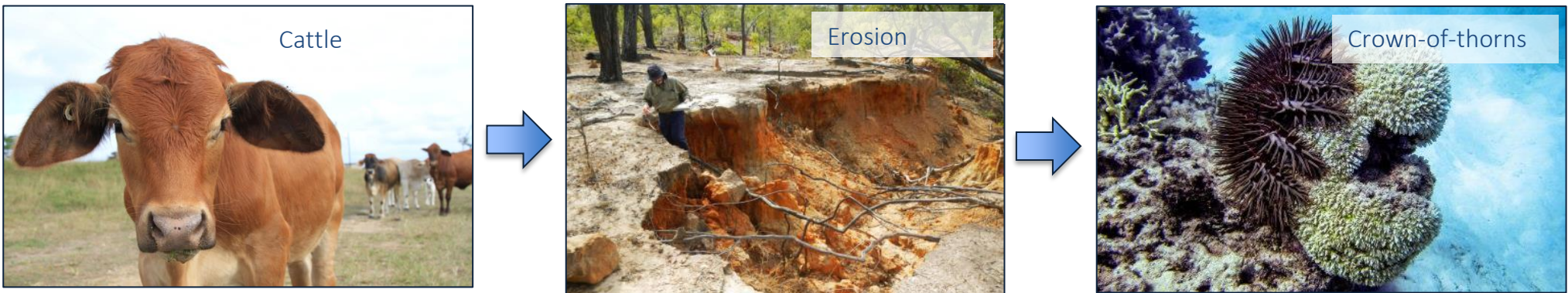


SOME OF THE TRUE COSTS OF ANIMAL-BASED FOOD CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN AUSTRALIA

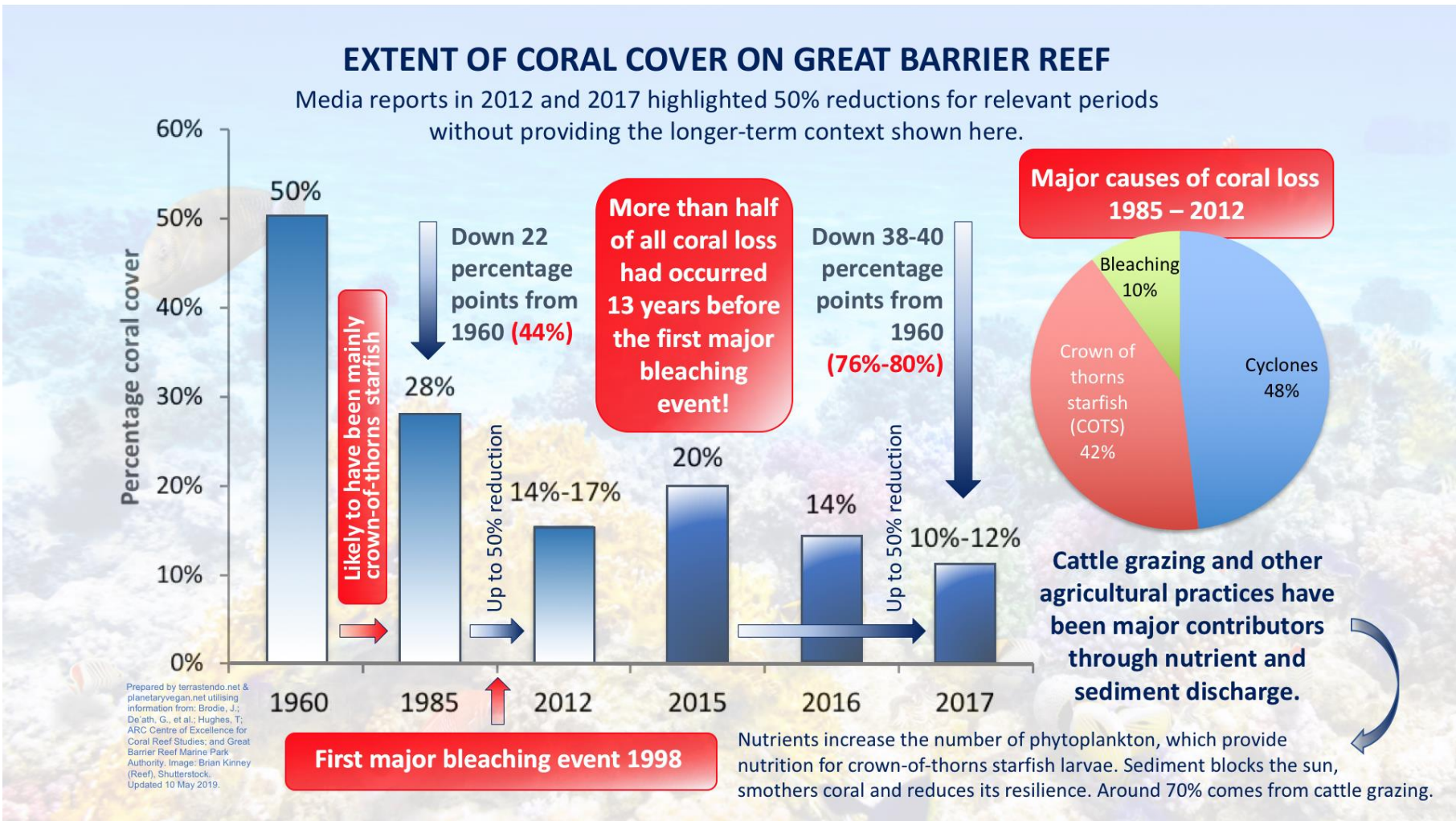


WWF has included eastern Australia in a list of 11 global deforestation fronts due to livestock-related land clearing in Queensland and New South Wales. The laws have improved in Queensland but worsened in NSW, and are always subject change depending on who is in power.

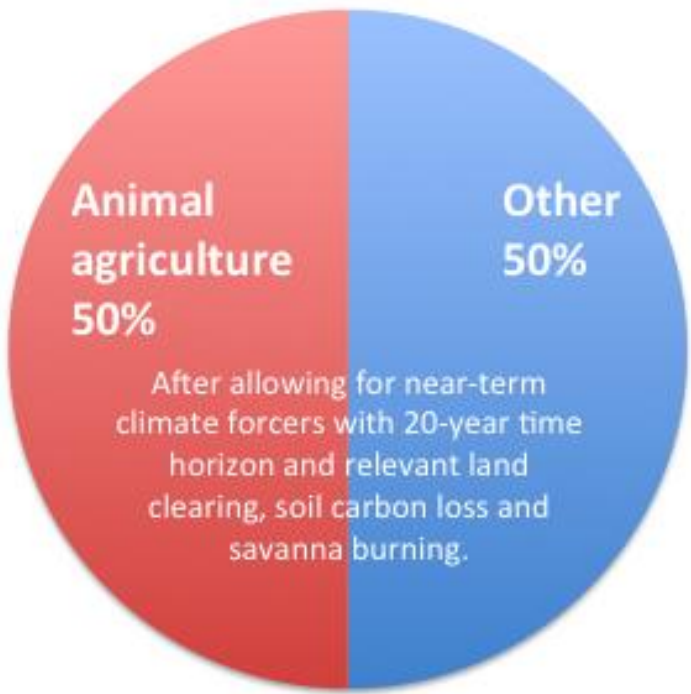
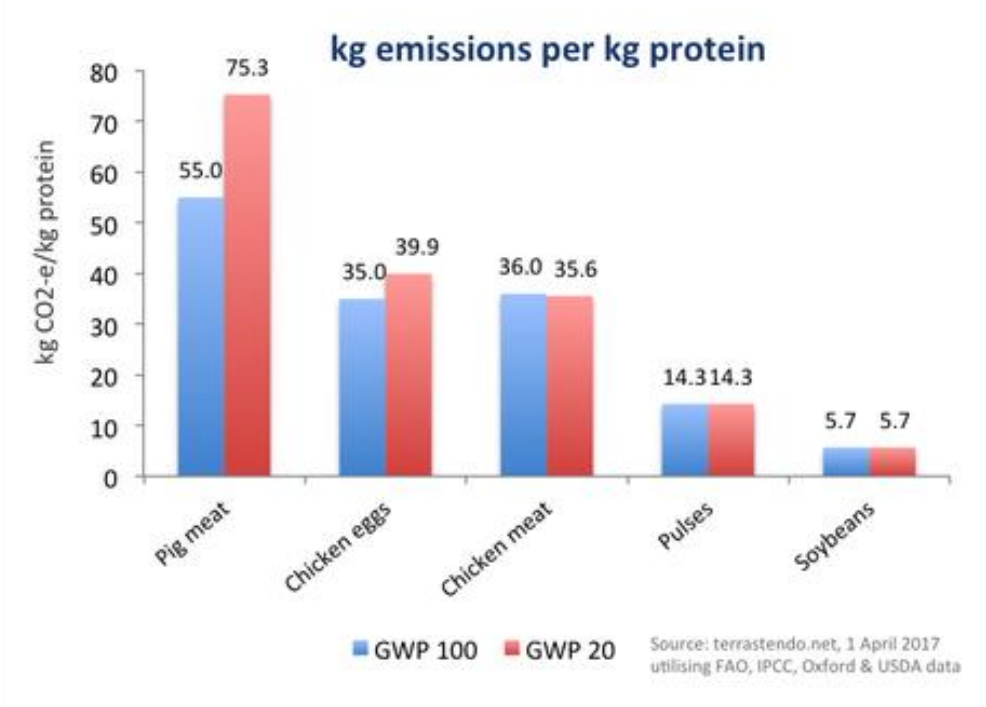
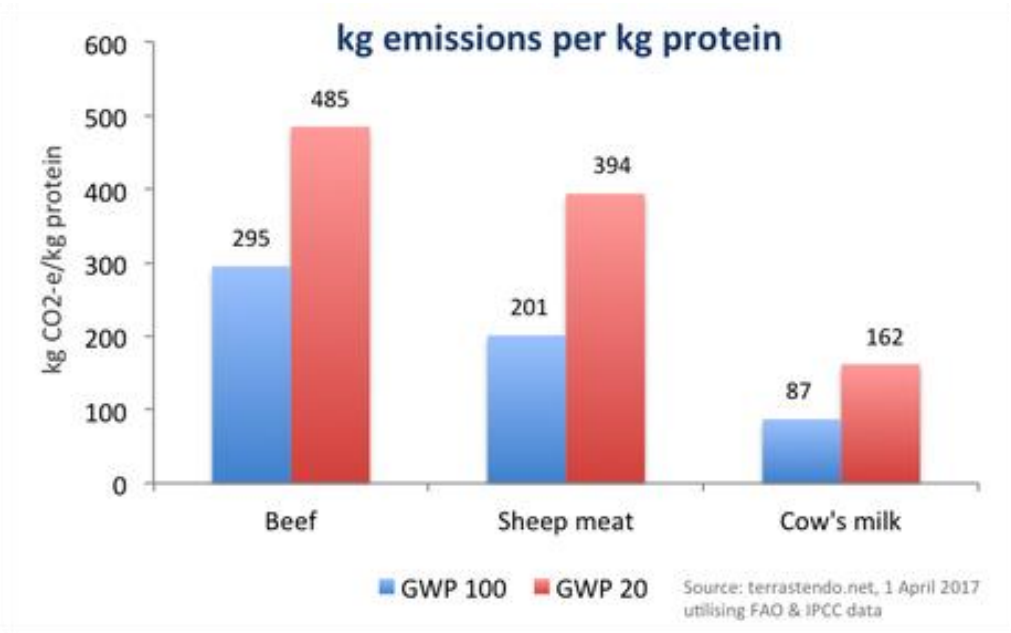
Cattle grazing has been a major contributor to sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous loads in the Great Barrier Reef's waters, reducing coral's resilience and increasing outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish.



Major bleaching events in quick succession have been disastrous for the reef, but so have decades of cattle grazing on cleared and uncleared land, along with other forms of agriculture.



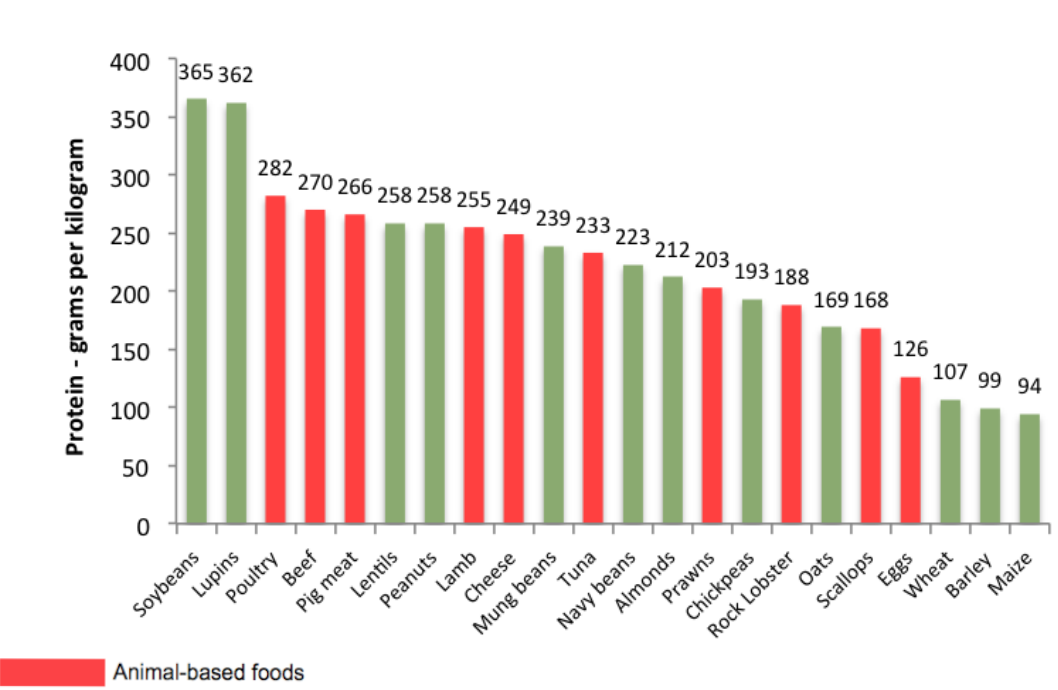
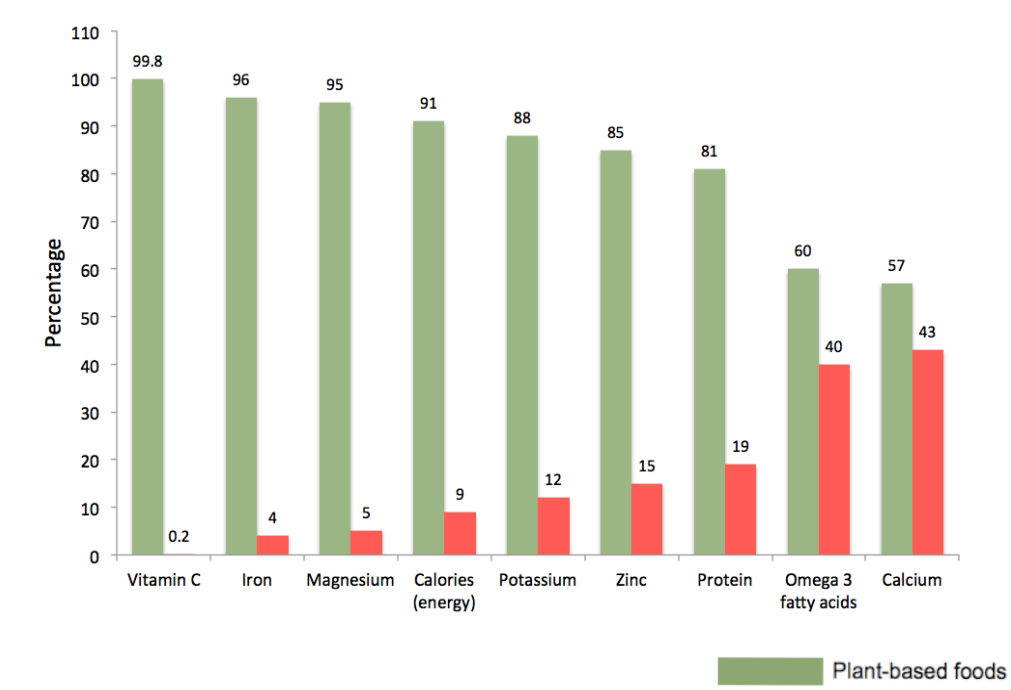
The greenhouse gas emissions intensity of animal food products far exceeds that of plant-based options. Here are some global average figures based on 100-year and 20-year time horizons. Australia’s figures for beef and sheep meat are below the global average but still multiples of plant-based figures.



Focusing on factors that are either ignored, conservatively estimated or attributed to other sectors in official figures, researchers from the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute at the University of Melbourne and Australian climate change campaign group Beyond Zero Emissions have estimated that animal agriculture is responsible for around 50% of Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions. We will not overcome the climate crisis without addressing fossil fuels and animal agriculture.

Most of our nutrients in Australia are produced in plant-based foods. That includes 81% of protein and 57% of calcium.

Per kilogram of product, soybeans contain 35% more protein than beef, including all the essential amino acids.



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The nutritional charts are based on: (a) production figures from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry’s “Australian food statistics 2011-12”; and/or (b) nutritional information for each product from the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) *National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference*.

Animal agriculture’s share of Australia’s emissions from Wedderburn-Bisshop, G., Longmire, A., Rickards, L., “Neglected Transformational Responses: Implications of Excluding Short Lived Emissions and Near Term Projections in Greenhouse Gas Accounting”, *International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses*, Volume 7, Issue 3, September 2015, pp.11-27. Article: Print (Spiral Bound). Published Online: August 17, 2015

Land clearing source: Queensland Govt Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) 1988-2018. The figure for remnant clearing conservatively assumes animal agriculture’s share is the same as its share of overall clearing. Land clearing laws have changed with successive governments and cannot be relied upon.

Full references for other information are available from planetaryvegan.net, including the article “Beef and the reef: An update”.

Images: IZO “sports field”, Photo ID: 142812358, Shutterstock; Angus cross Brahman Cattle | Michelle Wignall | Shutterstock; Gully erosion at Springvale Station | Andrew Brooks | Griffith University; Crown-of-Thorns Starfish | Ryan McMinds | Lizard Island, Flickr, [Attribution 2.0 Generic \(CC BY 2.0\)](#); Wonderful and beautiful underwater world with corals and tropical fish | Brian Kinney | Shutterstock