

# Alternative perspectives on the evaluation of complex conservation interventions



Terania rapids  
Paul Balfe CC BY 2.0

Emma McIntosh 24 July 2019 #ICCB2019





# ARCADIA

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Protecting endangered nature

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TOMPKINS CONSERVATION



Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative



Cambridge Conservation Initiative  
*Collaborating to conserve biodiversity*



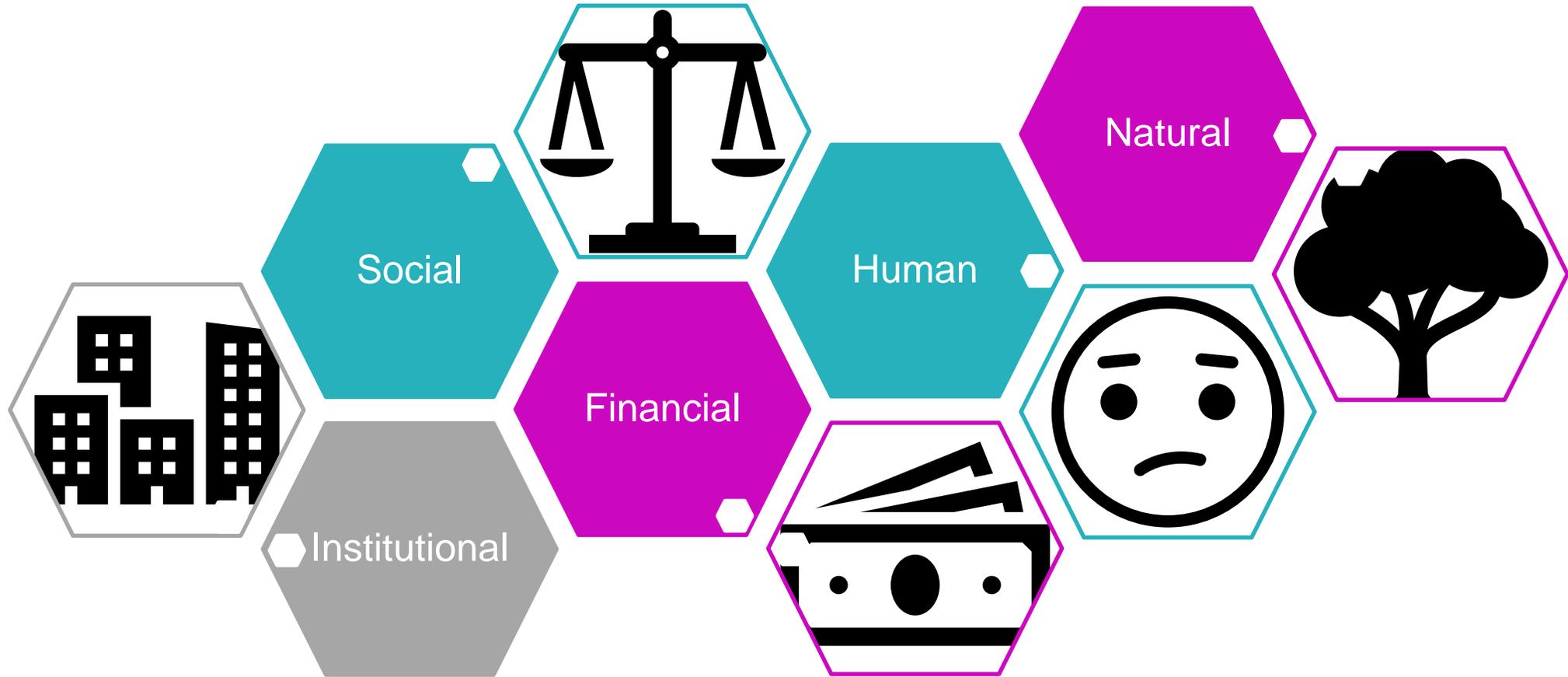
global witness

TRAFFIC  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

Conservation Evidence  
*Evidence to improve practice*



# What works in conservation planning?



# Absence of evidence



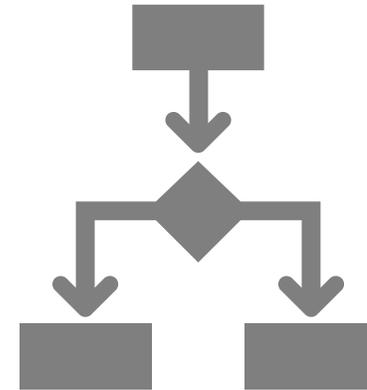
## Only 3 robust evaluations



Time series  
comparison



Comparison of  
approaches in a  
single region



Juxtaposition of  
approaches in  
real-time

# The Conservation Planning Database



**Jorge Álvarez-Romero**

@terra\_et\_mare

Following

Consolidating the conservation planning database needs help from [#conservation](#) [#oceans](#) [#MPA](#) planners worldwide. We're working with [@unepwcmc](#) to improve it. Please help us by completing a short survey ([bit.ly/2MXRGCF](http://bit.ly/2MXRGCF)), share it widely!

<http://database.conservationplanning.org/>





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ELSEVIER

Biological Conservation

Volume 237, September 2019, Pages 70-80



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## Barriers to the evaluation of systematic conservation plans: Insights from landmark Australian plans

Emma J. McIntosh

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.06.029>

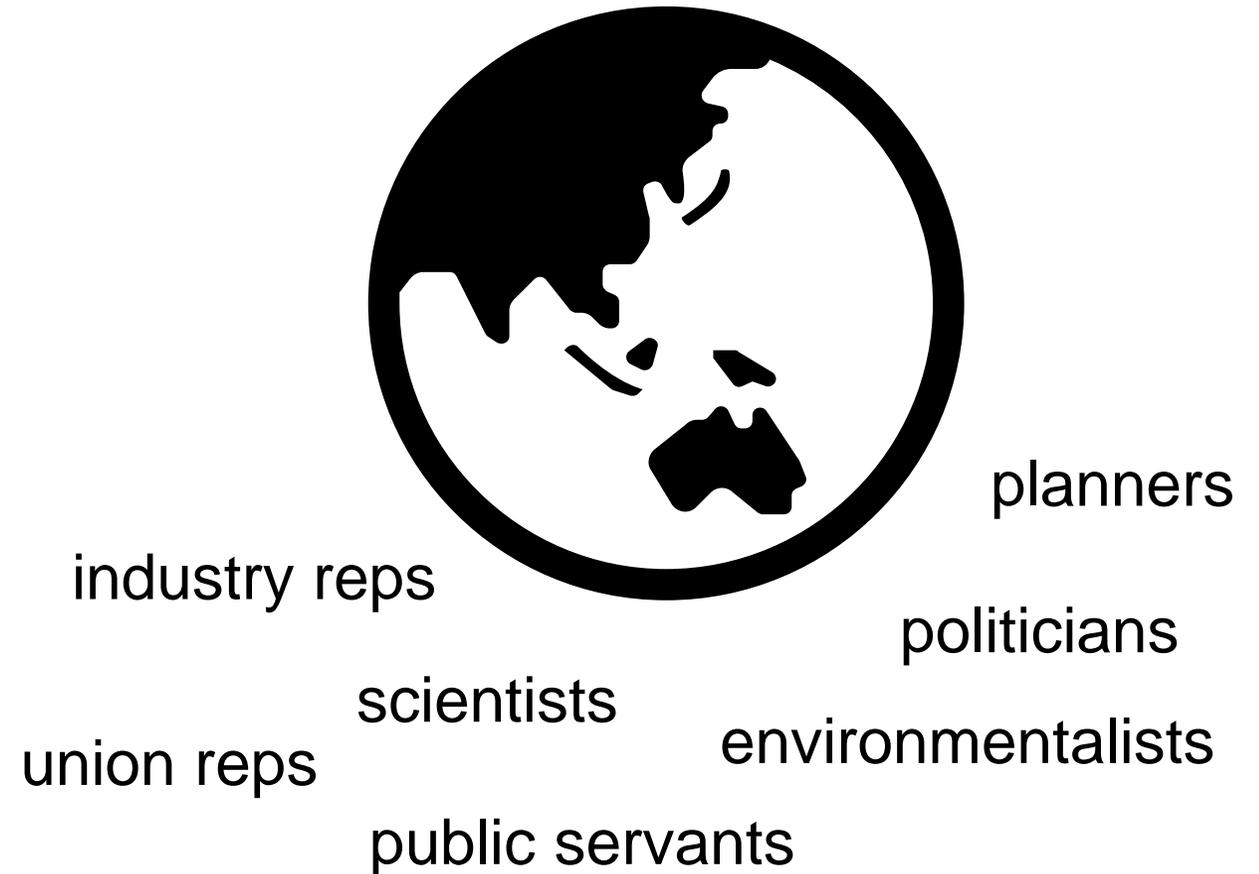
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McIntosh 2019 *Biological Conservation* 237

## 2 high profile case studies

How were **perceptions** of the **effectiveness** of the conservation plans constructed by different stakeholders?





# Forestry agreements NE New South Wales

1995 – 2000

Birth of C-Plan

Native timber industry  
not sustainable



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Figure: ABARES 2013 Regional Forest Agreements  
Photos: Resource and Conservation Assessment Council, 1996

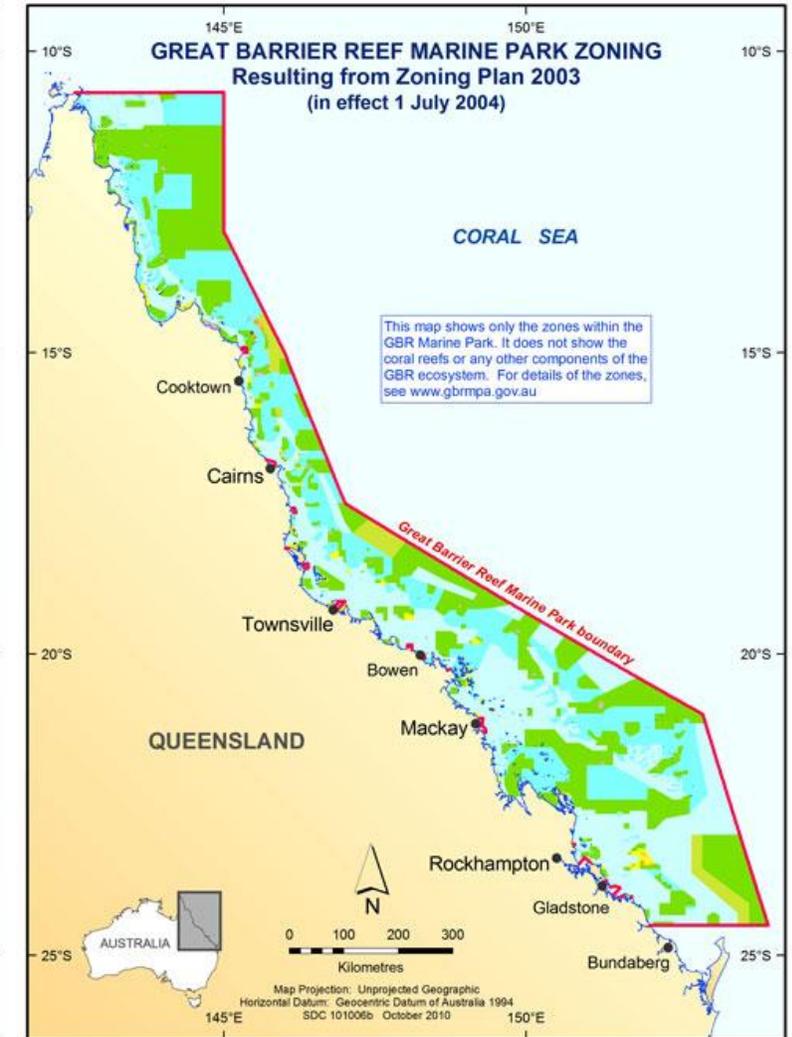
# Great Barrier Reef

## Representative Areas Program & Structural Adjustment Package

1999 – 2004

Birth of Marxan

Compensation over \$200m,  
20x expected

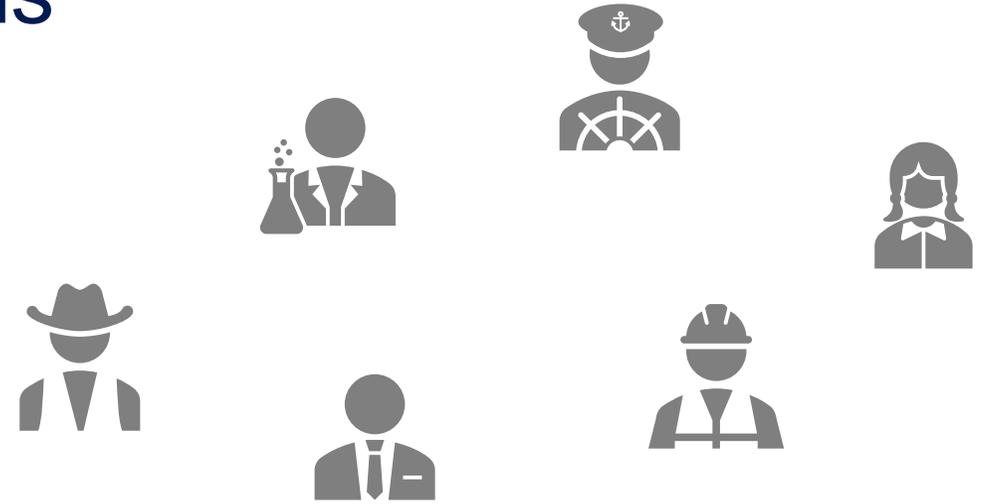


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Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/zoning-permits-and-plans/rap>

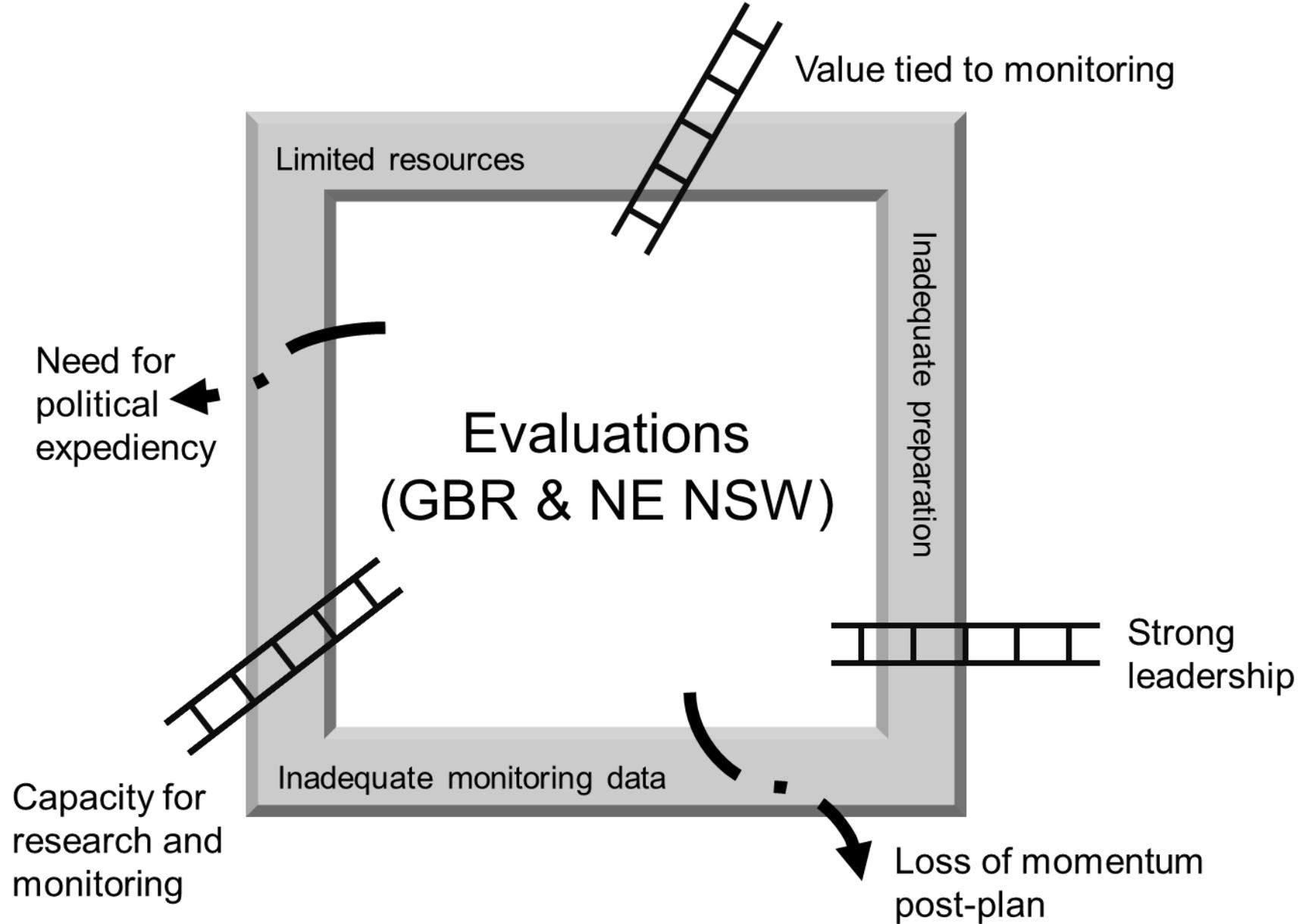
# Methods

- 37 interviewees (even split)
- senior representatives of main negotiating parties



- semi-structured interviews & outcomes questionnaire
- open coding & thematic analysis

# Results



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Fig 2. McIntosh 2019 *Biological Conservation* 237

# Perceptions of effectiveness

- ✓ scientific and consultative aspects of both planning processes
- X handling of associated industry restructuring and compensation



# Effects still being felt today...

NATURE | NEWS

## Australia cuts conservation protections in marine parks

Conservationists accuse government of ignoring science-based recommendations.

Nicky Phillips

25 July 2017

 Rights & Permissions



Our wide brown land

## After 20 years of uneasy peace, the forest wars are back

Agreements meant to protect forests and create a sustainable timber industry are about to expire, and both sides are preparing for new conflict

by [Gregg Borschmann](#)

For more than 30 years Jill Redwood has fought to save the ancient old growth forests of East Gippsland in Victoria.

Living alone, isolated and self-sufficient on a small rural property in the

## Cash Splash

Posted Mon 8 Jul 2019, 8:31pm Updated Thu 11 Jul 2019, 5:11pm

Expires: Tuesday 4 June 4757 8:31pm

## FOUR CORNERS

44

Taxpayer dollars, secretive deals and the lucrative

"It's a national scandal." Water economist

Nature News; The Guardian; Four Corners

*“If you had the political without the scientific underpinning it, it would have been shit, and if you had a scientific underpinning without political process it would have never gotten anywhere, so it would have meant nothing. So, they are both equally important.” [G69]*

# Acknowledgements

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Richard Grenyer  
My generous interviewees



SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT



General Sir  
John Monash  
Foundation



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