Lakeland Irrigation Scheme - Update October 2022

Regional Development Australia
TROPICAL NORTH

An Australian Government Initiative

SMEC
Member of the Surbana Jurong Group

Lakeland Irrigation Scheme – Current Status

- The Draft Detailed Business Case (DDBC) for the Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme (LIAS) was presented to the State government for comment on 29th August 2022.
- Comments are expected from State agencies by mid October.
- These comments will be addressed and answers included with the Final DBC or amendments incorporated if appropriate.
- The final DBC will be submitted as soon as any outstanding work is completed and RDATN is satisfied that the document presents the best case for acceptance.
- Currently, stakeholder engagement and feedback is a high priority and and RDATN/SMEC will continue to engage with all elements of the community and those impacted in any way by the proposed project.
- For more information contact '*lakeland@rdatropicalnorth.org.au*'.

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How We Got Here

- 2015 - Lakeland irrigators sought improved water reliability and increased volumes
- Early 2016 – application through Cape York Sustainable Futures to Commonwealth Government for a Grant
- Early 2017 – Commonwealth Grant for $850,000 to CYSF
- Objectives
  - Area of Irrigable land in the Lakeland Area
  - How much water is required
  - What sources are available

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Expression of Interest – Feasibility Component

National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

Section A: General information

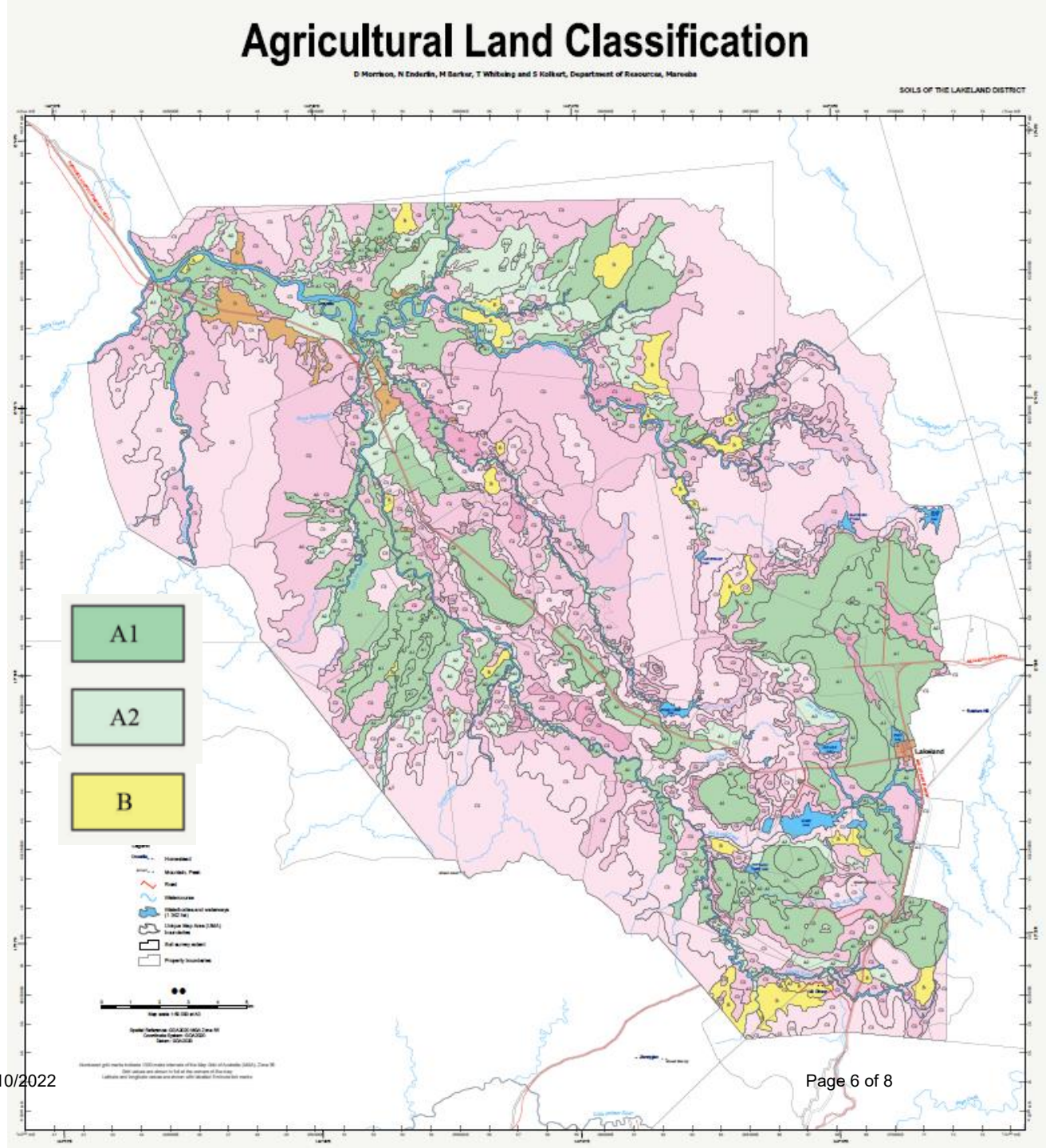
Purpose of this form	To apply for funding under the Feasibility Component of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund ('the fund').
Before applying	Read the Feasibility Component Guidelines Ensure you meet the eligibility requirements at section C of this form.
To complete this form	**Electronically** You can complete this form electronically, using Microsoft Word. Please remember to print it out and sign before submitting. **Manually** Use black or blue pen Print in BLOCK LETTERS Mark boxes with a tick or a cross
Your application must include	☒ a completed and signed application form ☒ all attachments listed at question 9
Email your application	waterinfrastructure@agriculture.gov.au
	Please note altered forms will not be accepted

Strategic Business Case Scope

- Need for Scheme
- Land and Soil availability and suitability
- Water Sources and preferred scheme to meet demand
- Technical Feasibility of preferred option
- Native Title (Desk Top)
- Cultural Heritage (Desk Top)
- Environment (Desk Top)
- Stakeholder engagement
- Economic Analysis, Benefit/Cost
- Feasibility Design Drawings
- Risk
- Next steps

Soil and Land Classification

- DNRME investigated an area of 58,442Ha
  - Concluded a total of 17,586Ha suitable for irrigation (Class A & B)
  - 8,000Ha of freehold Class A on the Red Tableland already cleared
- Water requirement based on an industry average of 10ML per Ha was 80,000ML



Water Sources

5 sources of water investigated

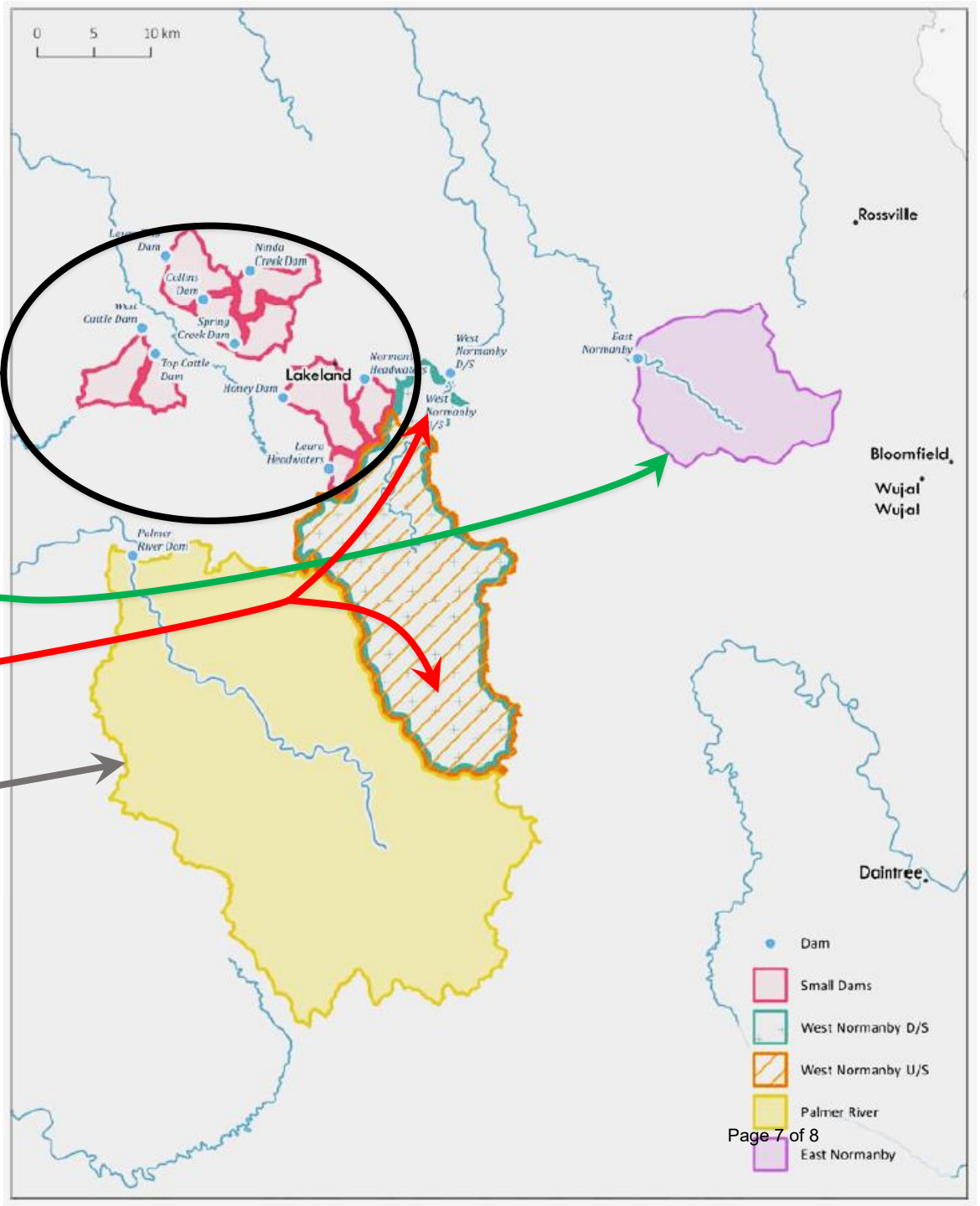
- Additional and augmented **on-farm dams** which currently service 935.5Ha with an additional 438.5Ha from groundwater sources.

  This investigation showed that this option would increase current reliability from 50% to 70% but would not sustain significant increases in irrigated land area

- **East Normanby R**iver – Discounted due to:
  - inclusion in National Park,
  - Distance from Lakeland,
  - Small catchment
  - High pumping costs
  - Discharge to Great Barrier Reef

- **West Normanby Ri**ver – 2 sites:
  - Small catchment would require capture of annual runoff to meet demand
  - High pumping costs
  - Discharge to Great Barrier Reef

- **Palmer Riv**er – 17km downstream from Roadhouse. This option had been identified previously by local farmers:
  - Large catchment -~900km^2
  - Large inundation volume ~200,000ML
  - Not in Great Barrier Reef catchment
  - Needs a transfer of water allocation from the Mitchell River system to the Normanby/Laura system



Lakeland Irrigation Scheme – Feasibility Outcomes

1. The service need was established for additional irrigable land and a new water source to service this area

2. Part of the Preliminary Business Case was completed by identifying a solution and conducting a Feasibility Analysis on the preferred option - **Palmer River Dam**

3. A cost estimate for delivery of a Detailed Business Case was developed, and a potential program of tasks prepared.

4. Prepared a submission to the Commonwealth Government for the next stage – a Detailed Business Case.