

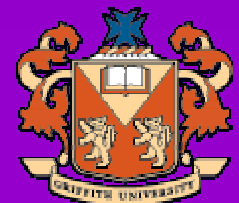
# Key Issues for Wildlife Spotlighting Tours

An assessment of Queensland operator  
activities and concerns

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# Outline

- Background/Significance
- Objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Concerns
- Summary

# Background

- Ph.D. – wildlife impacts and visitor satisfaction of wildlife spotlighting tours
- Important that research is relevant to industry
- Ask operators about activities and concerns

# Objectives

- Determine the types of spotlighting activities in Qld
- Identify sites and species involved in spotlighting activities in Qld
- Identify concerns of Qld spotlighting operators in relation to wildlife impacts & visitor satisfaction

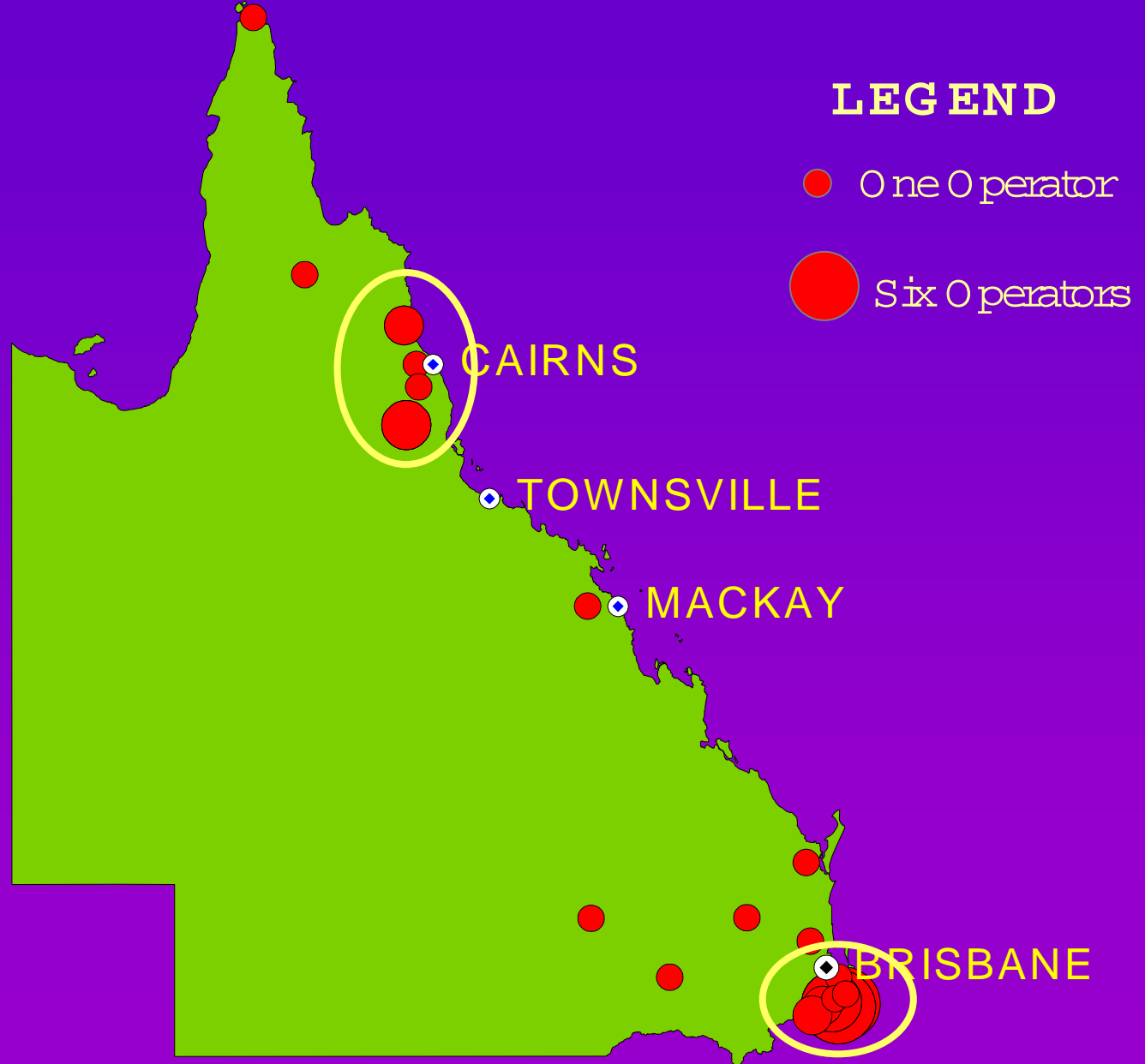
# Methods

- List of potential operators
- Phone calls & interviews with spotlighting operators

# Spotlighting Activity Results

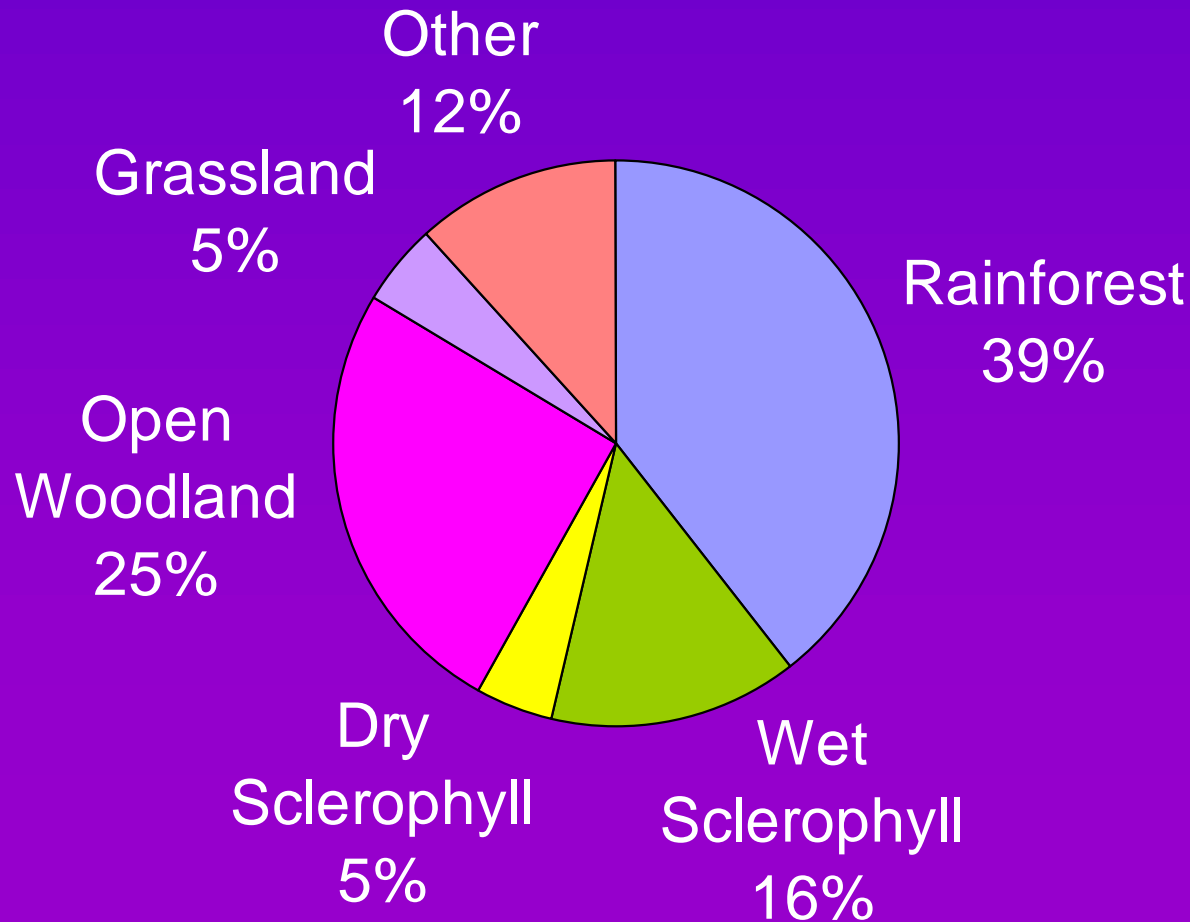
- 24 operators surveyed (92% response rate)
- 39% accommodation-based tours, 61% free-standing tours
- Tour ½ hr–3 days, spotlighting ½ –2hrs
- 39% reported light wattage (25W –100W range, 30W –35W most common)
- 30% used filters, mostly red

# Current Activities in QLD



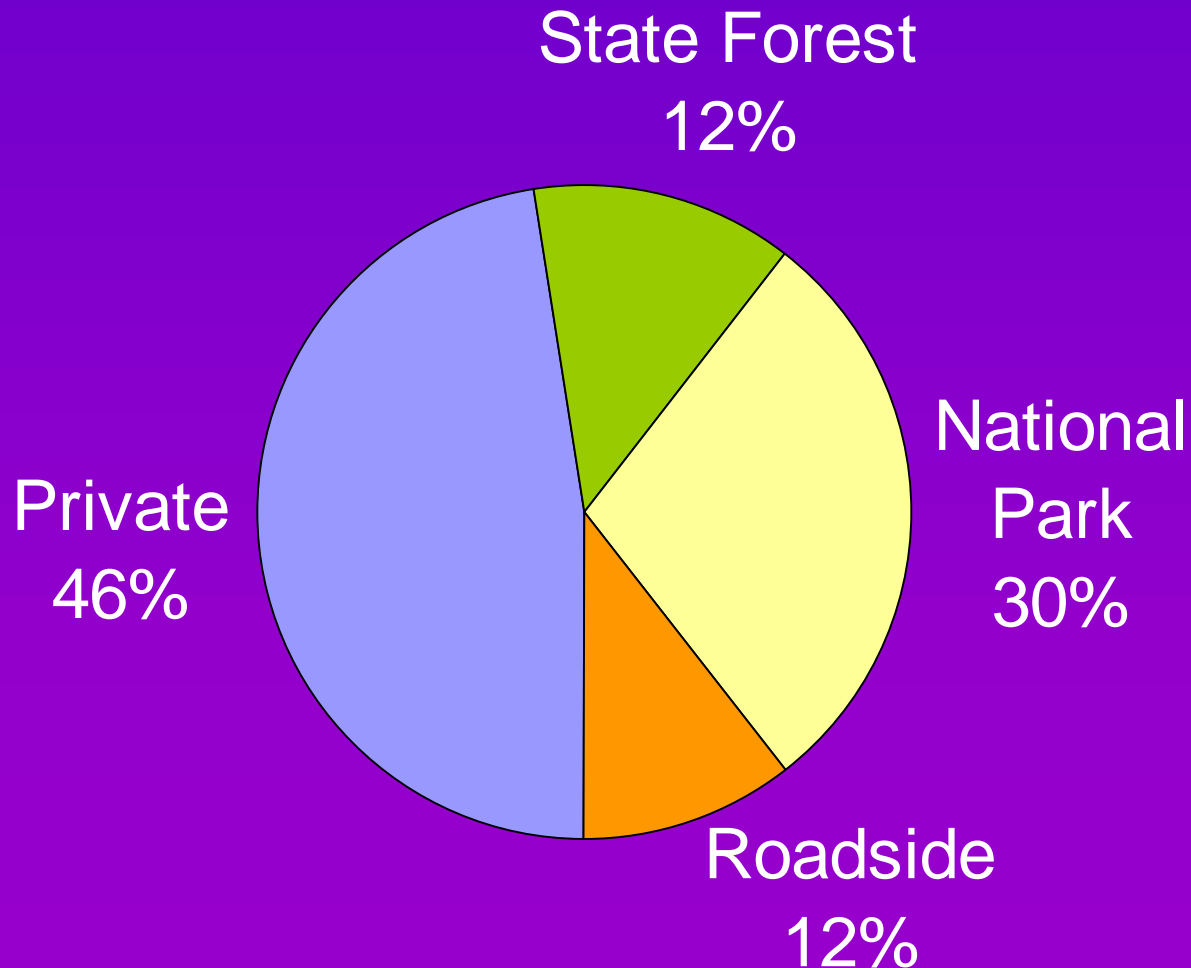
# Vegetation Types Used

- Rainforest most common vegetation type



# Land Types Used

- Private land most common land type



# Species Seen

- Most common animals
  - Possums & gliders (71% )
  - Macropods (50% )
- Most common arboreal marsupials
  - Common brushtail possum (38% )
  - Sugar glider (33% )
  - Common ringtail possum (29% )

# Visitor Satisfaction Concerns

- Inconsistencies in number and type of animals seen & expectations (65% )
- Tour group participants (30% )
- Guide personality , interest – affects interpretation offered (25% )
- Large group sizes (10% )

# Ways to Address Satisfaction Concerns

- Don't raise expectations
- Focus on the 'night experience' & habitat (other features of interest)
- Guide and interpretation offered
- Ask participants what they like and monitor their mood and interest

# Wildlife Impact Concerns

- 75% had concerns about wildlife impacts
- Light (duration & intensity) (35%)
- Number of people/tours/use of same area repeatedly (35%)
- Noise (15%)
- Behavioural alterations (15%)
- Don't know impacts (if any) (10%)
- Group size (10%)

# Ways to Address Wildlife Impact Concerns

- Low intensity lights & filters (limit)
- Don't shine light in eyes, or directly at animal - move into periphery
- Short duration looking at animals
- Limit size group (& noise levels)
- Stagger visitation
- Education, regulation and control

# Responses of Animals

- 75% noticed responses of animals whilst spotlighting
- Typical Responses
  - Look at light/group (47% )
  - Freeze (27% )
  - Move away (27% )
  - Hide (20% )
  - Change behaviour (13% )

# Summary

- Overview of current wildlife spotlighting activities in Qld
- Visitor satisfaction concerns mainly inherent spotlighting factors
- Wildlife impacts concerns factors which may be managed
- Further research on manageable characteristics of spotlighting tours

# Acknowledgements

Many thanks go to the spotlighting operators who participated in the phone interviews