

# Everything I need to know about extension I learned from my cows



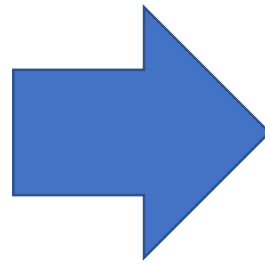
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# Self Herding is a Win-Win-Win

- Animal behaviours are the key link toward a combined future of improved production, increased landscape function and greater social connection to country.
- Livestock are the modern ‘Megafauna’ that link us back to the first Australians around 47,000 years ago.
- Animals are a tool that is spread across the landscape- we can choose to guide that- or not.



Keep them moving....repairing land as they go

# What can we do with Self Herding?

Managing  
vegetation  
cover &  
nutrition  
(rest & recovery)

Utilising a  
broader part  
of the  
landscape

'Accelerated  
Adaptation'  
to  
relocations

Mustering  
efficiency &  
opportunity  
gathering  
(stocking rate  
adjustment)

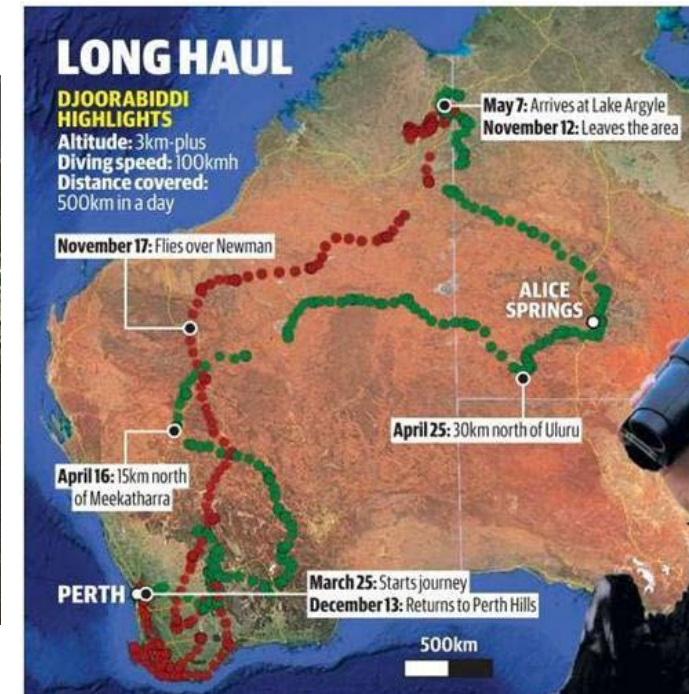
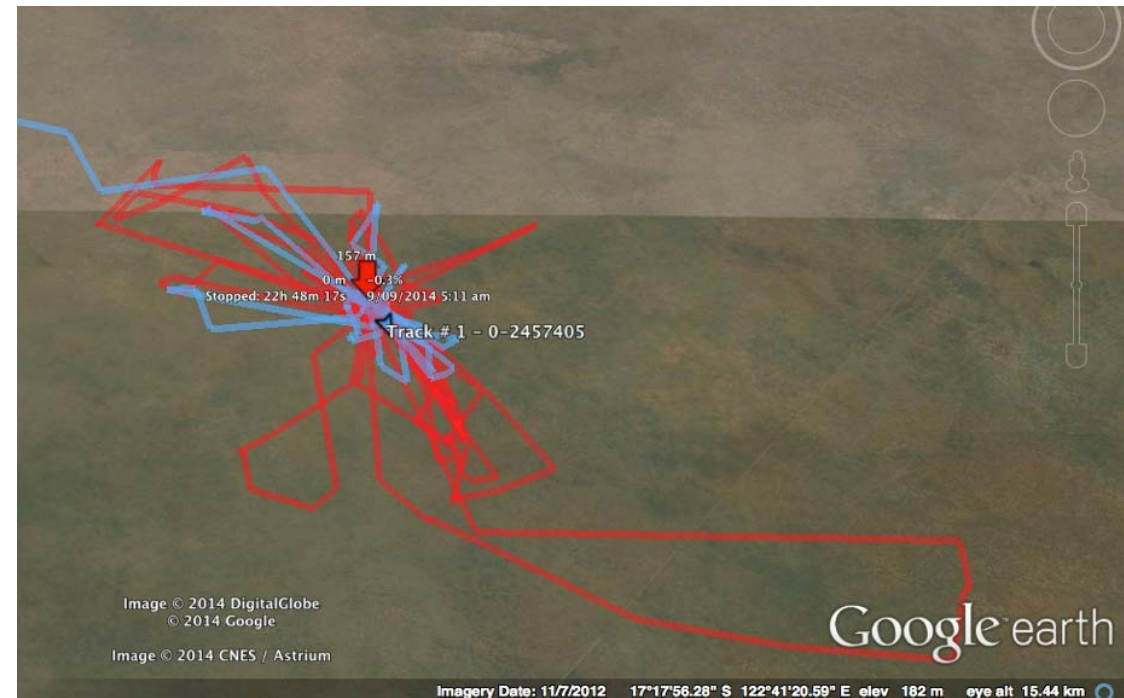
# Successful Self Herding

- Animals have a ***choice***; they must not feel ‘forced’
- ***Interactions are strengthened over time***
- Build ***familiarity*** with ***attractants/rewards*** that are paired with ***signals***
- The signals must be ***consistent (unambiguous)***
- This creates ***positive expectations*** and ***trust***
- ***Positive experiences*** reinforce a new behaviour
- Ongoing positive interactions ***build confidence, exploratory behaviour and group dynamics***



# Familiarity and Diversity are keys

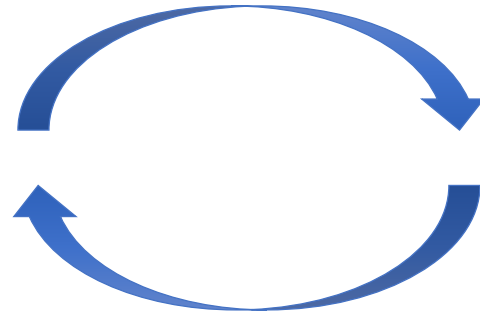
- It is how animals learn to adapt to their environment and survive.
- Behaviours are constantly changing depending upon the influences operating.
- We change their behaviours by communicating with them:
  - building confidence, trust, exploration and habitual change.



Expectations

Experience

Trigger a  
behaviour




Reinforces  
the  
behaviour

Trust & confidence

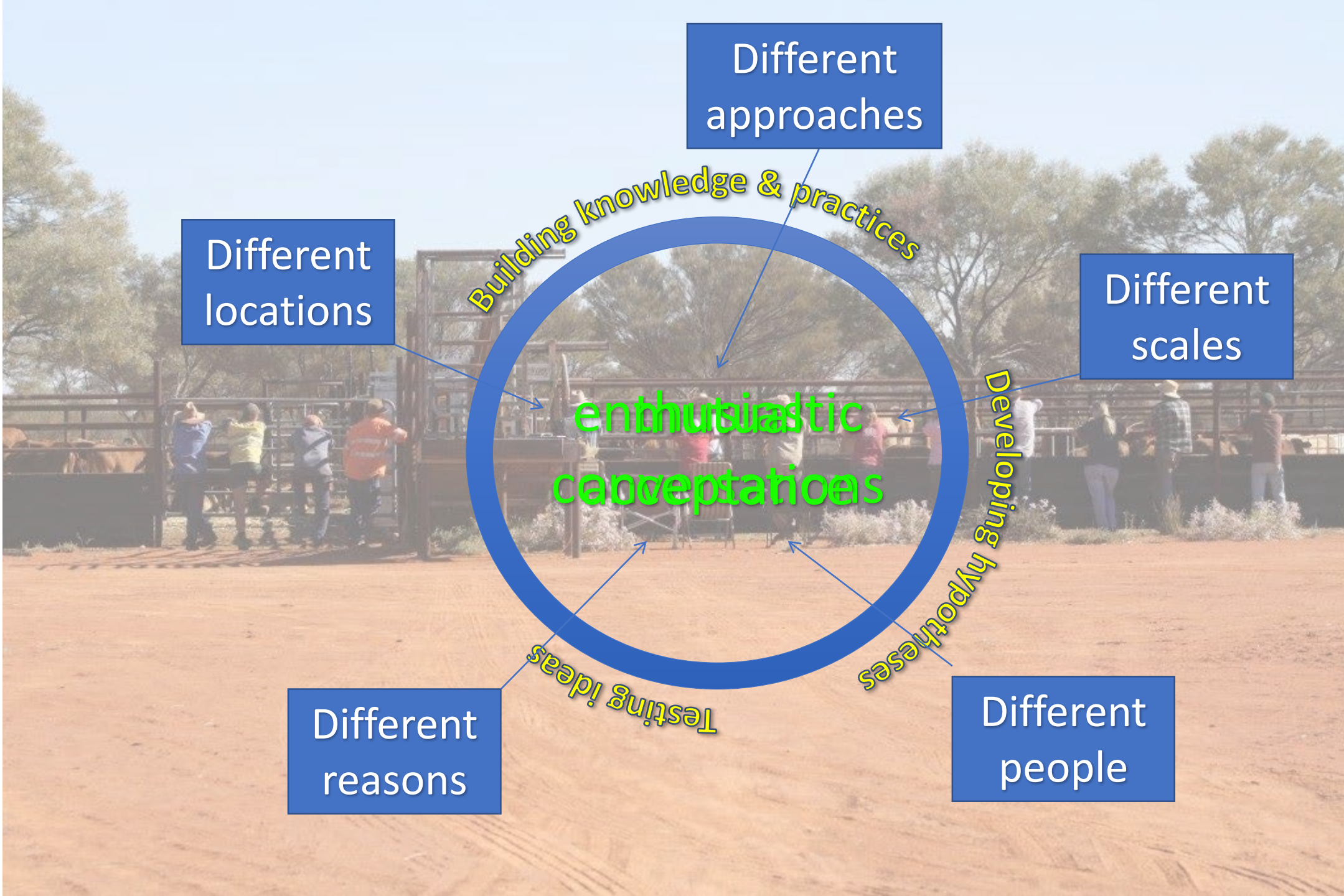
Encourages  
ongoing  
exploration  
& adaptation



A photograph of a herd of cows in a wooded area with red soil. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image. The cows are of various colors, including brown, grey, and white. One cow in the foreground is drinking from a blue bucket. The background is filled with tall, thin trees under a blue sky.

We are learning too

I know what to **expect** when I hear, smell and see what I know ... and I **trust** that it's **going to be** good



Different approaches

Different locations

Different scales

Different people

Different reasons

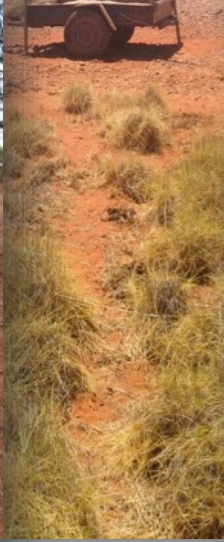
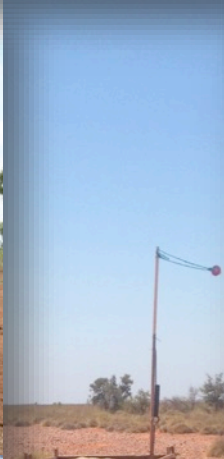
*Building knowledge & practices*

*Developing hypotheses*

*Testing ideas*

enthusiastic conversations





# Kidman Springs Research Station NT

Underutiised areas

Overused scalded  
area



Water point

# Cattle station near Marble Bar WA

Fence

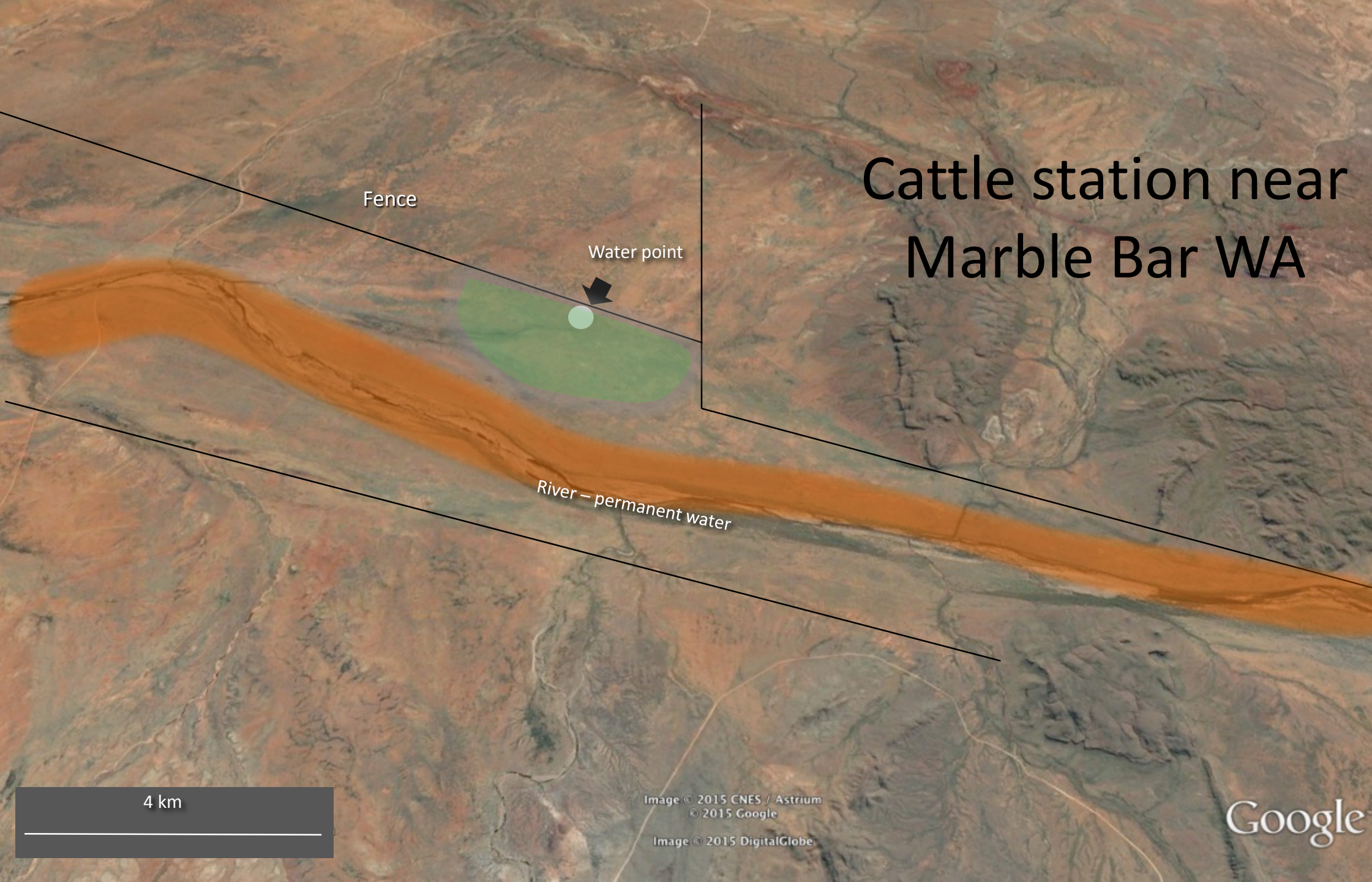
Water point

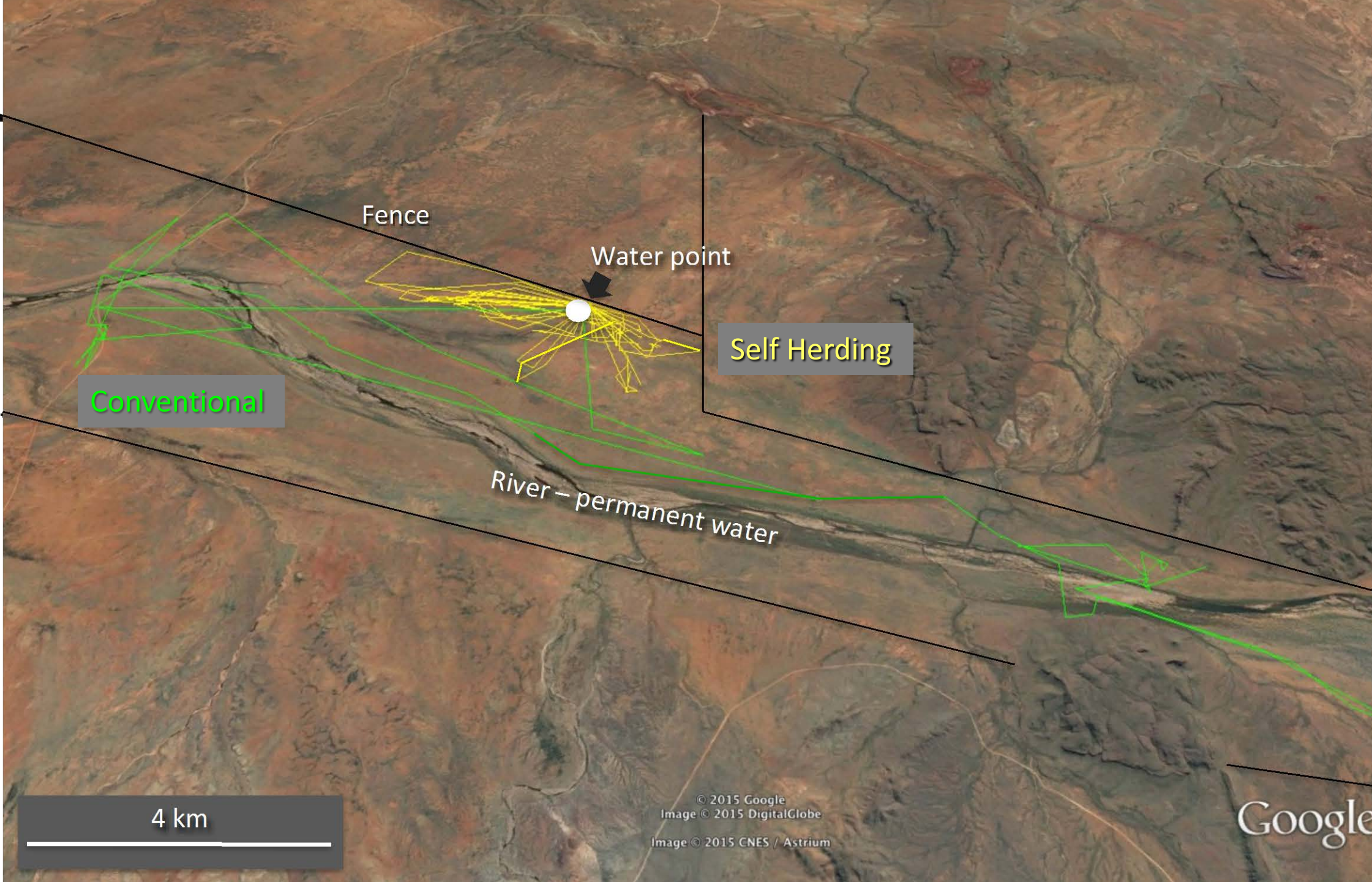
River – permanent water

4 km

Image © 2015 CNES / Astrium  
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Fence

Water point

Self Herding

Conventional

River - permanent water

4 km

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Google

# More Self Herding.....

- [selfherding.com](http://selfherding.com)



<a href="#">Self Herding</a>	<a href="#">What is Self Herding</a>	<a href="#">The 7 Principles</a>	<a href="#">Rangelands Self Herding</a>	<a href="#">Tools &amp; Tactics</a>	<a href="#">Learn More</a>	<a href="#">About Us</a>	<a href="#">Contact Us</a>
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## Self Herding

### Animals can learn to make choices that suit you

**Self Herding** and **Self Shepherding** is a discipline that creates opportunities for you to positively influence the decision animals make on where they go, and how they interact with each other, with you and with the landscape. The application of Self Herding principles guides the choice animals make about their grazing habitats and diet selection. By allowing animals to make choices whilst also influencing their decision making...

**Free Book**

set of practices that are, in themselves, simple and cheap to apply. Self Herding can be tightly focussed around a particular issue such as encouraging animals to use a new area, or broadened to encompass the way livestock, wildlife, plants and people interact over time and space. It's no exaggeration to think that you can shape the future because when behaviours change, everything changes.



**'Selfherding'**  
A smarter approach to managing livestock and landscapes 2018  
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