# Overview of research activities with a specific emphasis on water quality monitoring from EO data

Aquatic Remote Sensing team and contributors CSIRO Environment April 2024

## Content of this presentation

I. CSIRO: overview

II. Coastal and inland observatories

III. Satellite remote sensing for coastal monitoring

IV. EO data integration into datacubes & ML/AI applications



## Our business units and focus areas



Agriculture and Food



Energy



Health and Biosecurity



Environment



Manufacturing



**Mineral Resources** 



Space and Astronomy



Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness



Data61



Marine National Facility



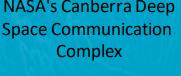
National Computing Infrastructure



National Research Collections of Australia

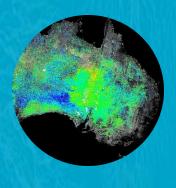
# Space facilities and infrastructure







**ESA's New Norcia** ground station



Data analytics



**Satellite Optics** Laboratory



NovaSAR-1 **National Facility** 



Satellite calibration/ validation

#### **CSIRO** CSIRO & CSIRO Environment

- CSIRO is Australia's national science organisation
  - Federal agency, ~5,000+ staff
  - Acts as a trusted advisor(nationally and internationally) and provides expert assessments
- There are 50 sites distributed nationally, and some internationally
- CSIRO is engaging with over 3,000 partners in
  - industry and
  - government agencies (at state, federal and international levels).
- CSIRO Environment Business Unit: created in December 2022
  - New BU with over 1,000 staff across 19 sites (largest of CSIRO)
  - In the context of aquatic environments:
    - Large focus on the Great Barrier Reef,
    - Land to coast interactions: coastal and inland waterways.





### **CSIRO** CSIRO & the Aquatic Remote Sensing team

#### Who we are and what we do



The Aquatic Remote Sensing team: 10 team members



in-situ and satellite earth observation data across a wide range of **spatial**, spectral and temporal scales



We aim to answer large and small environmental questions, such as

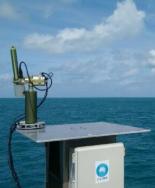
- physical processes e.g. deriving sediment loads
- marine and atmospheric pollution, including oil spills
- Carbon fluxes as well as water quality and benthic habitat dynamics.



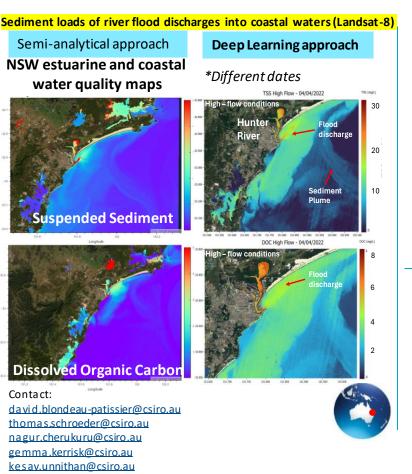
#### **Common theme:** observations-to-models translation

- management relevant applications
- calibration & validation, coupling field optical & bio-geochemical observations
- development of robust physics-based inversion algorithms
- water quality & benthic habitat mapping
- optically deep & shallow aquatic environments

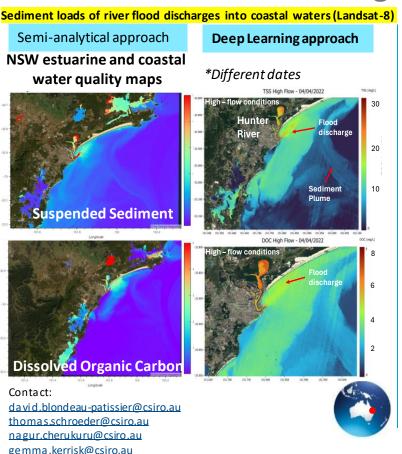


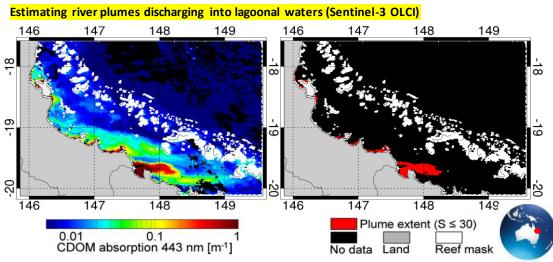


#### **CSIRO** Environmental management-relevant applications



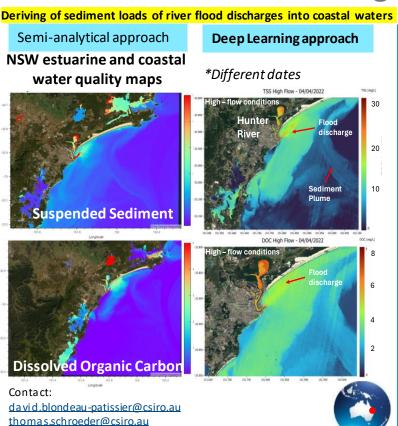
#### **CSIR** ironmental management-relevant applications

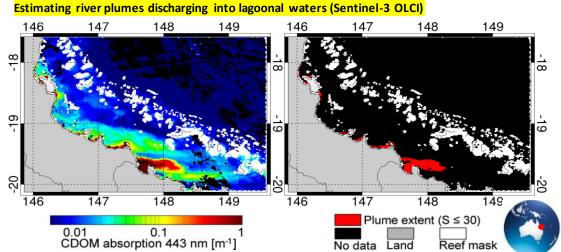




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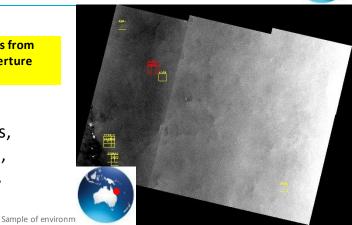
#### **CSIR** ironmental management-relevant applications





Monitoring and detecting oil features from illegal discharges using Synthetic Aperture Radar (Sentinel-1 SAR)

- Semi-analytical models,
- Fully empirical models,
- Deep learning models,
- ....



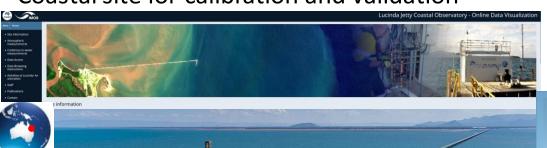
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#### https://lucinda.it.csiro.au/

## **CSIRO** Coastal observatory

Coastal site for calibration and validation



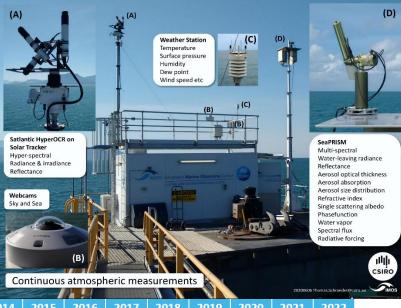
Lucinda Bulk Sugar Terminal

Coastal observatory

Commission of Instruments and testing

• LJCO: The Lucinda Jetty Coastal Observatory

- operational since 2014 (**10 years**).
- Continuous above-/in-water optical measurements
- Fortnightly water quality sampling to
- support validation of Ocean Colour observations
- provide calibration inputs to CSIRO's models
- improve consistency of radiometric measurements



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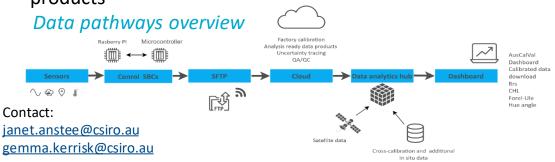
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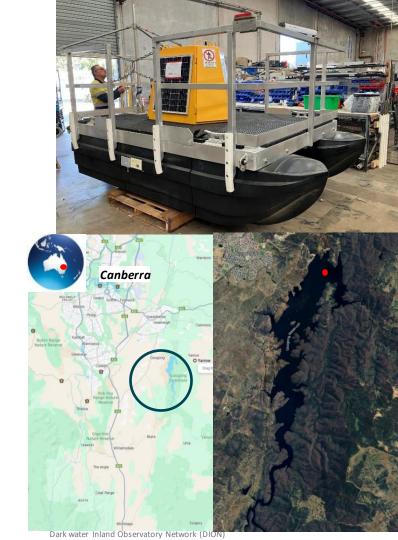
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## **CSIRO** Inland observatory

#### Inland site for calibration and validation exercises

- **DION:** Darkwater Inland Observatory Network
- To contribute quality assurance observations to global calibration and validation efforts.
- High temporal database of paired laboratory, in situ and satellite observations for modelling and forecasting
- Operational facility, open access portal for data and products





#### **CSIRO** Instrumentation and sensors

Field observations: above-/underwater sensors



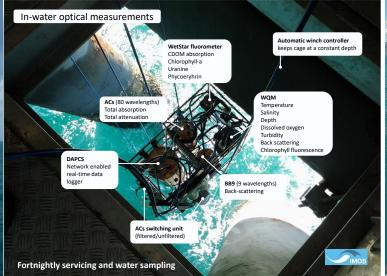
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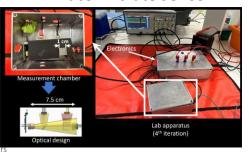






- Water quality monitoring
  - Above-water surface reflectance,
  - Under-water bio-optics & biochemical concentrations,
  - water temperatures,
  - Satellite validation,
  - Algal bloom alerting, ....

#### In-water nitrate sensor



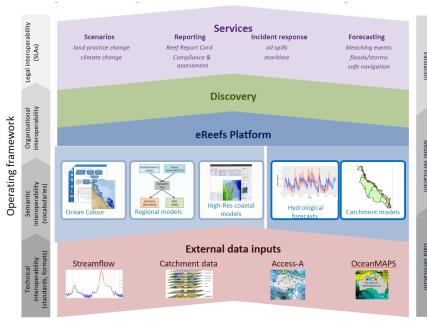
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## **CSIRO** Satellite remote sensing for coastal monitoring 1/4

#### The eReefs multi-partner project - <a href="https://www.ereefs.org.au/">https://www.ereefs.org.au/</a>

- eReefs was developed in 2011 and is operational, and growing, ever since
  - · Assess climate extremes and change on the Great Barrier Reef
  - Manage coastal water quality in the Great Barrier Reef
  - Be a foundation for other studies
- Multi-partner project:
  - · Queensland government,
  - Australia's Bureau of Meteorology,
  - Australian Institute of Marine Science
  - CSIRO.
- Several component:
  - in situ observations,
  - modelling and
  - remote sensing (ocean colour, SAR).

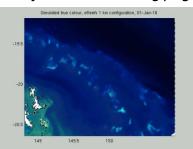








#### eReefs website landing page



Modelled satellite reflectance ©CSIRO modelling team

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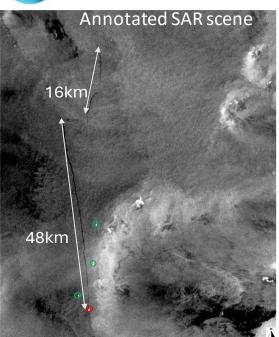
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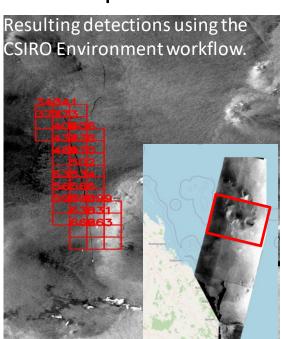
Overall concept of eReefs

verification

#### **CSIRO** Satellite remote sensing for coastal monitoring 2/4

'llaral oil discharges: detecting oil spilled in the Great er Reef using Synthetic Aperture Radar.





- Empirical approaches combined with machine learning are used for the monitoring and detection of illegal discharges in the Great Barrier Reef.
- This workflow is operational since December 2021 and operated by CSIRO Environment.
- Workflow can be relocated to New Caledonia.

Oships Oship that likely discharged oil Contact:

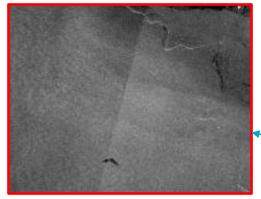
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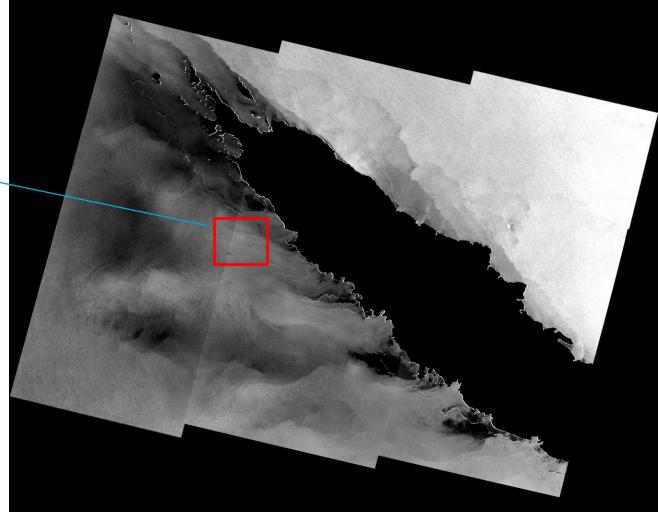
SAR remote sensing and machine learning

Synthetic Aperture Radar



#### **Sentinel-1 SAR**

- 90 scenes / year
- every 12 days
- ~20m resolution



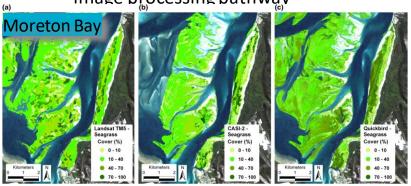
## CSIRO Satellite remote sensing for coastal monitoring 3/4

#### vegetation and substratum mapping

 Typically involves high-resolution satellite imagery (\$\$\$)

- The images are used to:
  - design a more effective field survey plan
  - produce bathymetry & substratum-type maps

 implement a quality-controlled physics-based image processing pathway



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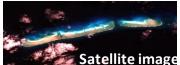
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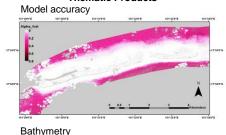
Inter-/supratidal vegetation mapping

# Wallis Lake (1985 - 2010) 32°14'0" Saltmarsh extent (API 1985)

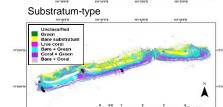
#### **Georgina Cay**



hematic Products







#### Substratum mapping

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Habitat mapping

#### **CSIRO** Satellite remote sensing for coastal monitoring 4/4

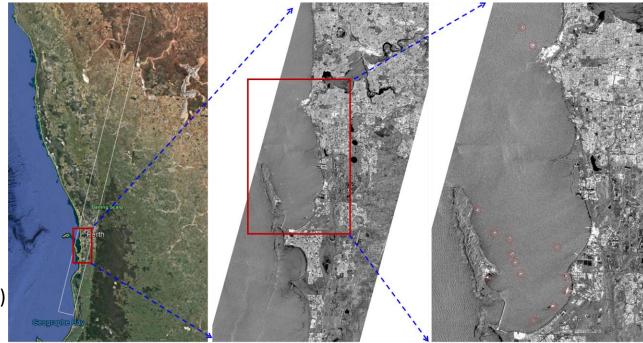
#### NovaSAR-1

CSIRO: 10% share

Launched: October 2018

Resolution: 6m and 20m

- Sensor tasking possibility
- Applications-focused approach:
  - Ship detection (illegal fishing)
  - oil spills detection
  - Land-use mapping



Ship Detection by NovaSAR-1: Scene footprint of NovaSAR-1 SCD image acquired on 4 July 2020, HH image of Perth Coast (centre) and Detected ship candidates in red circles (right)

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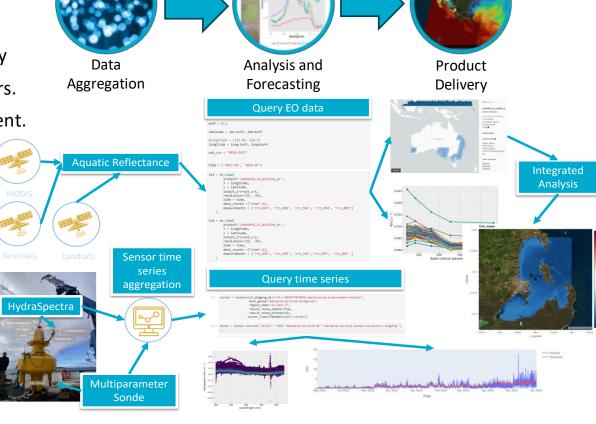
#### **CSIRO** EO data integration into datacubes

AquaWatch

- Data acquisition, analysis, security
- Support to pilot site and end-users.
- Service and application deployment.
- Workflow automation
- Impactful research



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#### **CSIRO** ML/Al applications (CSIRO Aquatic Remote Sensing team)



AI/ML approaches are used in many aspects of our deliverables

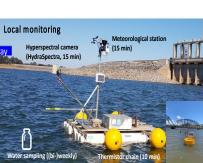
- Ocean colour:
  - atmospheric correction over coastal waters
  - Automated detection of surface algal blooms such as Trichodesmium spp
- **SAR**: feature-detection using Deep Learning
  - Illegal oil discharges
  - ships
- Data analysis and water quality forecasting
- Hybrid modelling tools for prediction of water quality
- Forecast of
  - chl-a in rivers,
- river water temperatures... Contact:

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Inland Aquawatch pilot sites: Lake Hume, Lake Tuggeranong, Grahamstown Dam, Melbourne Water WTP AI/ML and forecasting

## Thank you

#### **CSIRO Environment**

David Blondeau-Patissier (and collaborators) Aquatic Remote Sensing team Brisbane.

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This presentation was a collaboration between CSIRO Environment, Space and Astronomy, Data61





#### Satellite remote sensing for coastal monitoring 2/5

Deriving of sediment loads: Remote sensing of river

flood discharges into coastal waters



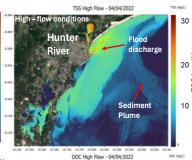
Contact:

nagur.cherukuru@csiro.au gemma.kerrisk@csiro.au kesav.unnithan@csiro.au River runoff (particulate, dissolved material)

# Semi-analytical approach NSW estuarine and coastal water quality maps

#### l \*Different dates

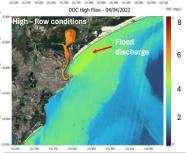




**Deep Learning approach** 



Ocean colour remote sensing



Optical remote sensing and machine learning

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## EO data integration into datacubes: The Living Reef

Previously: 2020-work <a href="https://www.thecube.qut.edu.au/whats-on/projects/the-living-reef">https://www.thecube.qut.edu.au/whats-on/projects/the-living-reef</a>

