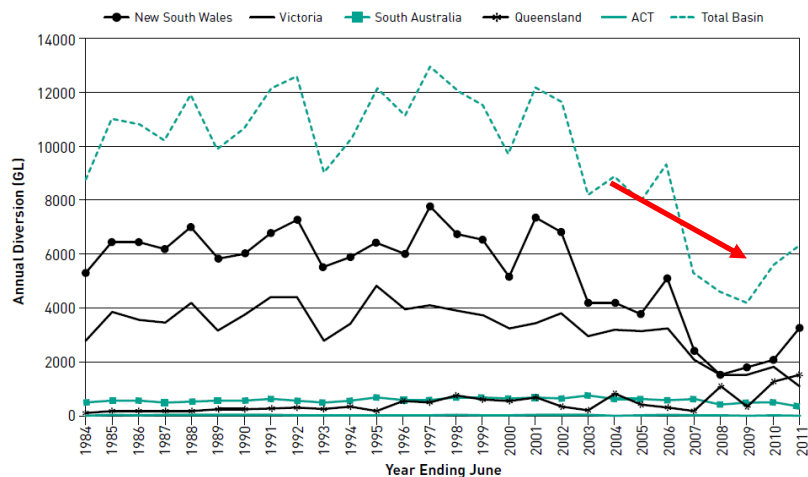
- ❑ Only 0.5% of the total agricultural land (21,000 km<sup>2</sup>).
- ❑ 28% of the gross value of agricultural production (\$ 13.4bn).
- ❑ 59% of Australia's water consumption (9,418 GL).



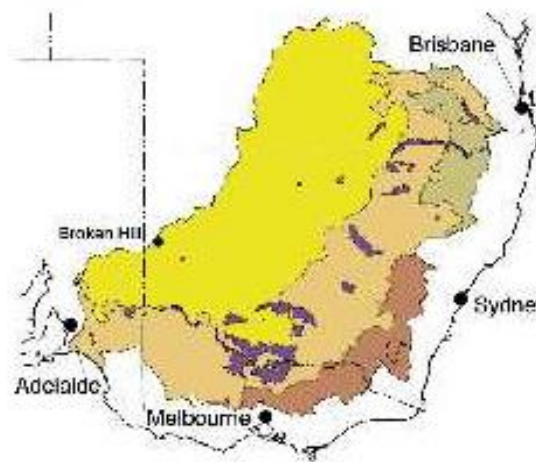
# Irrigated agriculture is as variable as climate



## Murray-Darling Basin diversions (MDBA, 2011)



- Summer Rainfall
- Evenly Distributed Rainfall
- Winter Rainfall

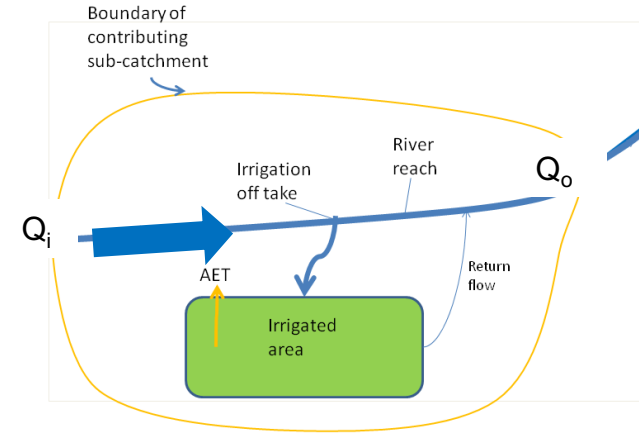
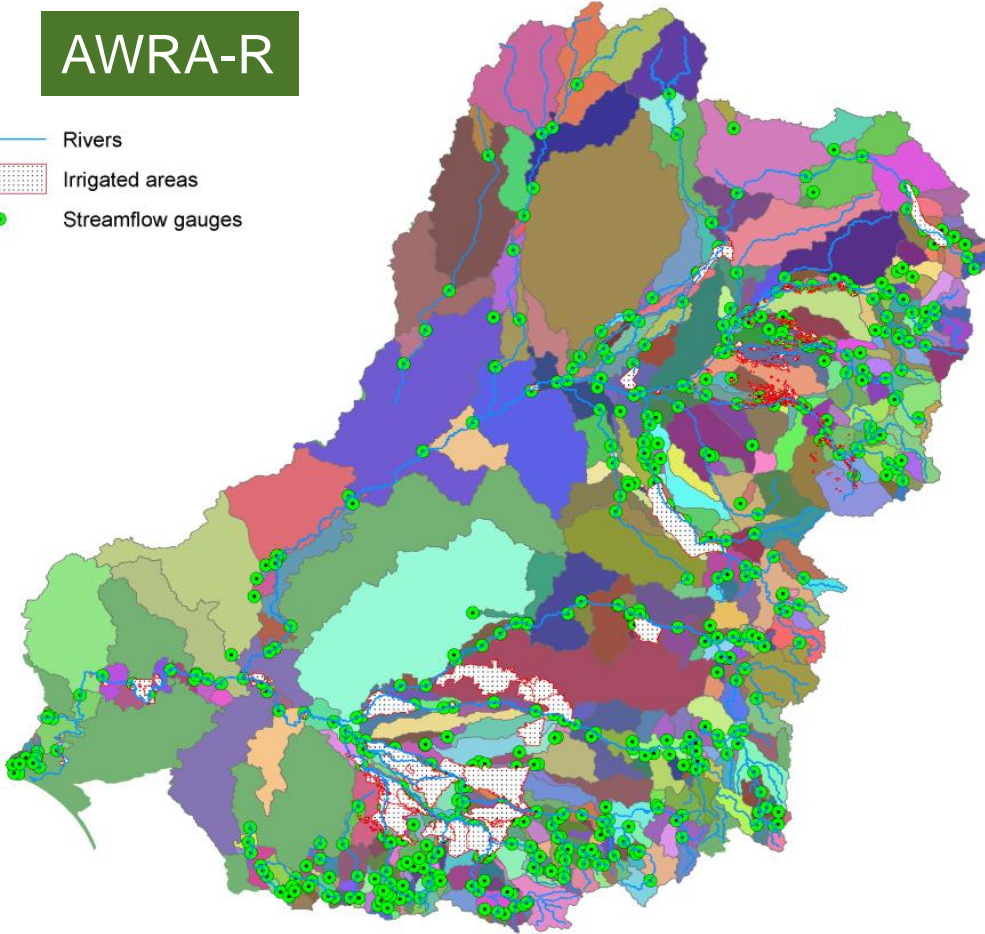


- HIGH RAINFALL GRAZING
- SUMMER RAINFALL GRAZING
- IRRIGATION AREAS
- WHEAT/SHEEP BELT
- RANGELANDS

# Where and how much water is used?

## AWRA-R

-  Rivers
-  Irrigated areas
-  Streamflow gauges



$$Q_o = Q_i + Q_t + R_o - D - L + \Delta S_r$$

$$D = Irr_{demand} = \frac{K_c ET_0 - P_{eff}}{I_{eff}}$$

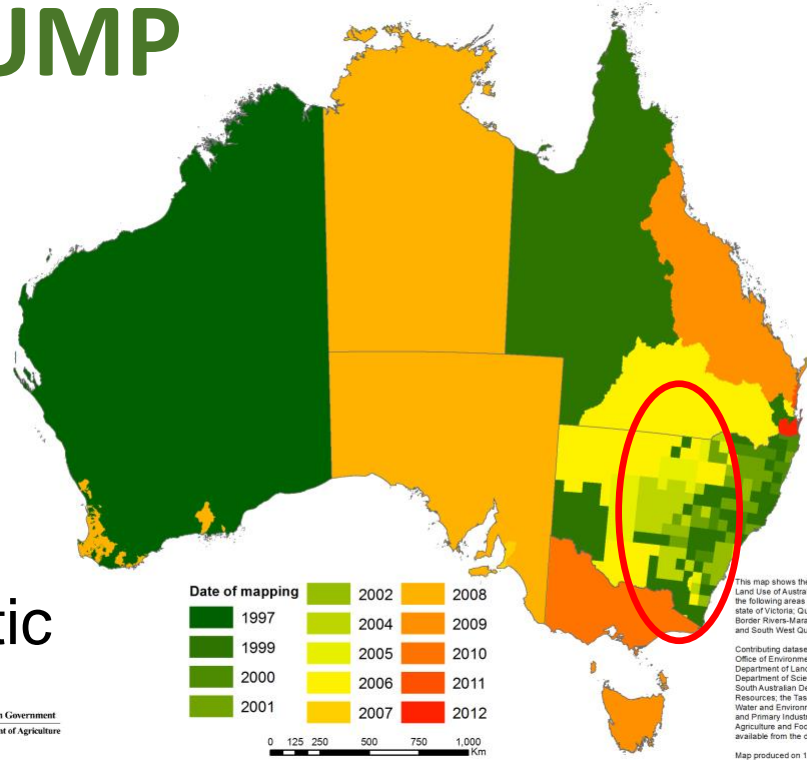
$$Irr_{vol} = Irr_{demand} A_{irr}$$

$$A_{irr} = f(A_{max}, Irr_{demand}, S_D)$$

# Irrigated areas: ACLUMP

$$A_{irr} = f(A_{max}, Irr_{demand}, S_D)$$

- ❑ Static or infrequent updates
- ❑ National scale: coarse
- ❑ Catchment scale: fine and accurate but outdated and static

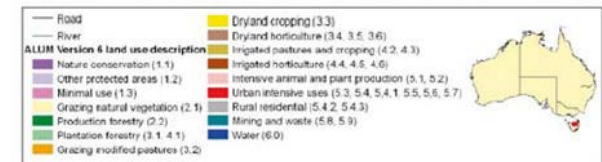
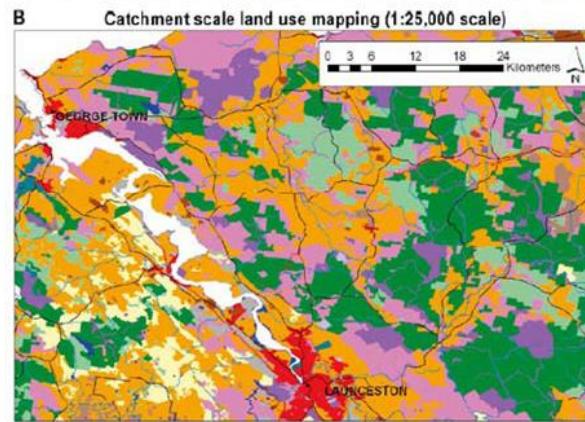
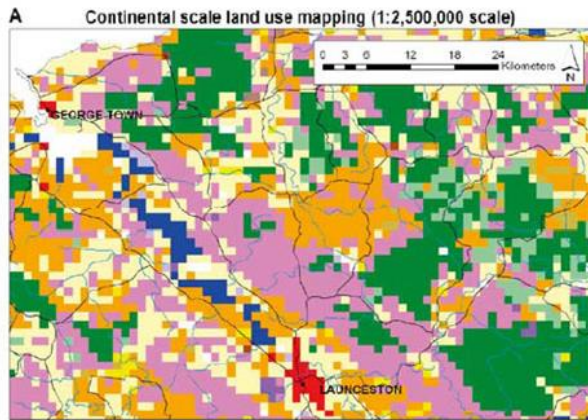


This map shows the date of mapping for the Catchment Scale Land Use of Australia March 2014 Update. This release updates the following areas since the November 2012 release: the entire state of Victoria; Queensland natural resource management region; Border Rivers-Murrumbidgee, Condamine, South East Queensland (part), and South West Queensland.

Contributing datasets were provided by the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage, the Northern Territory Department of Land Resource Management, the Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and the Arts, the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, and the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food. Metadata for contributing datasets is available from the data custodians on request.

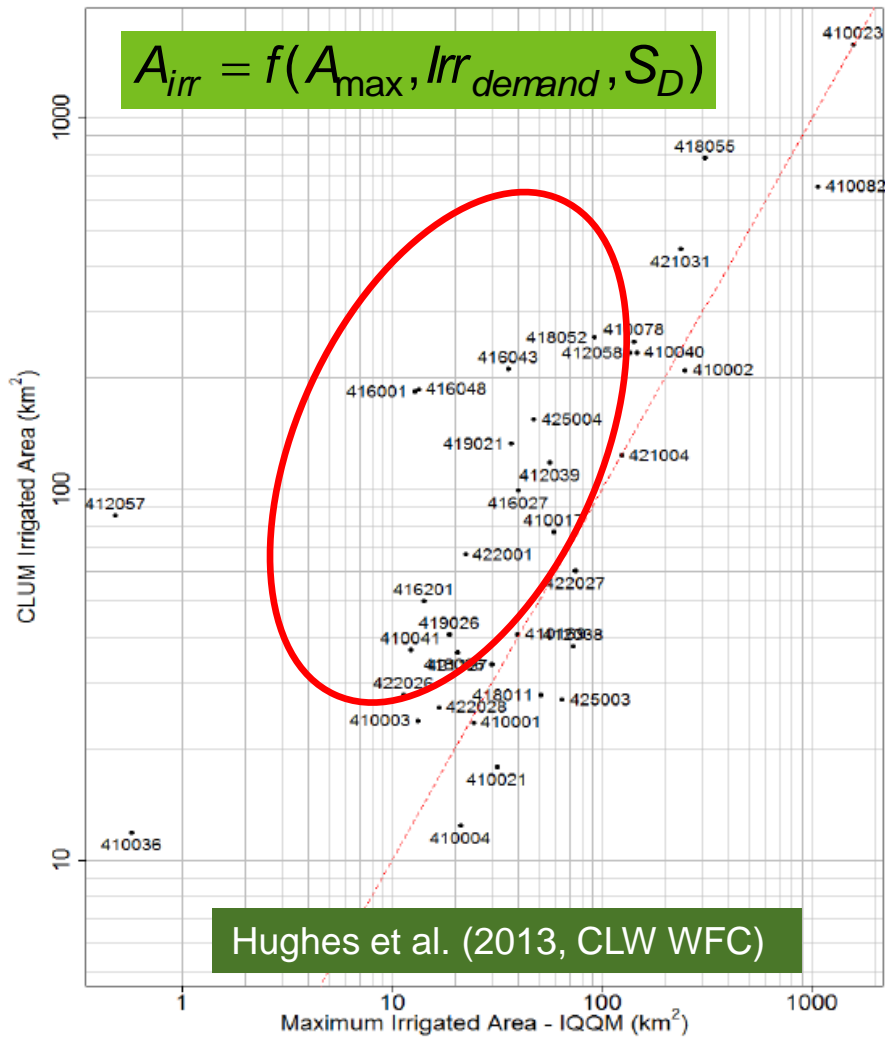
Map produced on 14 March 2014 by ABARES

Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture  
ABARES



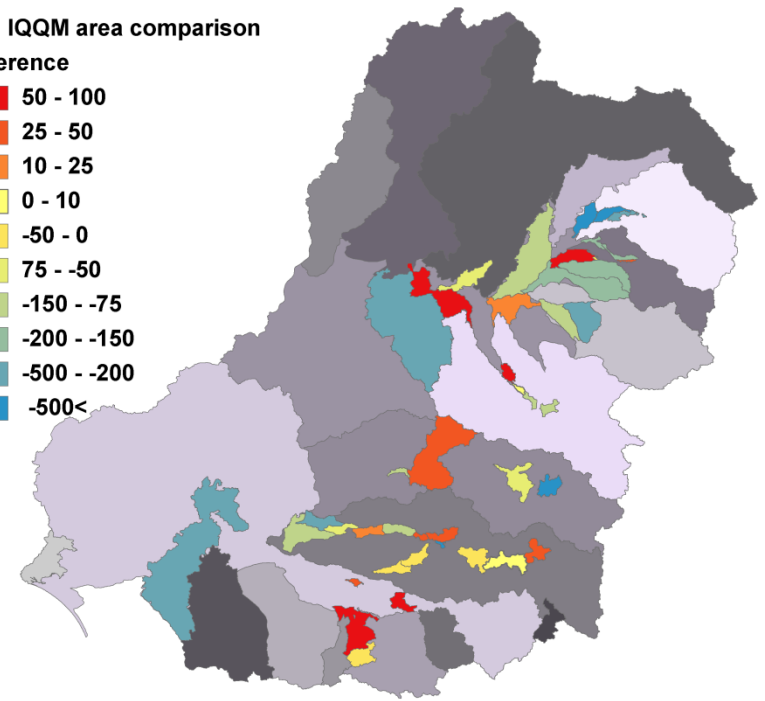
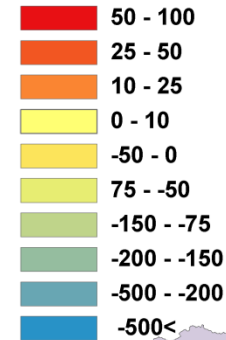
**ACLUMP (ABARES)**

# Irrigated areas and diversions: CLUM *and* IQQM



Reach IQQM area comparison

% difference



- ❑ Large under/overestimation
- ❑ Questions the accuracy of metered diversions and hence modelled diversions

# Evapotranspiration

$$D = Irr_{demand} = \frac{K_c ET_0 - P_{eff}}{I_{eff}}$$



- Locally calibrated for specific crops based on direct measurements
- Direct observations are laborious and costly
- Prescribed crop factors ( $K_c$ ) on look up tables
- Expert opinion

# Diversions (D) $D = Irr_{demand} = \frac{K_c ET_0 - P_{eff}}{I_{eff}}$

- ❑ Varying degrees of accuracy
- ❑ Many areas known to have large inaccuracies
- ❑ Records are patchy and short



## Valleys with dominant large bulk offtake (> 5 GL y<sup>-1</sup>) inaccuracy

Barwon-Darling/Lower -Darling (NSW)

Lowbidgee (Unregulated) (NSW)

Border Rivers (NSW)

Namoi (NSW)

Macquarie (NSW)

Campaspe (Vic)

Condamine Balonne (Qld)

Lower Murray Swamps (SA)

Device	Measurement error (%)
Dethridge wheel	±18
Electromagnetic flow meter	±0.5
Flume or measuring weir	±5

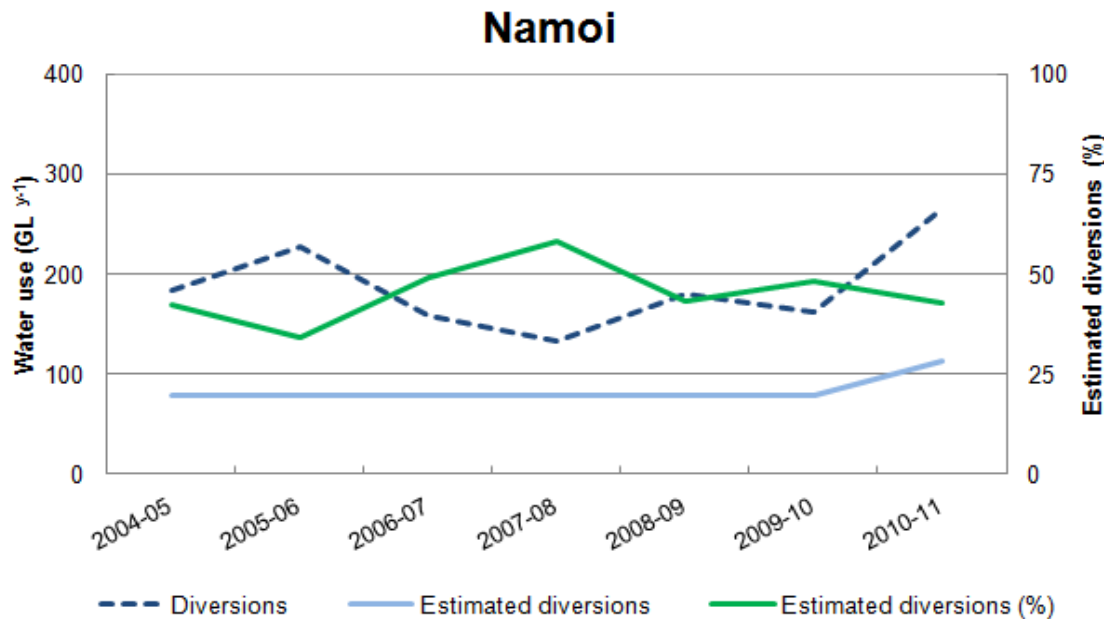
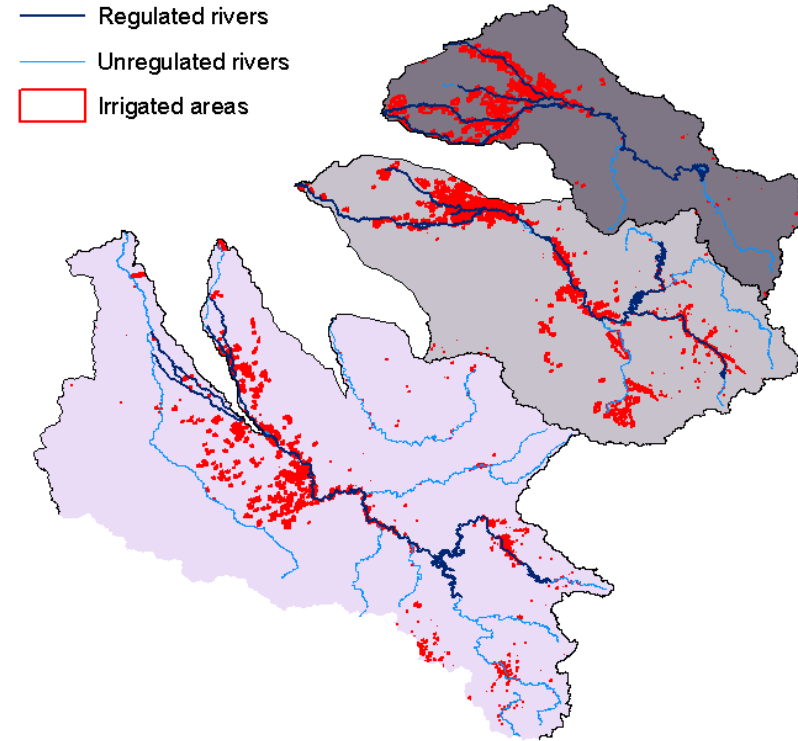
Source: MDBA (2006)

[http://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/archived/mdbc-media-releases/Bulkofftakes\\_Registry\\_Report\\_18Oct2006v1.pdf](http://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/archived/mdbc-media-releases/Bulkofftakes_Registry_Report_18Oct2006v1.pdf)



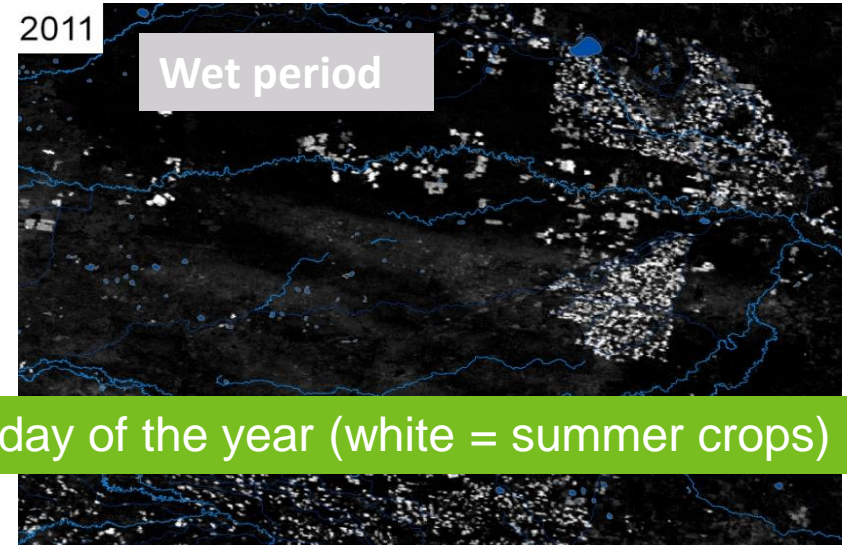
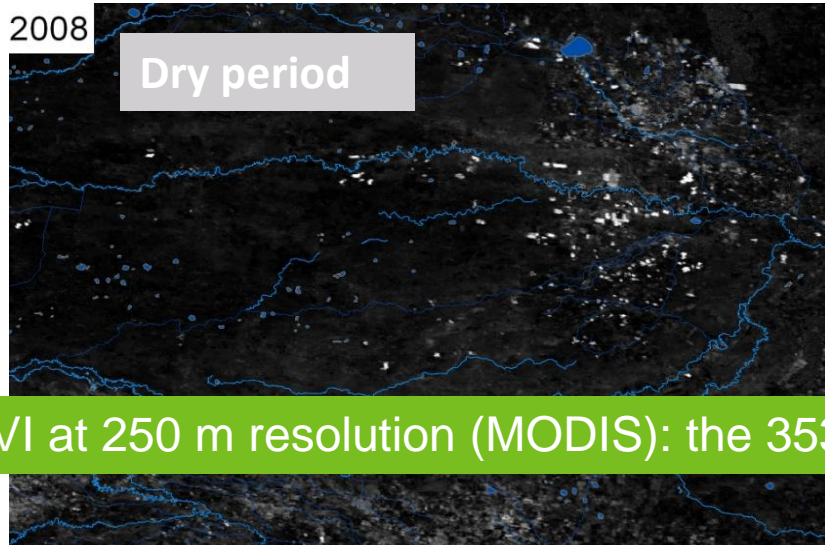
# Diversions ( $D$ )

- ❑ Large areas not monitored → modelled or estimated
- ❑ Undermining management rules
- ❑ Suitable measurement devices installed in key areas *and* river models updated
- ❑ Slow and expensive

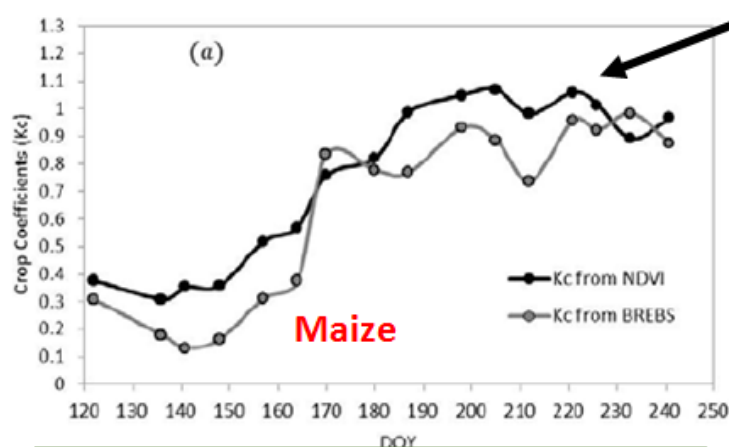


Source: MDBA Cap compliance reports

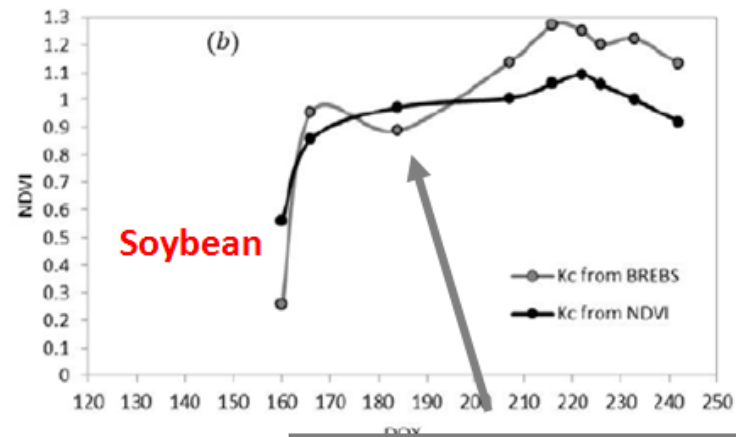
# Mapping of irrigation and water use: the role of remote sensing



NDVI at 250 m resolution (MODIS): the 353<sup>th</sup> day of the year (white = summer crops)



Black: Satellite derived  $K_c$  for irrigated maize and soybean

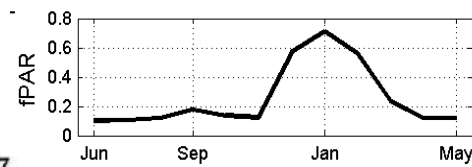
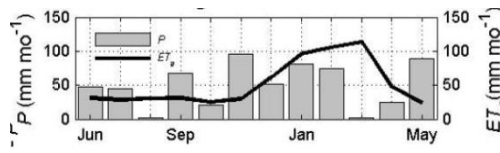
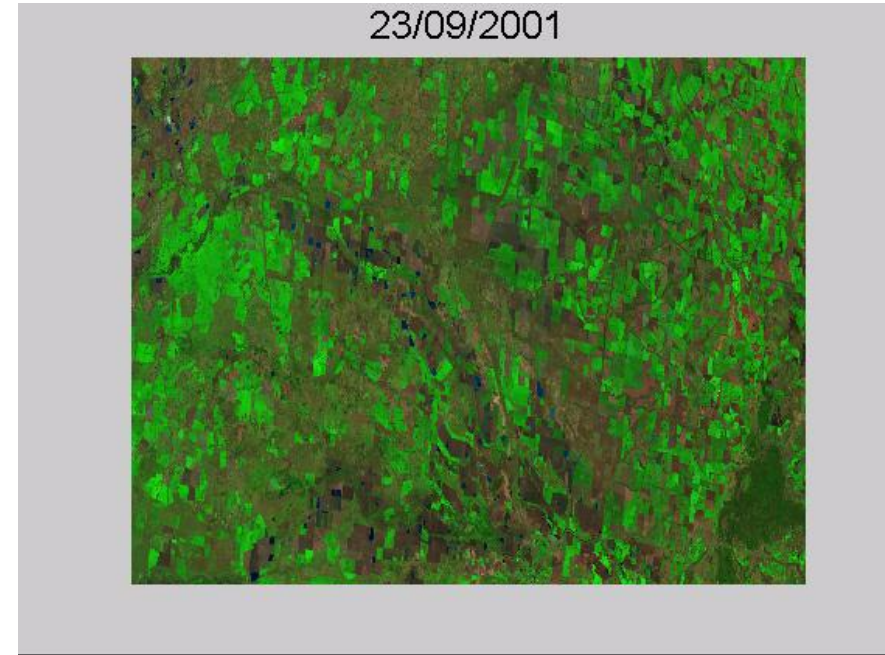


Kamble et al. (2013, RS)

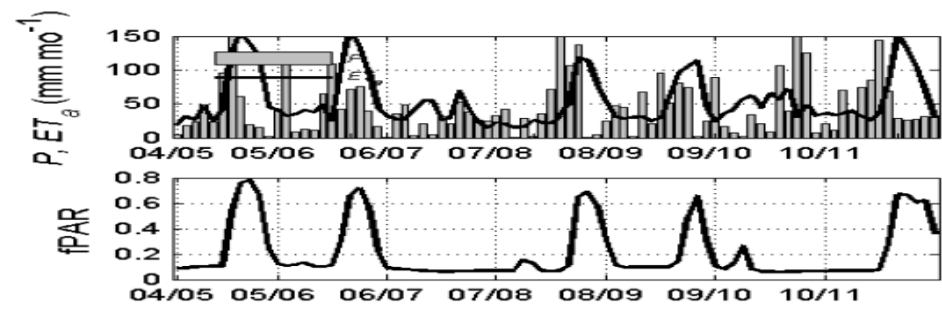
Grey: Flux tower derived  $K_c$

# Random forest model: phenology and water use

- **Phenology:** TS remotely sensed inputs of vegetation greenness from MODIS
- **Water use:** TS remotely sensed evapotranspiration estimates



Coordinates Lat,Lon -28.9107,149.0837

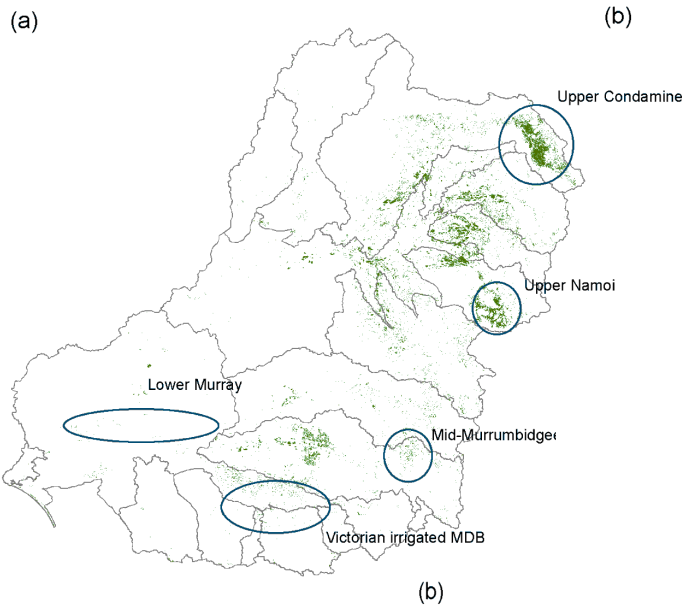


**Random Forest model**  
**Monthly values for each water year of:**

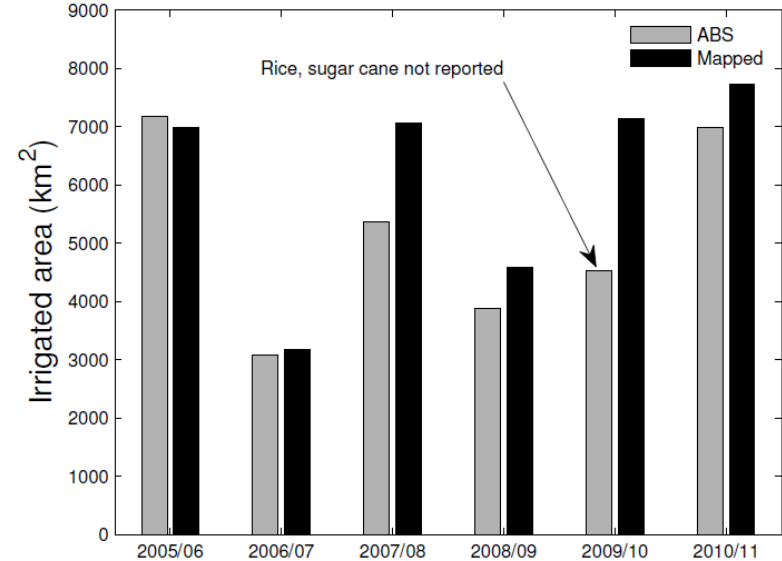
Total of 120 covariates

- $fPAR_{rec,i}$                        $d/dt(fPAR_{rec,i})$
- $fPAR_{per,i}$                        $d/dt(fPAR_{per,i})$
- $ET_{a,i}$                                $d/dt(ET_{a,i})$
- $P_i$                                        $d/dt(P_i)$
- $ET_{a,i}-P_i$                        $d/dt(ET_{a,i}-P_i)$

# Independent evaluation: maps and statistics



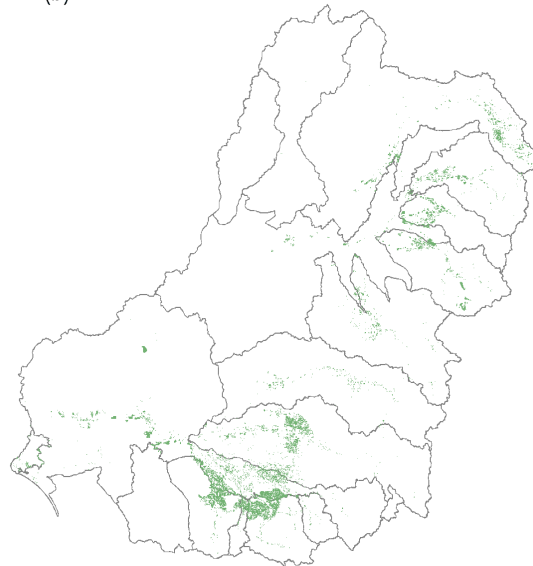
Composite map of irrigated areas for 2004–2010 *versus* static map



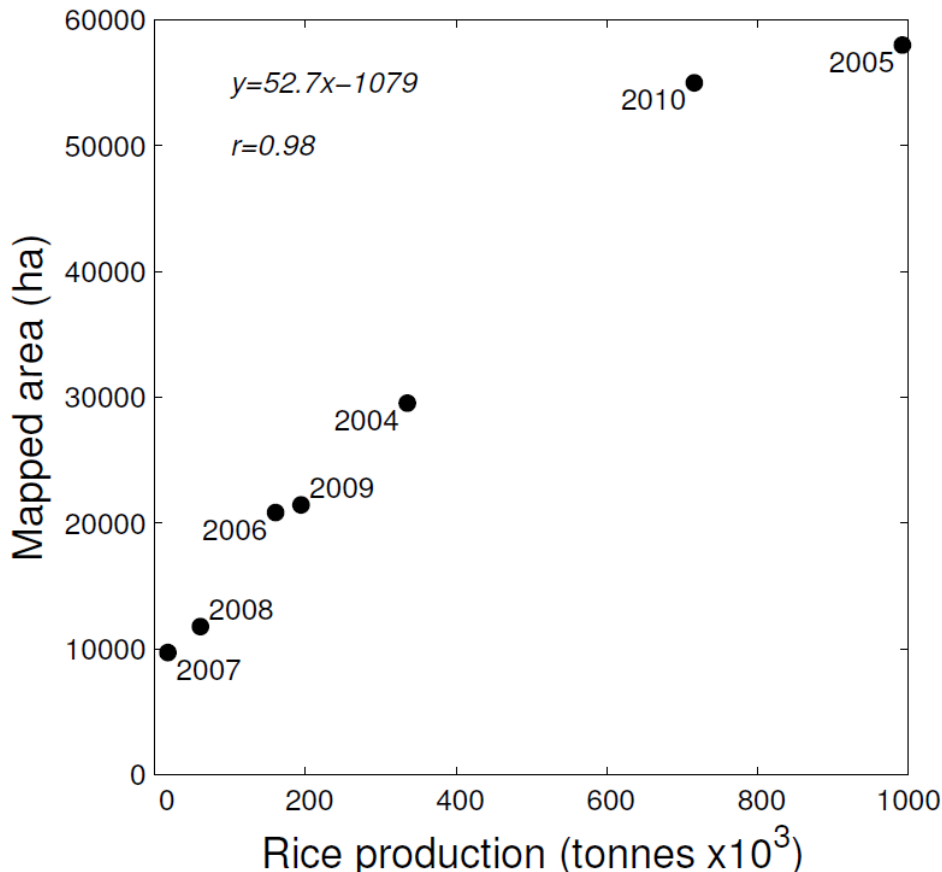
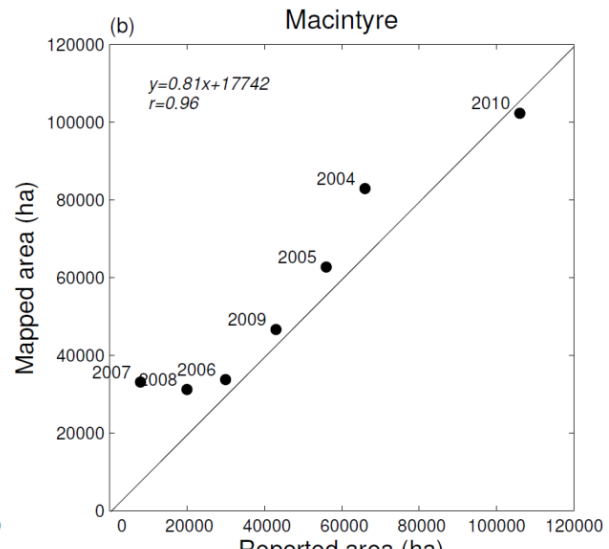
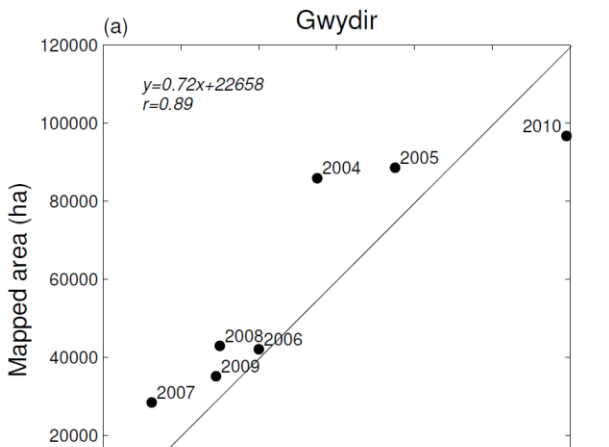
Yearly basin-wide statistics

□ Difference was less than 15% with some exceptions

Peña-Arancibia et al. (2013, RSE)



# Independent evaluation: areas and production



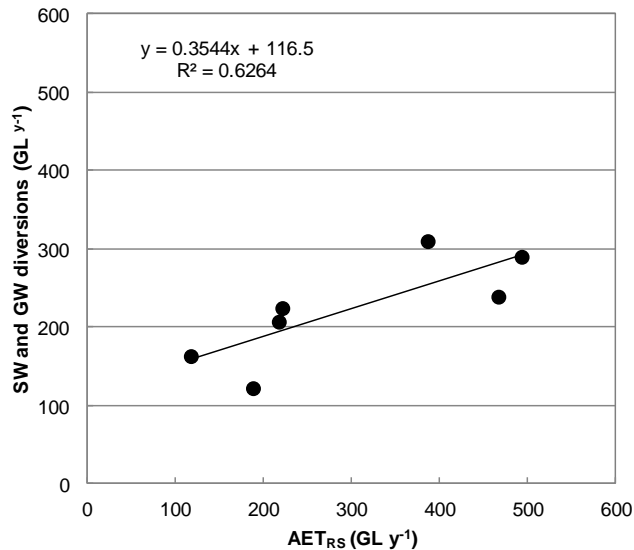
**Reported rice production**

**Reported cotton irrigated areas**

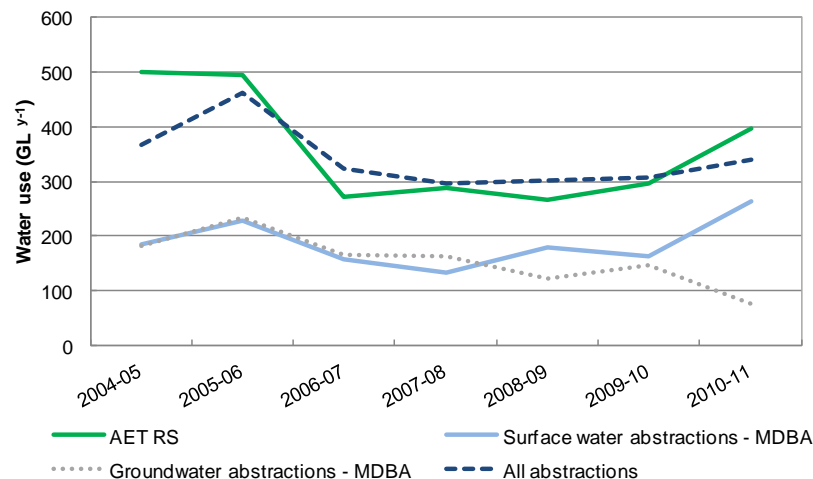
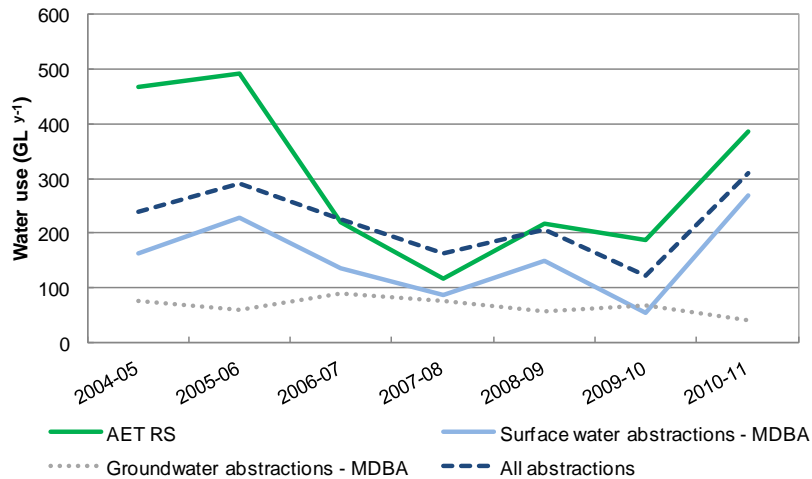
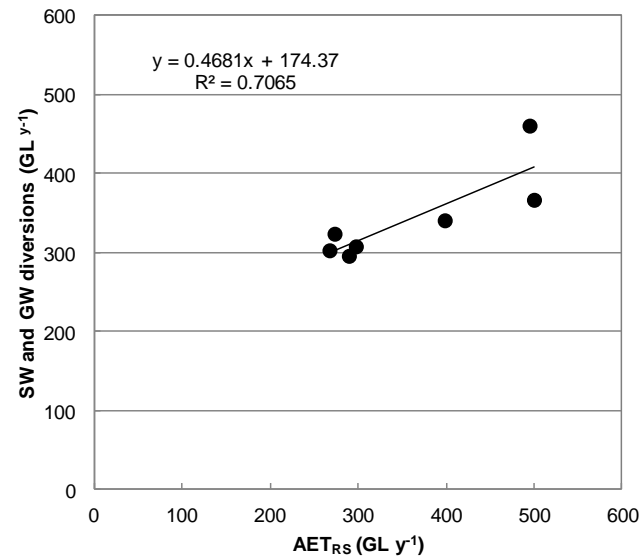


# Independent evaluation: sub-basin $Et_q$ volumes vs recorded diversions + groundwater use

## Gwydir

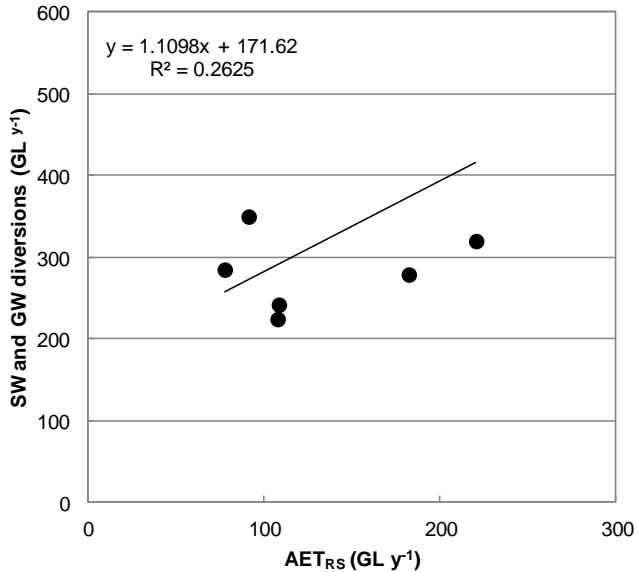


## Namoi

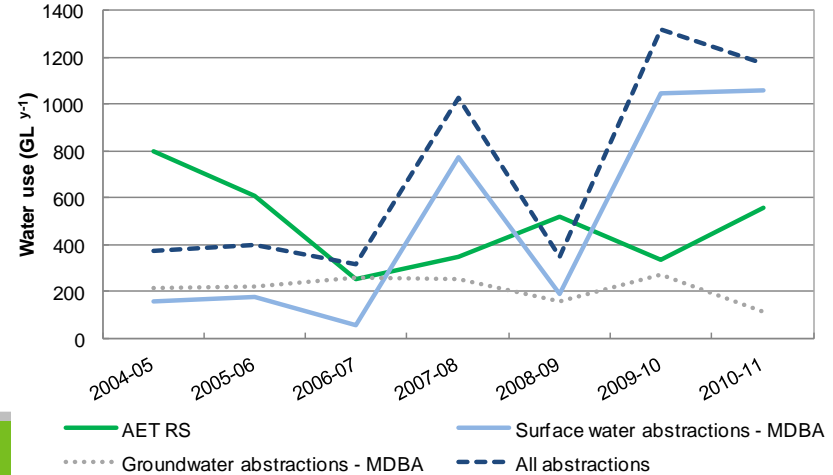
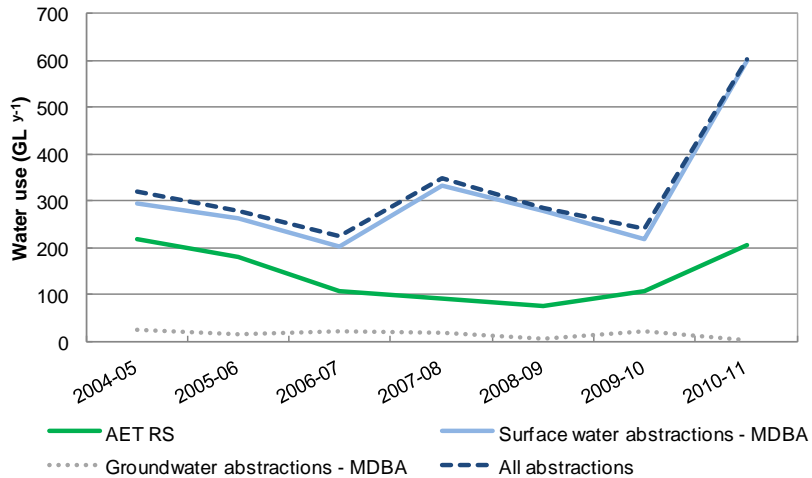
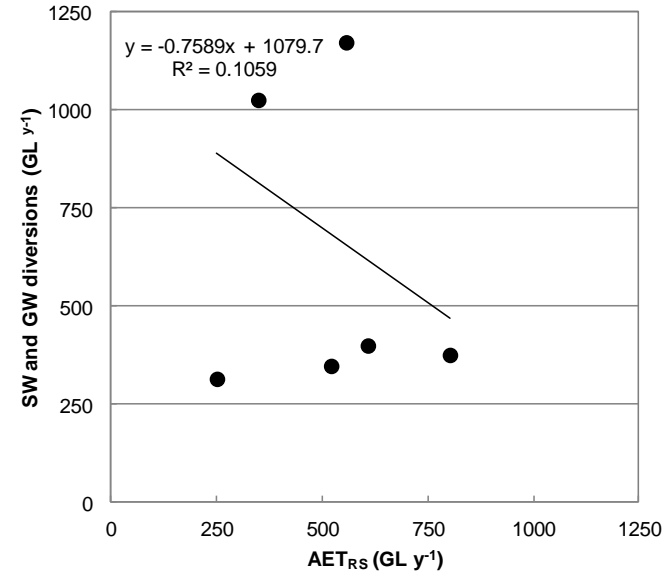


# Independent evaluation: sub-basin $Et_a$ volumes vs recorded diversions + groundwater use

## Border Rivers

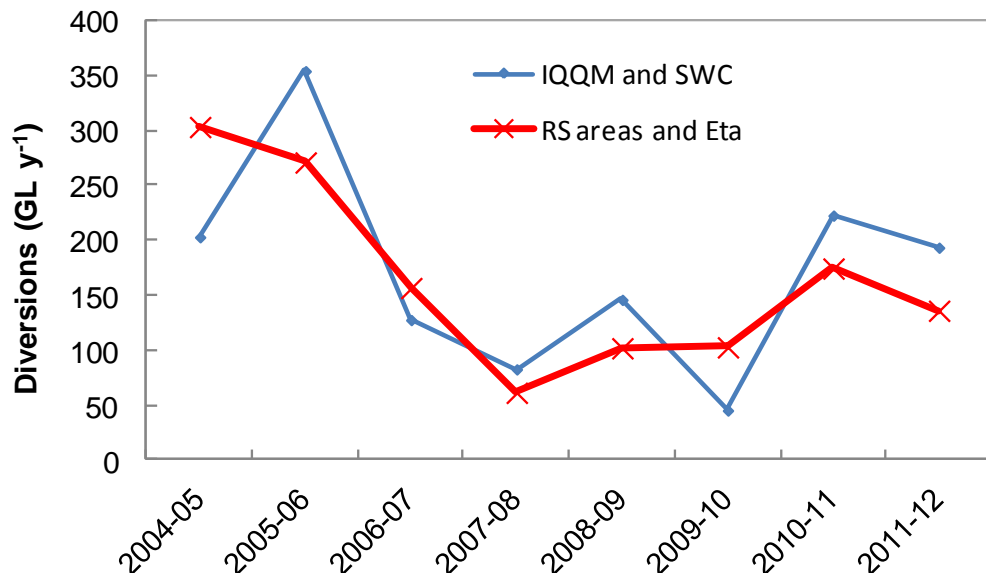


## Condamine-Balonne



# Independent evaluation: simplified hydrology model

## Gwydir

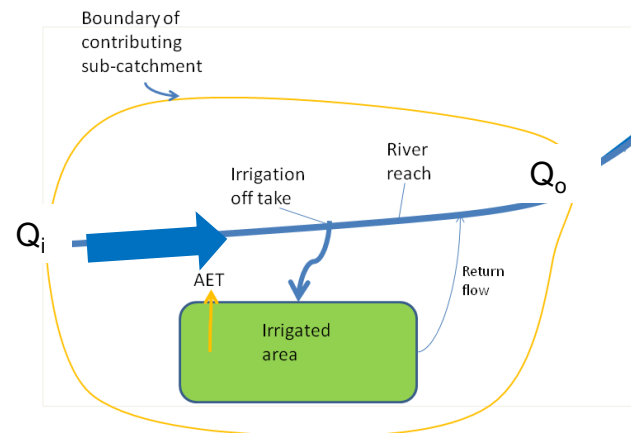


$$Q_o = Q_i + Q_t + R_o - D - L + \Delta S_r$$

$$D = Irr_{use} = \frac{K_c ET_0 - P_{eff}}{I_{eff}}$$

$$Irr_{vol} = Irr_{use} A_{RS}$$

- ❑ Simplified river reach model to estimate diversions
- ❑ Three reaches in the Gwydir for the years 2004/05 to 2010/11
- ❑ Irrigated areas and  $E_{t_a}$  with no calibration

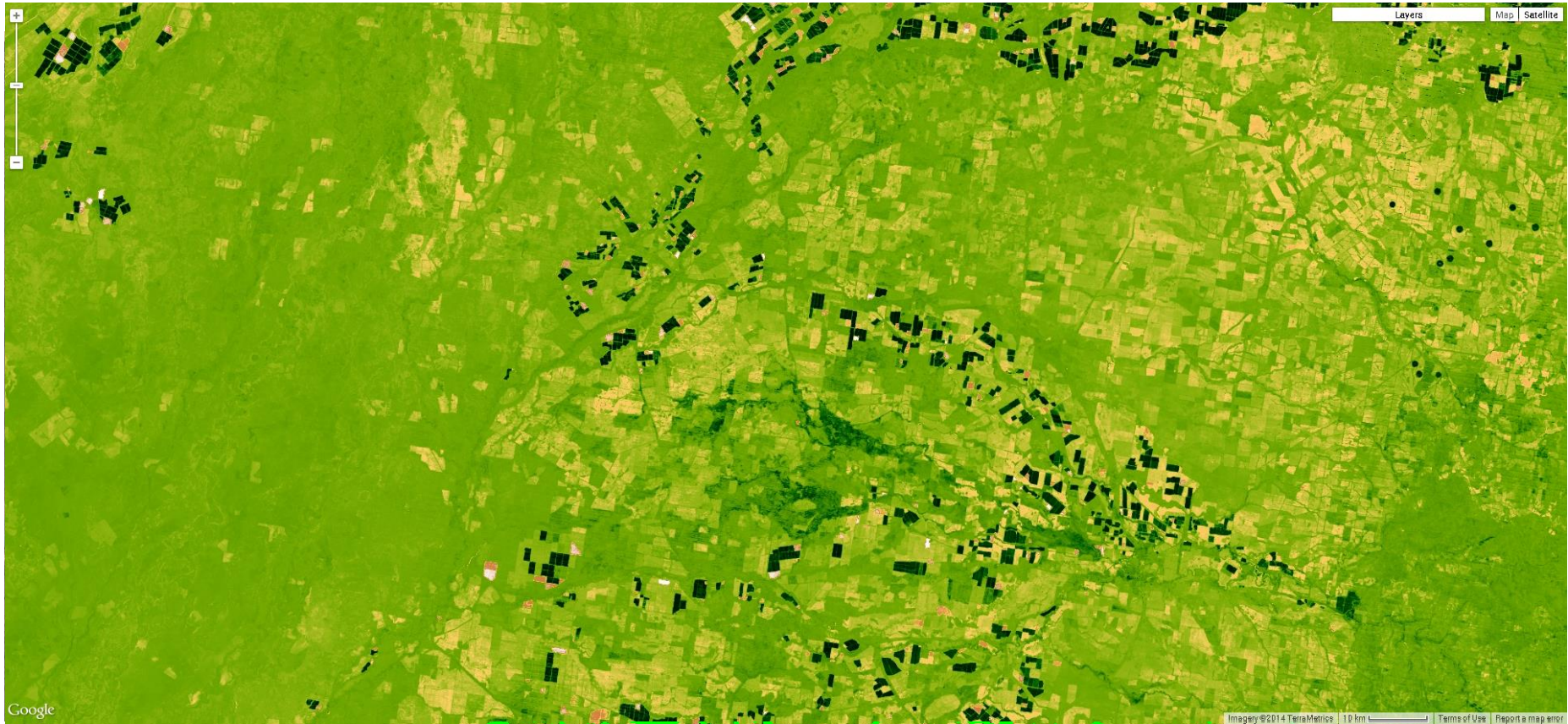


Kirby et al. (2013, WATER RESOUR MAN)



# Mapping of irrigation and water use: challenges

Vegetation which mimics irrigation (e.g. floodplains in the north)



# Mapping of irrigation and water use: challenges

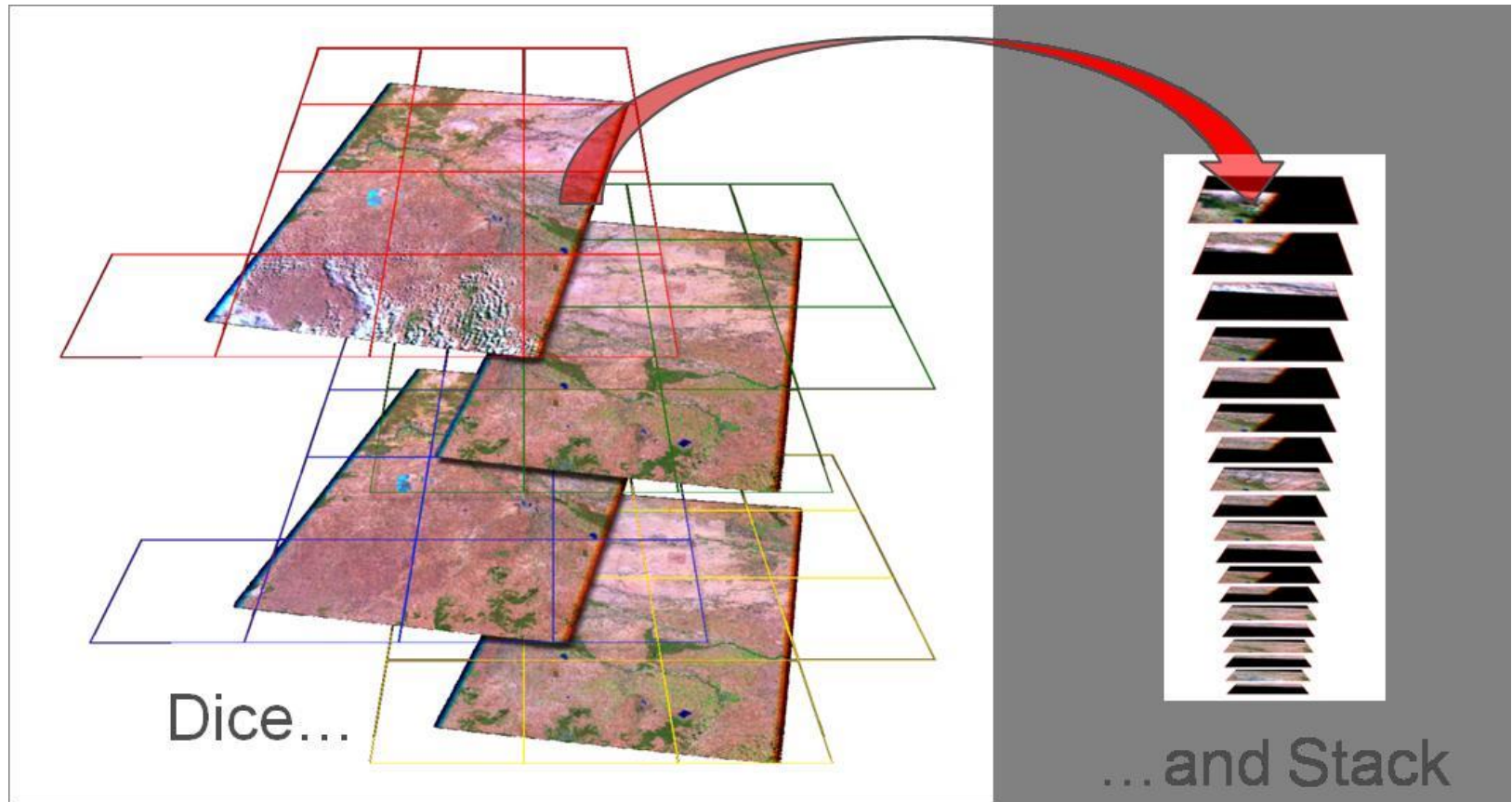
Medium spatial resolution compared to the size of irrigated paddocks (e.g. Condamine plains)



# Mapping of irrigation and water use: challenges

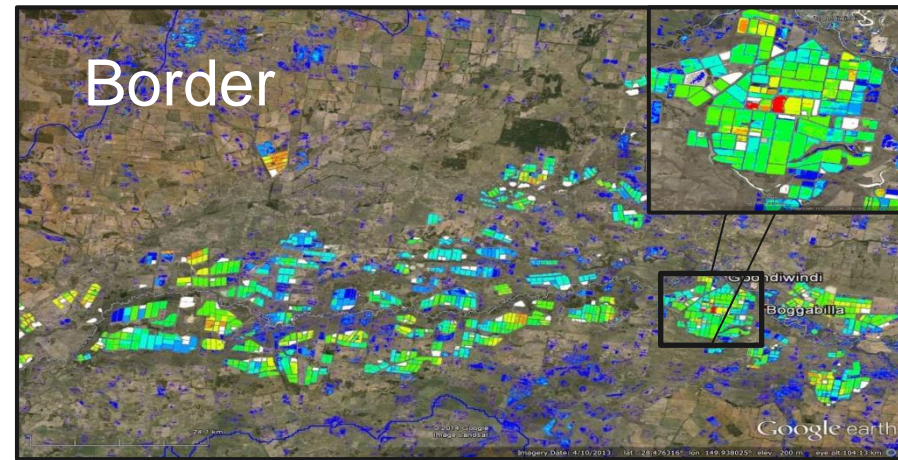
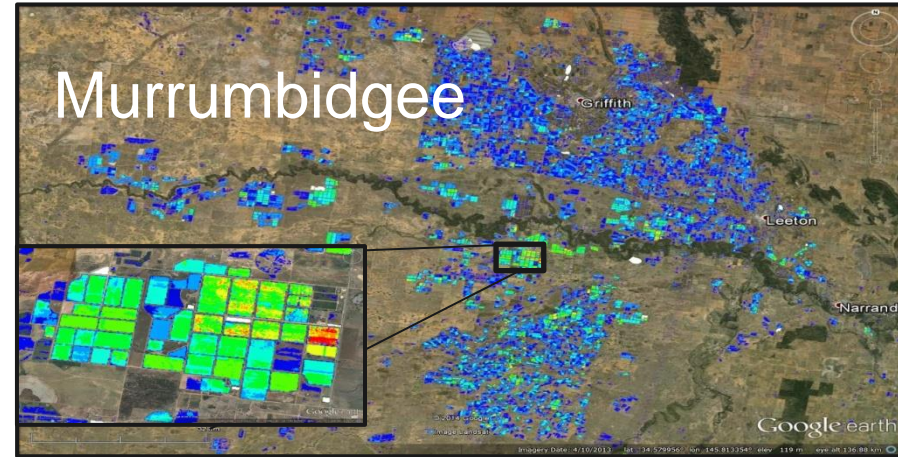
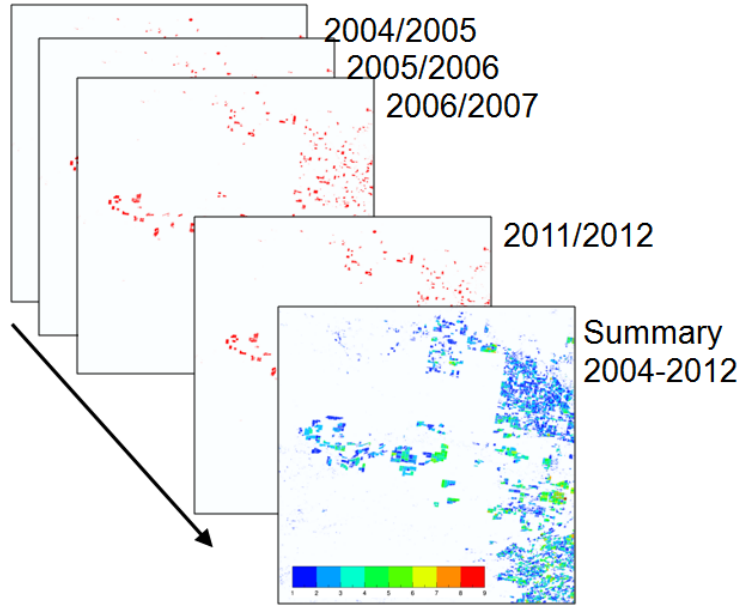
- ❑ Temporal resolution for some irrigation practices (e.g. dairy regions in Victoria)
- ❑ Including all irrigated types: fruit trees, horticulture, winter irrigation

# Mapping of irrigation and water use: opportunities



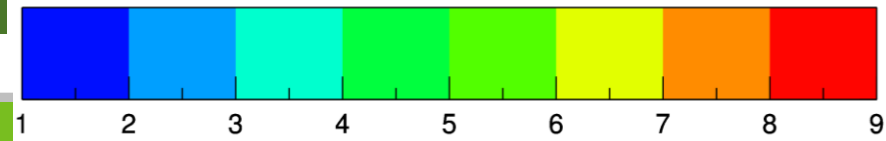
Enter the Australian Geoscience Data Cube

# Ongoing work using the datacube



- ❑ Monthly Landsat composites
- ❑ Original training data
- ❑ Random forest with EVI

Number of years with summer irrigation in the paddock



Guerschman and Peña-Arancibia (2014, OzEWEX)

# Summary and conclusion

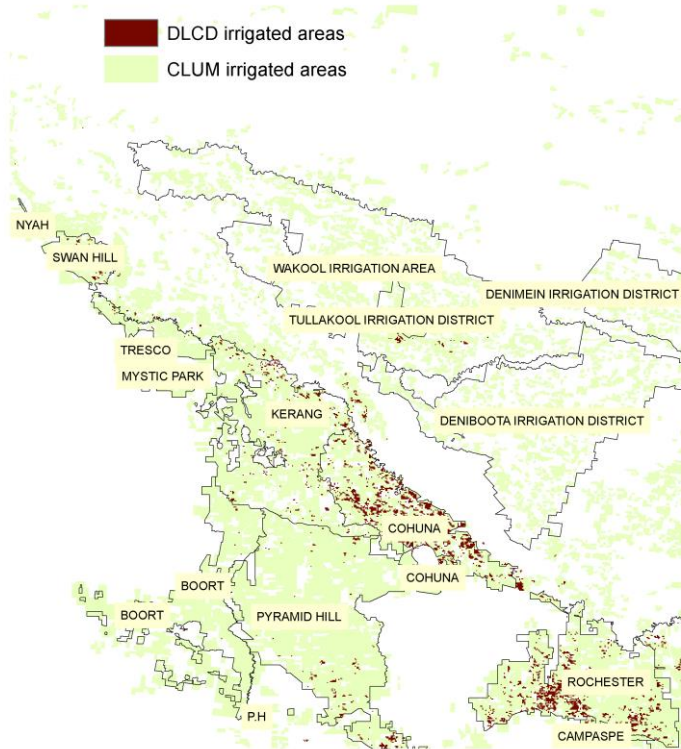
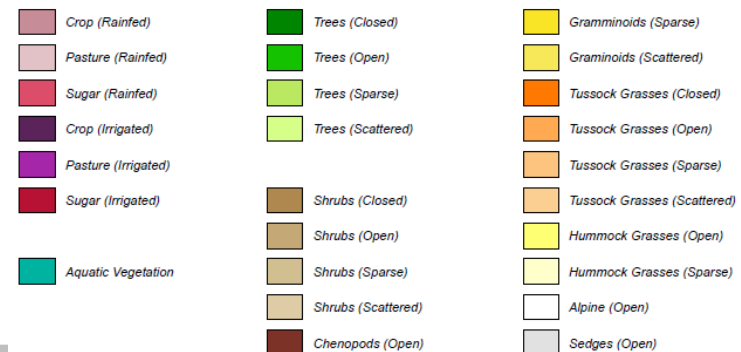
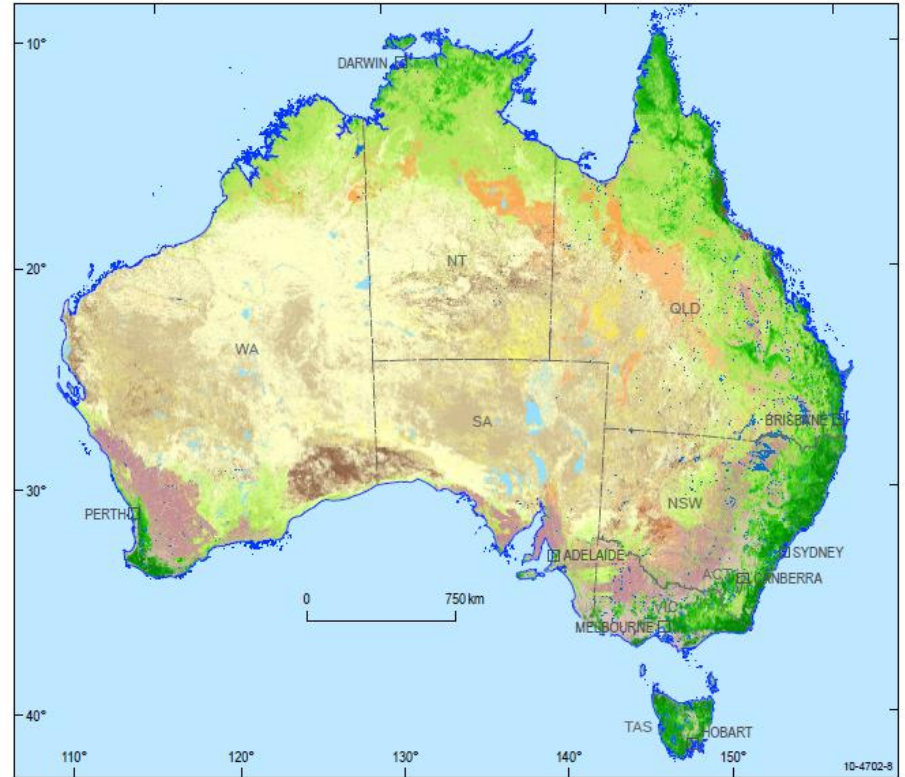
- ❑ High uncertainty in irrigation water use in many areas
- ❑ Uncertainty propagates to resource management
- ❑ Remote sensing has the potential to aid in the identification of areas that require better monitoring
- ❑ Remote sensing has the potential to constrain current water use models

# Thank you

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# Irrigated areas: Dynamic Land Cover dataset

- ❑ Planned biannual updates
- ❑ Medium resolution (250 m)
- ❑ Inaccurate for irrigated areas



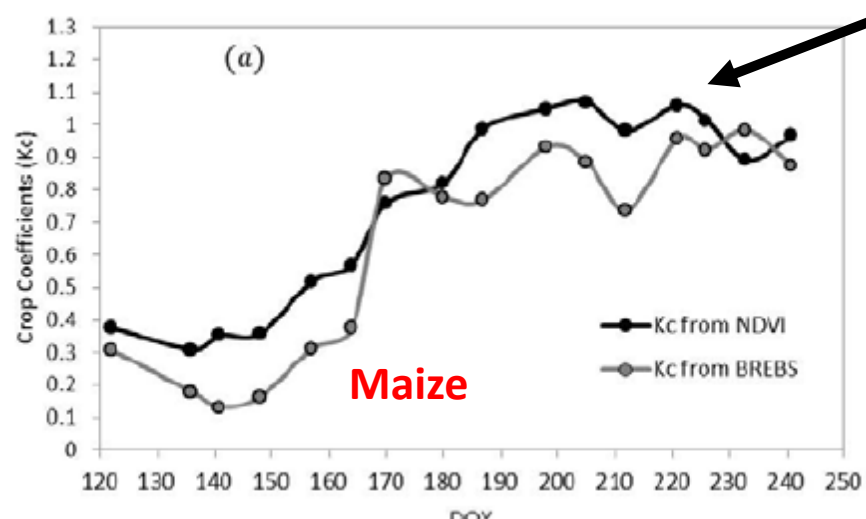
DLCD (GA)



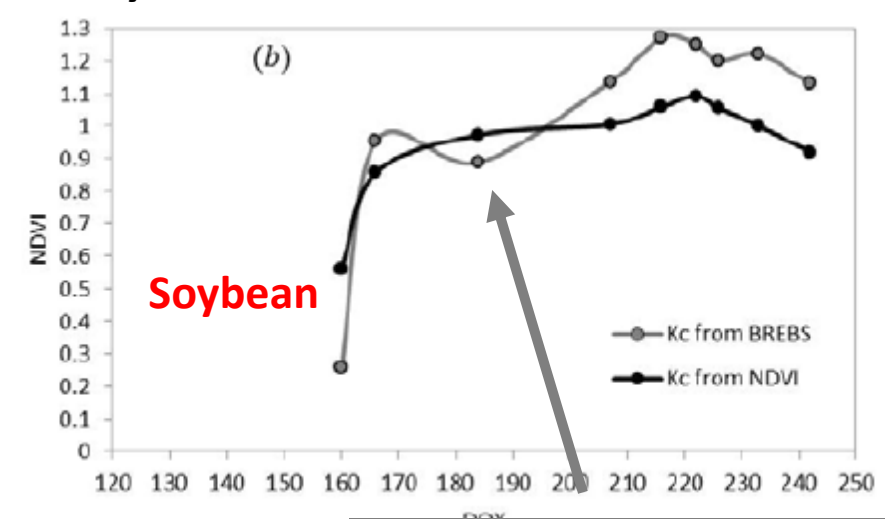
# Evapotranspiration

$$D = Irr_{demand} = \frac{K_c ET_0 - P_{eff}}{}$$

Black: Satellite derived  $K_c$  for irrigated maize and soybean



Kamble et al. (2013, RS)

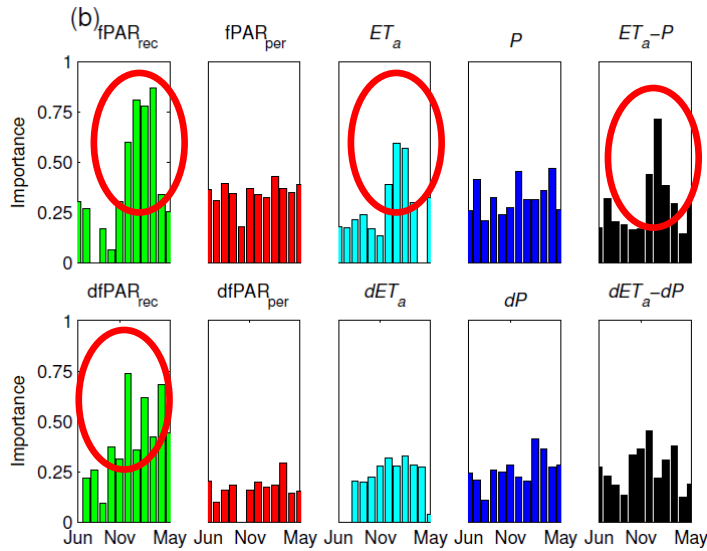


Grey: Flux tower derived  $K_c$

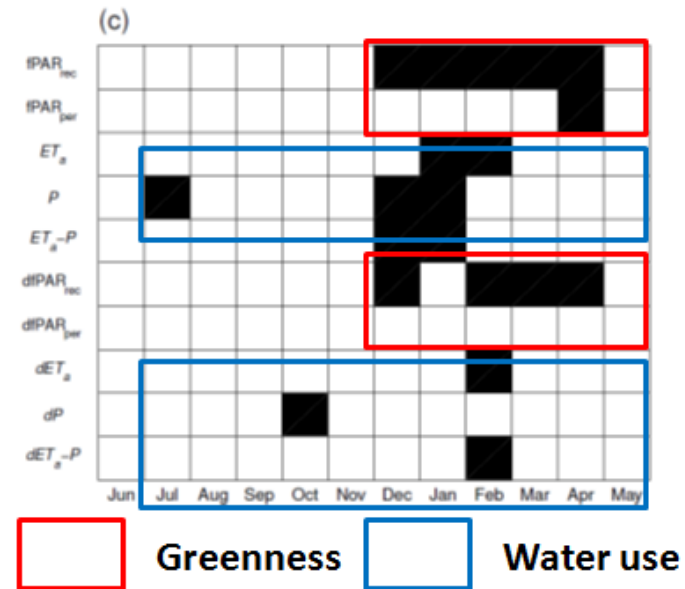
- Locally calibrated for specific crops based on direct measurements
- Direct observations are laborious and costly
- Prescribed crop factors ( $K_c$ ) on look up tables
- Expert opinion



# Random Forest model



**'Covariate importance'**



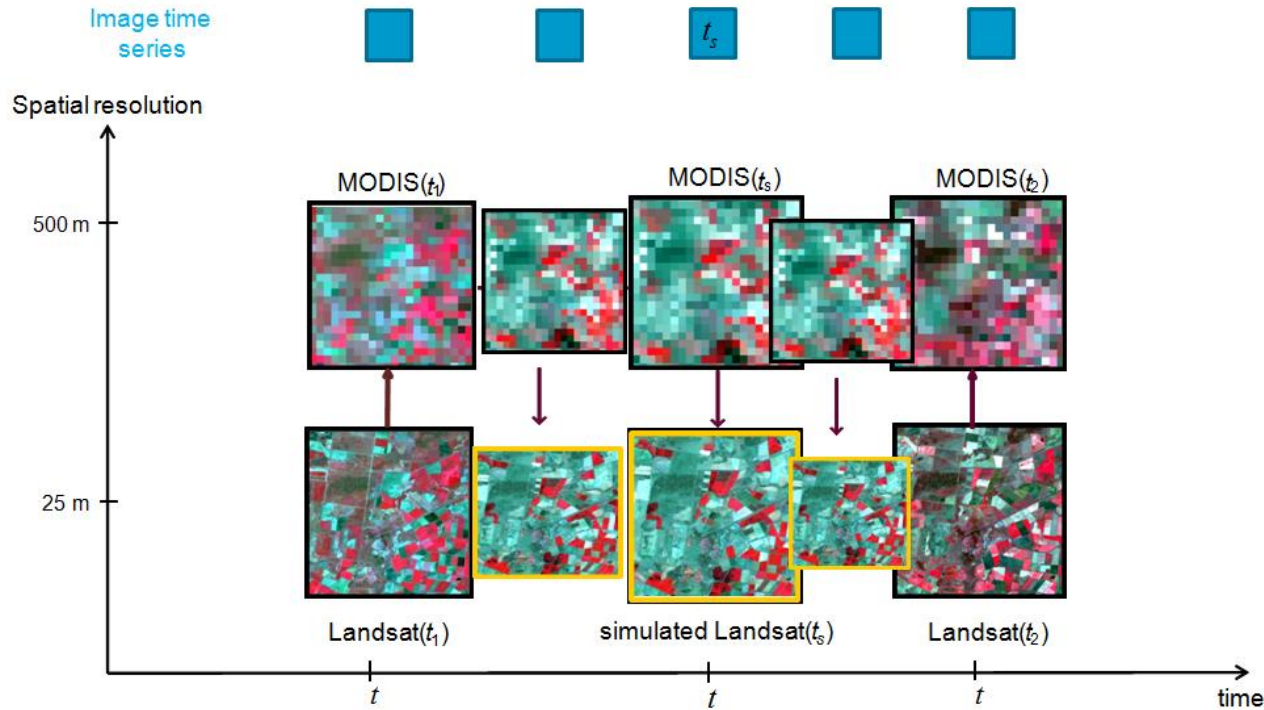
**'Optimisation' only 20 covariates**

- ❑ Training sample for each: average of 332 pixels (roughly 21 km<sup>2</sup>)
- ❑ Mapping for 2004/05 to 2010/11
- ❑ Model with 50% train/predict sample
- ❑ 'Pruning' the tree
- ❑ Covariance importance and optimisation
- ❑ Observed agreement of 99%, kappa of 96%

# Mapping of irrigation and water use: challenges

- ❑ Difficulties in separating vegetation which mimics irrigation (e.g. floodplains in the north) <http://goo.gl/L1mzBI>
- ❑ Medium spatial resolution compared to the size of irrigated paddocks (e.g. Condamine plains) <http://goo.gl/GUHGKi>
- ❑ Temporal resolution for some irrigation practices (e.g. dairy regions in Victoria)
- ❑ Complex irrigation practices

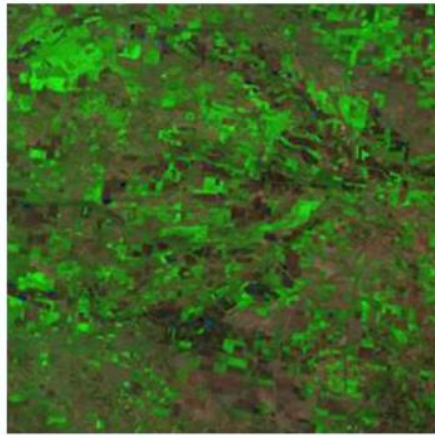
# Mapping of irrigation and water use: opportunities



□ Temporal resolution for some irrigation practices (e.g. dairy regions in Victoria)

Blending using highly resolved spatial data from one sensor and highly resolved temporal data from another (Emelyanova et al., 2013 RSE)

# Mapping of irrigation and water use: opportunities



**Monthly 'medoid'  
July 2004**



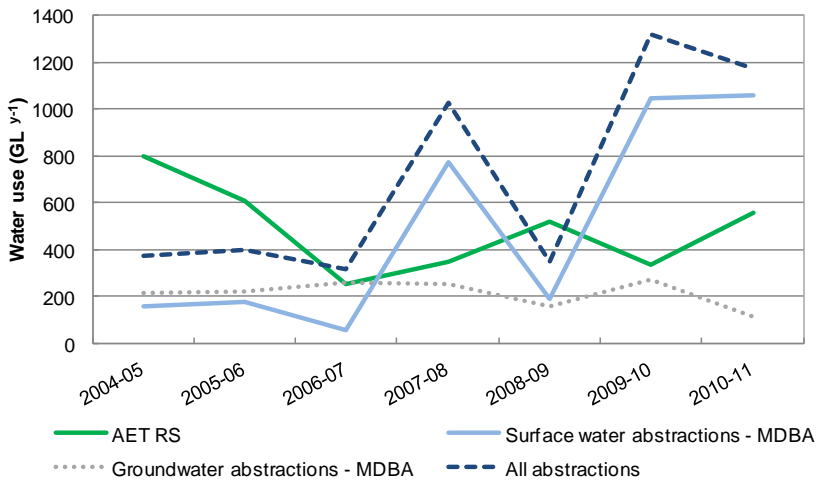
**Monthly  
'medoid'  
January 2001.  
many gaps  
remain**



Aggregating Landsat data into monthly composites: July 2004 and January 2001 (Border Rivers)

# Mapping of irrigation and water use: opportunities

## Condamine-Balonne



- ❑ Complex irrigation practices
- ❑ Estimation of water diverted to on-farm storages using standing water detection algorithm

06/2003 to 05/2004



06/2008 to 05/2009

