

# Collaborative Governance of Australian Protected Areas

## **OVERVIEW**

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# Indigenous ownership, governance and sole management of country for 50,000 years



# Impacts of invasion and colonisation from 1788



# National parks and other government protected areas declared from 1879

Protected Areas declared without Indigenous consent or engagement



Royal National Park 1879 - Dharawal Country

National parks established to deny Indigenous land ownership up to 1970s



Archer Bend National Park 1977  
Oyala Thumotang National Park

# Indigenous consultation & employment in protected area management from late 1970s



Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park

Kakadu National Park



# Indigenous ownership and co-management of some protected areas from early 1980s

- Garig Gunak Barlu National Park in Northern Territory
  - Australia's first Aboriginal-owned, co-governed and co-managed protected area
- Collaborative governance “models” evolved in each jurisdiction over the last 30+ years
- Co-governance includes some or all of the following:
  - Indigenous ownership
  - Leaseback of park to government agency
  - Indigenous majority on governing board
  - Protection & communication of cultural values
  - Indigenous employment & engagement in planning
  - Rental payment for use of land as a national park
  - Indigenous tourism and other economic opportunities



# Collaborative Governance of Marine Protected Areas

- Less developed than for terrestrial protected areas
- Less recognition of Indigenous rights to sea country
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
  - Legislated Indigenous board member of GBRMP Authority board
  - Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRAs)
    - Negotiated by Traditional Owners for their use of traditional resources
    - Accredited and supported by GBRMP Authority
    - Apply to sea country clan estates as determined by traditional owners
  - Financial and other support for sea country planning, values and management
  - Opportunities through 39Za arrangements



# Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) on Indigenous-owned land from 1998

- Voluntarily declared by Indigenous Traditional Owners
- For protection and sustainable Indigenous use of cultural and natural values
- Managed in accordance with IUCN protected area guidelines
- Recognised as part of Australia's National Reserve System (NRS)
- Funding and other support from Australian Government's IPA Program and other government & non-government sources



# IUCN Protected Area Governance Types

**2008:**

“Indigenous peoples’ **protected areas** and territories – established and run by indigenous peoples”

**2015?**

“Indigenous peoples’ **conserved areas** and territories – established and run by indigenous peoples”

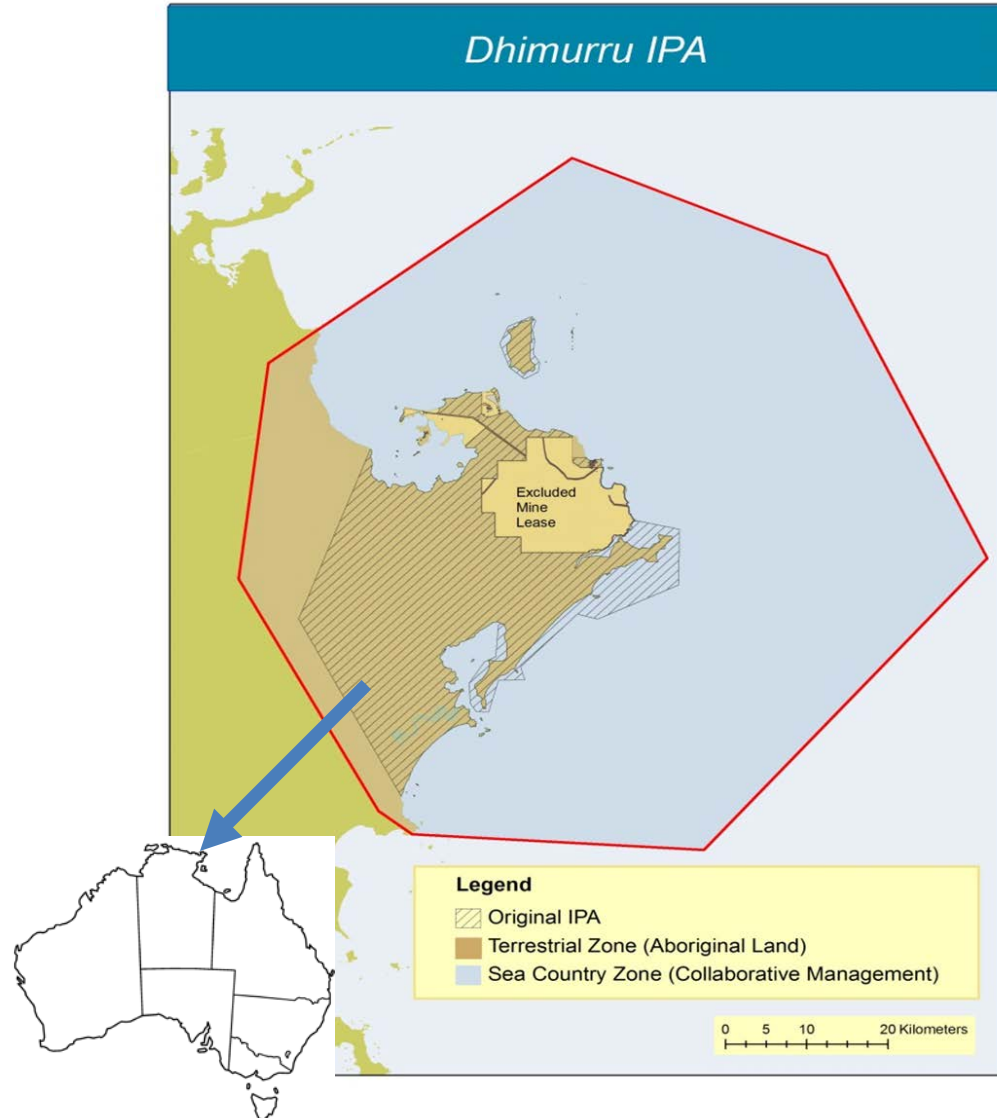
# Dedication of country-based, multi-tenure IPAs

- 2011 - Mandingalbay Yidinji IPA, north Queensland
  - Australia's first country-based, multi-tenure IPA
  - Incorporates several existing government protected areas:
    - National Park
    - Forest Reserve
    - Conservation Reserve
    - Marine Park
    - Fish Habitat Area
  - “puts country back together”
  - Provides new Indigenous-led pathway to collaborative governance

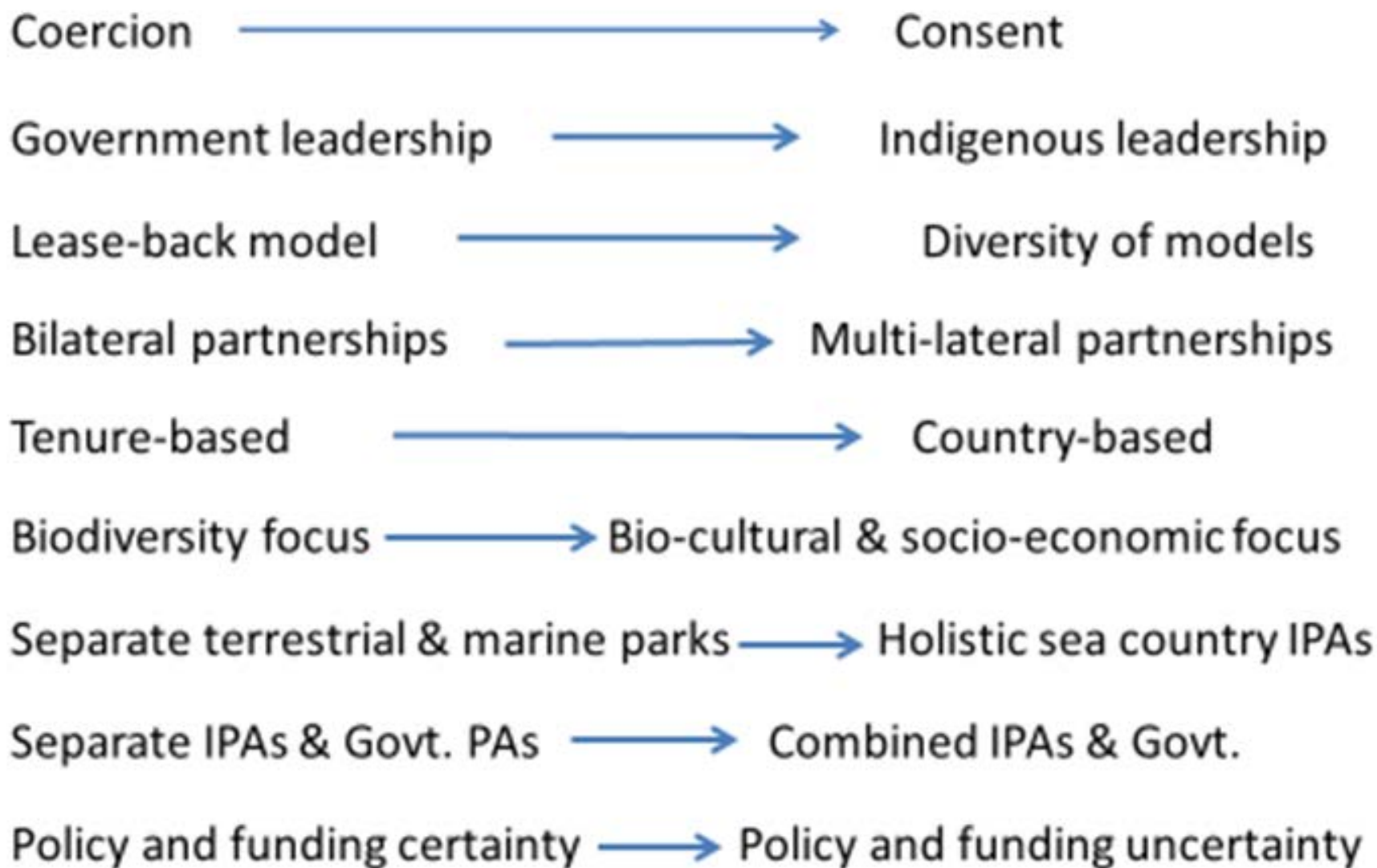


# Sea Country IPAs

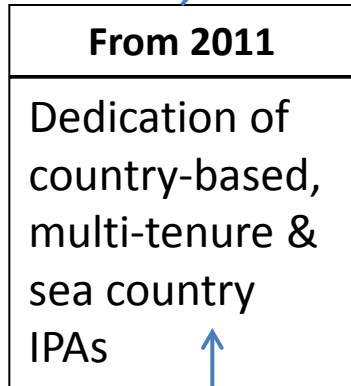
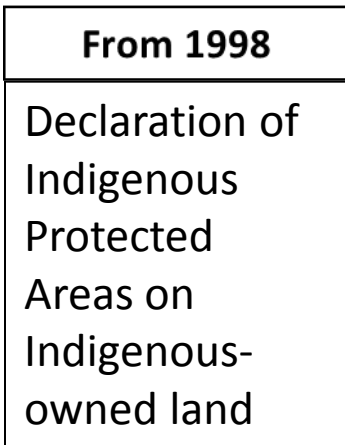
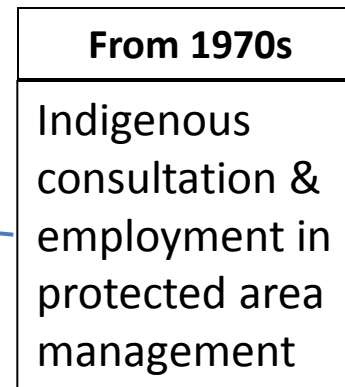
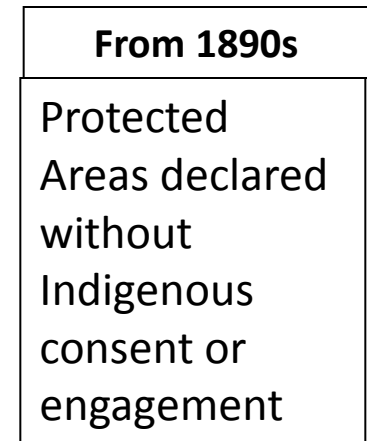
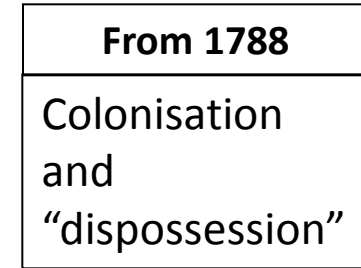
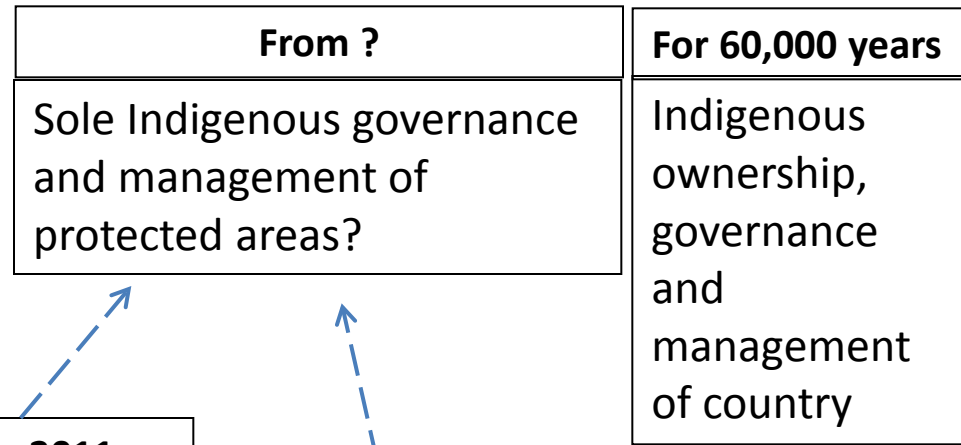
- 2013 – Dhimurru IPA, northeast Arnhemland, Northern Territory
  - Australia's first IPA to include substantial area of sea country
  - Framework for integrated land and sea governance and management
  - Indigenous-led pathway to co-governed coastal and marine protected areas



## Recent trends in Collaborative Governance



# Collaborative Governance Journey in Australia



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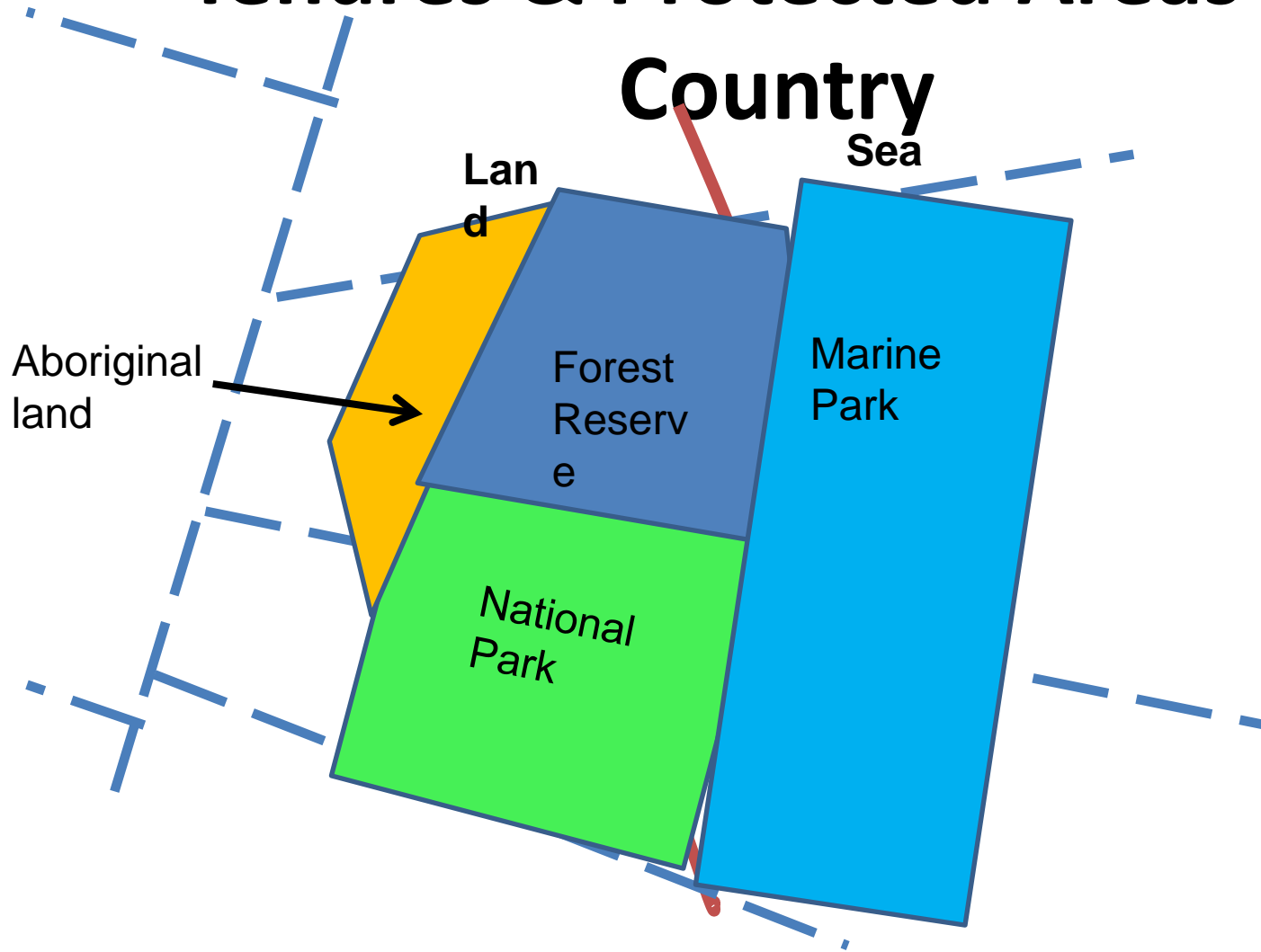
# Further information

Bauman et al. 2013 *Pathways to the co-management of protected areas and native title in Australia*. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Canberra.

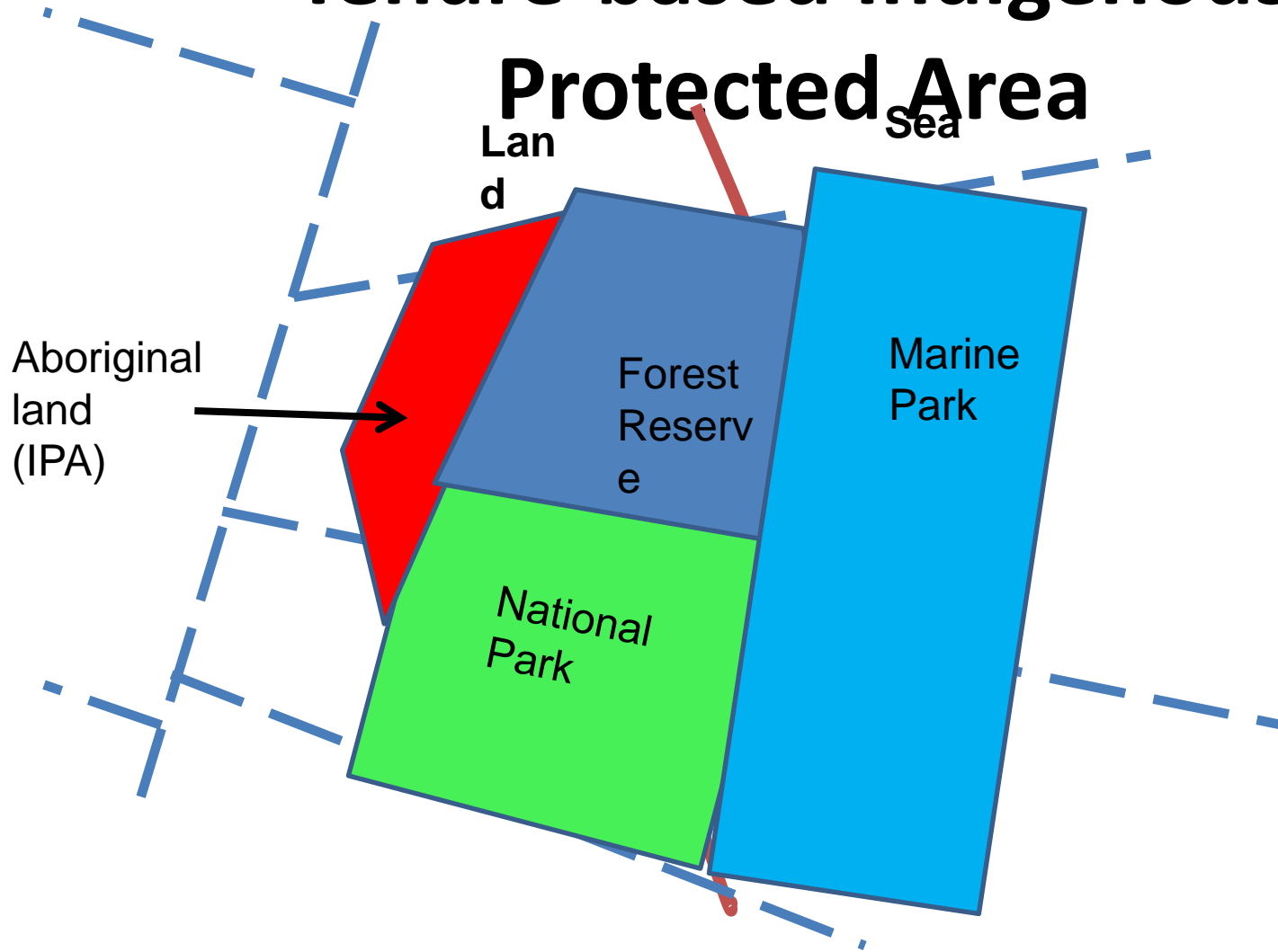
Smyth and Ward 2008. *Protecting Country: Indigenous governance and management of protected areas*. AIATSIS, Canberra.

Rose, 2013 *Indigenous Protected Areas – innovation beyond the boundaries*, The Nature Conservancy, Melbourne.

# Tenures & Protected Areas on Country



# Tenure-based Indigenous Protected Area



# Country-based Indigenous Protected Area

