

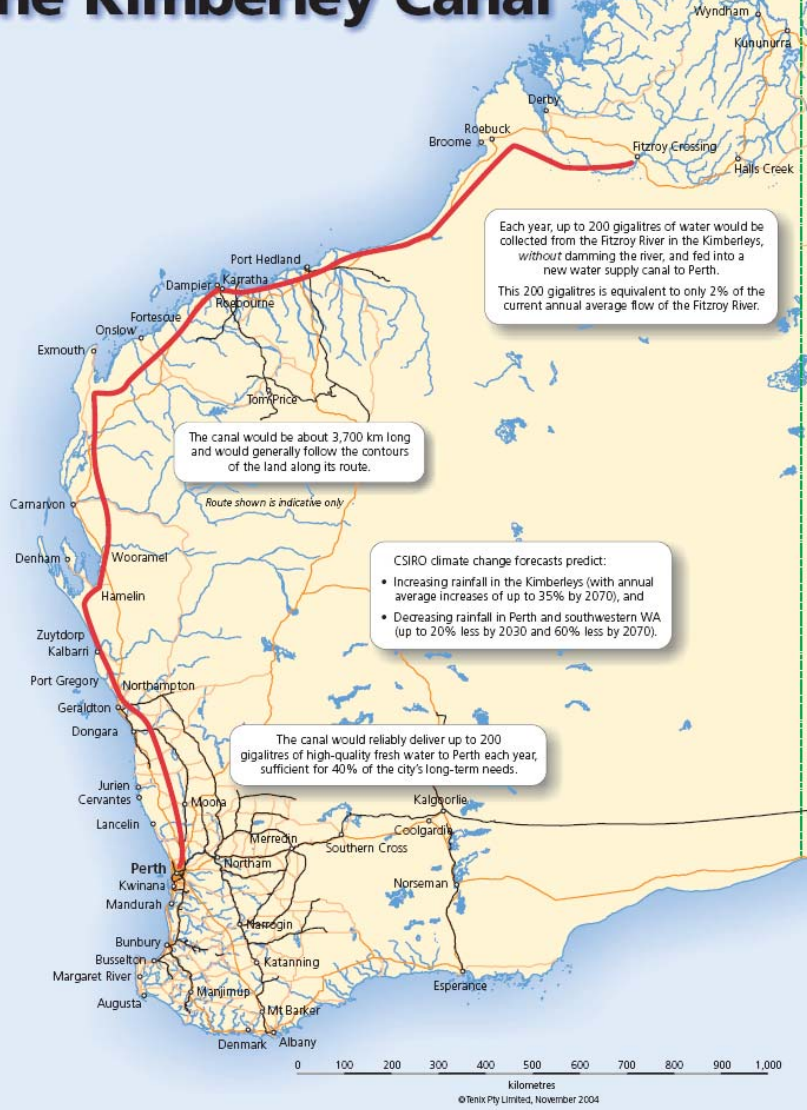
TRaCK



Tropical Rivers and
Coastal Knowledge



The Kimberley Canal



Each year, up to 200 gigalitres of water would be collected from the Fitzroy River in the Kimberleys, without damming the river, and fed into a new water supply canal to Perth.
This 200 gigalitres is equivalent to only 2% of the current annual average flow of the Fitzroy River.

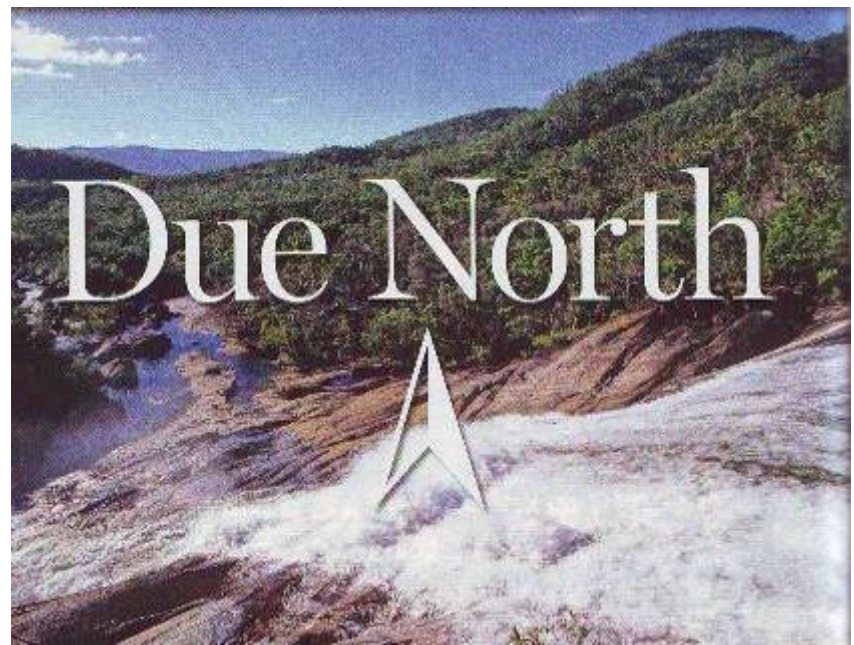
The canal would be about 3,700 km long and would generally follow the contours of the land along its route.

CSIRO climate change forecasts predict:

- Increasing rainfall in the Kimberleys (with annual average increases of up to 35% by 2070), and
- Decreasing rainfall in Perth and southwestern WA (up to 20% less by 2030 and 60% less by 2070).

The canal would reliably deliver up to 200 gigalitres of high-quality fresh water to Perth each year, sufficient for 40% of the city's long-term needs.

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Rich pickings

There's water and rolling flat, blacksoil plains, so Bob Katter wants to know where the farmers are.

Ring Bob Katter. Ask him if there's room in the north for a few more farmers in his neck of the woods. You will hang up, ear-sore, some 50 minutes later. But you know that the popular independent member for Kennedy, a former cattleman, passionate historian, dreamer, likeable person and fearless free-speaker, knows his electorate.

Yes, he says, there's room in north Queensland for an agricultural revolution.

"My family has always lived on the Cloncurry River and it has run every single year in the white man's history," says Katter.

"People talk about megalitres of water. Know how much that is? A megalitre is enough water to cover half a hectare of land to



DRY ARGUMENT Queensland MP Katter says we've waited too long already

Research to underpin sustainable management

- Need for development in northern Australia
 - Need to avoid the mistakes made in the south
 - Lack of basic knowledge of the full implications of future scenarios
- ⇒ Fundamental need for research
- ⇒ Historic opportunity

TRaCK's Objectives

- Increase understanding of the environmental, cultural, economic and social benefits provided by tropical rivers and estuaries;
- Develop methods and tools for assessing the implications of current use and potential developments;
- Identify opportunities to develop sustainable enterprises; and
- Build the capacity and knowledge of the community to manage Australia's tropical rivers and estuaries.

TRaCK Research Consortium

- **70 researchers from 18 organisations**
 - CDU, GU, UWA, JCU, ANU, Uni. Canberra
 - North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)
 - CSIRO
 - *eriss*, AIMS, GeoScience Australia
 - Land and Water Australia
 - NT, WA, Qld Governments

TRaCK's Aim

To provide the science and knowledge that governments, communities and industries need for the sustainable management of Australia's tropical rivers and estuaries



What is TRaCK focussing on?



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Assets & values

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Riverscape & coastal settings

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Riverscape & coastal settings

Material budgets

Food webs & biodiversity

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Assets & values

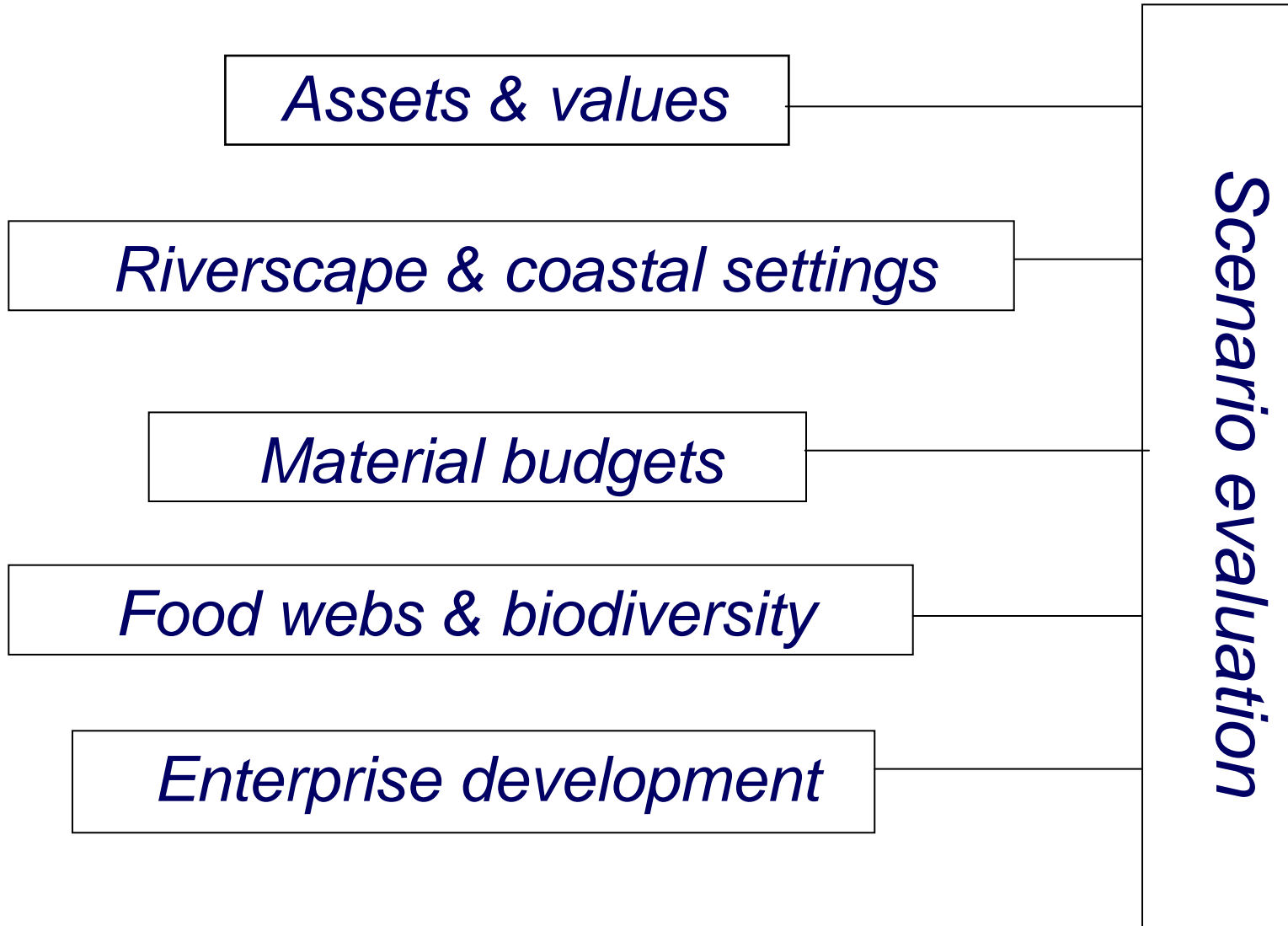
Riverscape & coastal settings

Material budgets

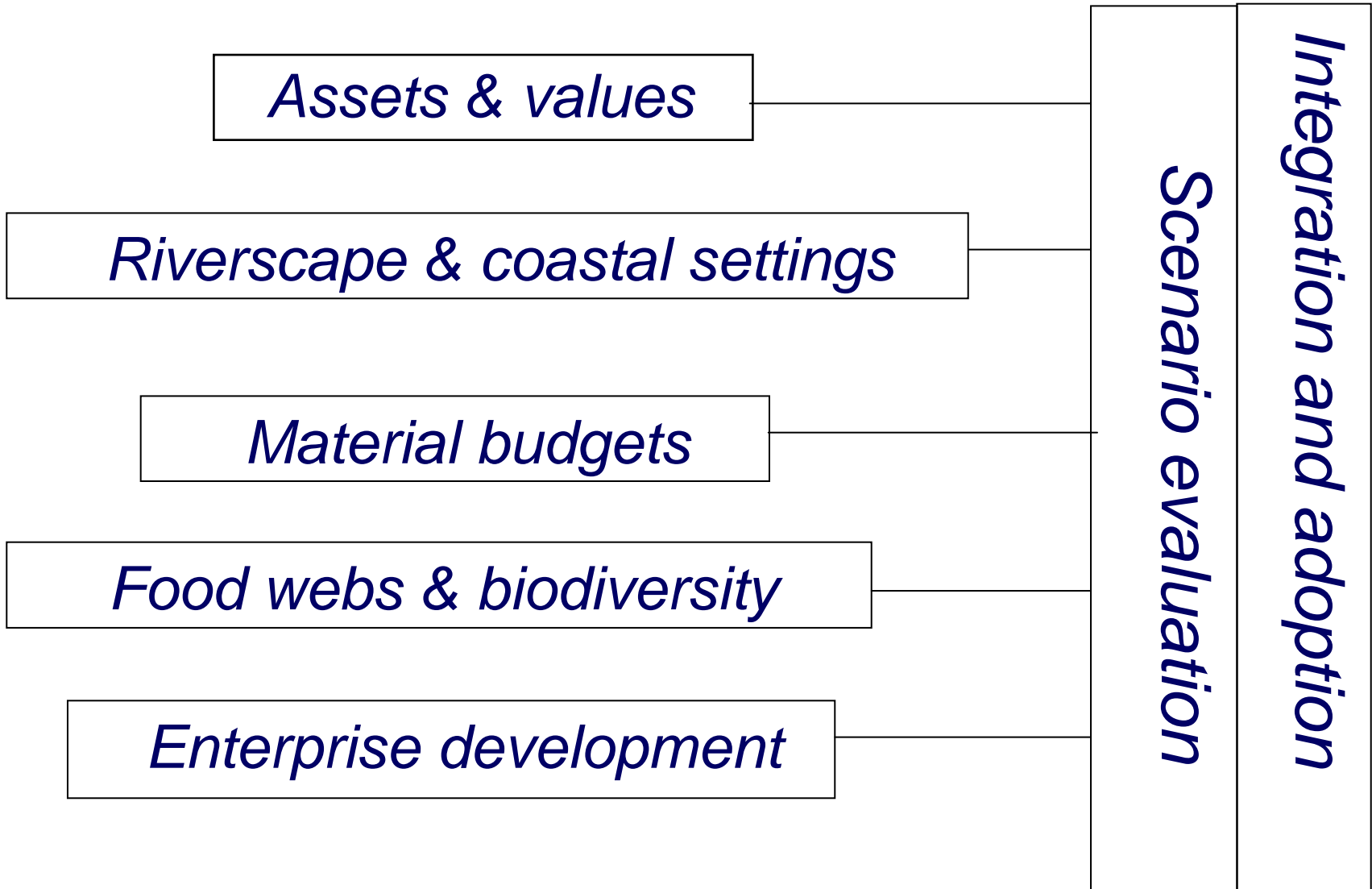
Food webs & biodiversity

Enterprise development

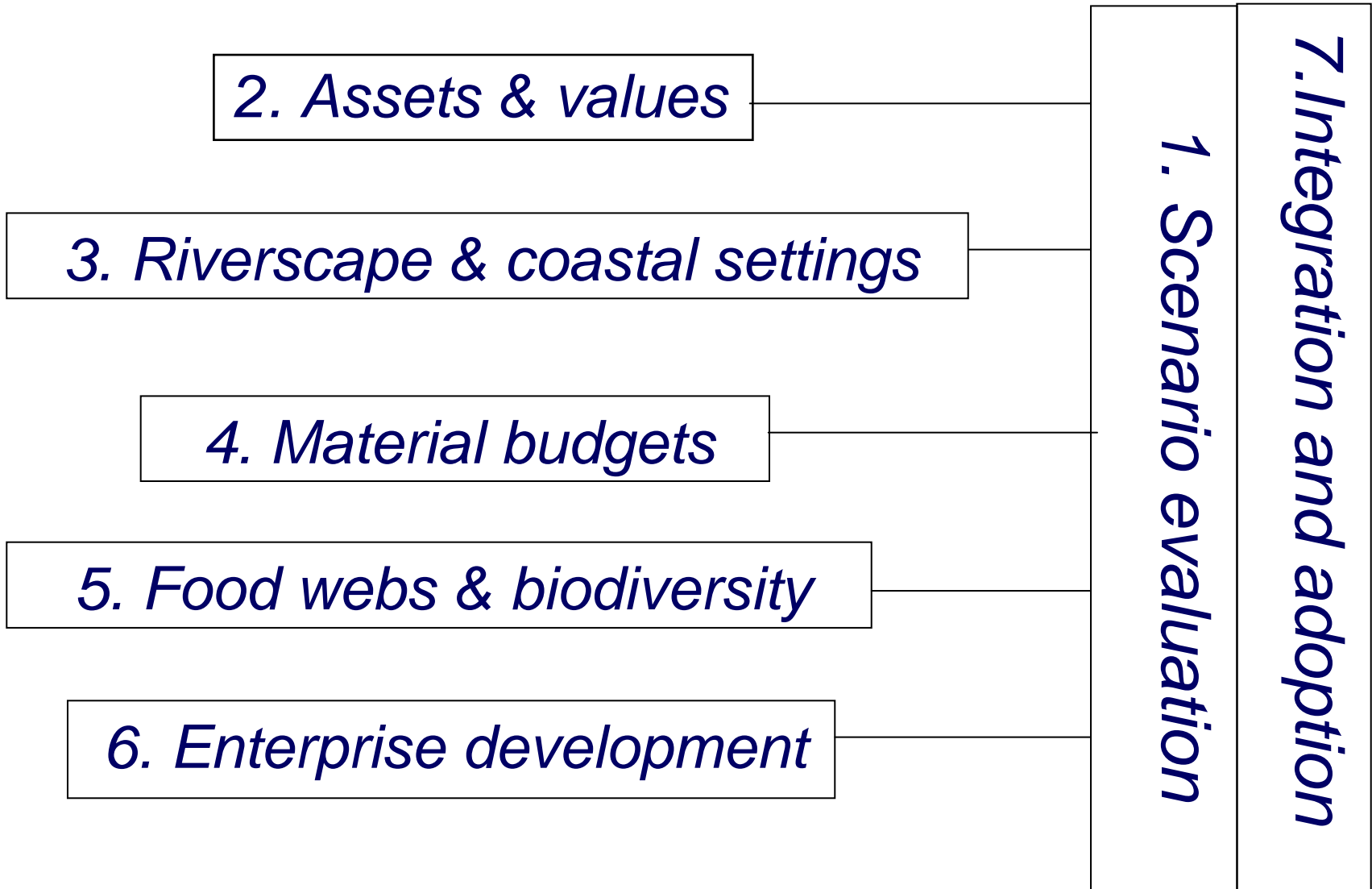
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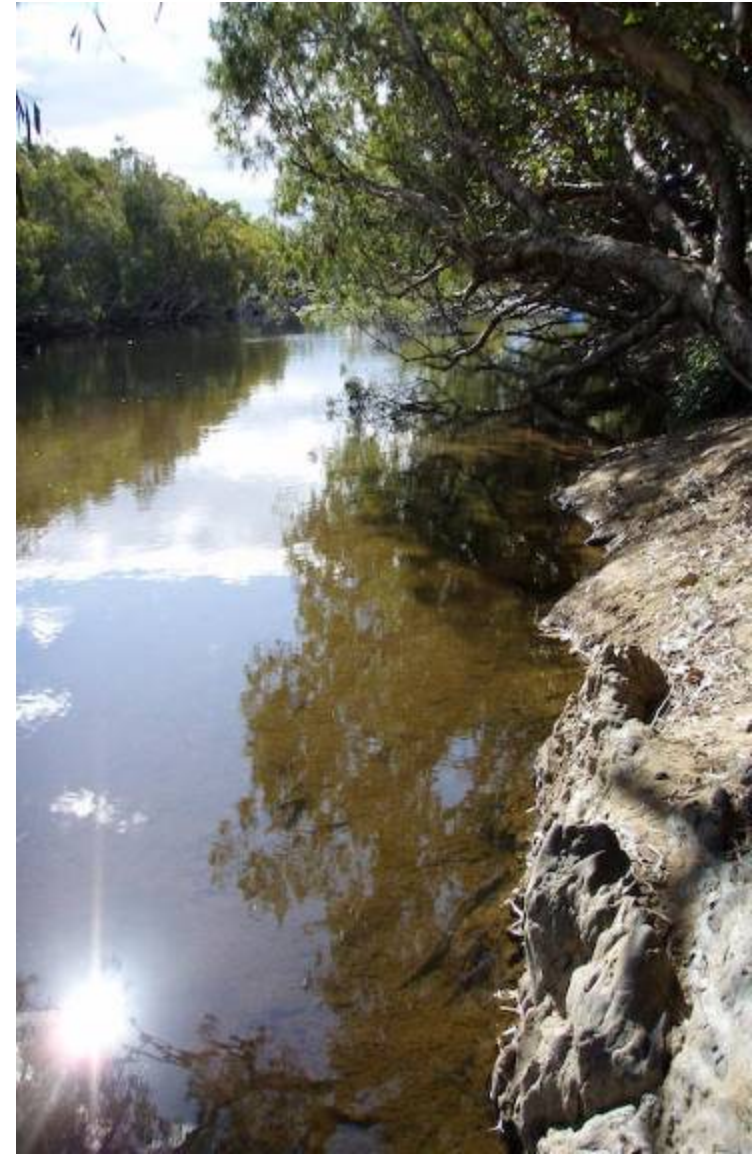


TRaCK research in Qld



TRaCK research in Qld

- 22 TRaCK projects
 - 5 across the entire region
 - 13 in Qld
- For all TRaCK research in Qld
 - \$2 m from Qld Government
 - \$4m from Australian Government
 - In-kind from partners
- Co-ordinated by Griffith Uni.



Timeframe

- Most projects start in Qld this dry season
- Most end mid-2010
- Consultation in Qld
 - Meetings with MRWMSG and NGNRM since 2005
 - Contacted Cape York Institute in 2006

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