

Measuring and monitoring progress towards sustainable development

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24 November 2011

Overview

- ABS economic, social and environmental statistics
- Measures of Australia's Progress
- ABS program of environmental-economic accounting
 - Integrates economic and environment dimensions (and by extension social)

Information silos

- Data developed to answer one particular question or problem

Difficult to figure out if all information is included

Not always easy to see the whole picture, or how it relates to other things



Source: Julie Hass, Statistics Norway

Environmental-Economic Accounting

Help to make sense
of the larger picture

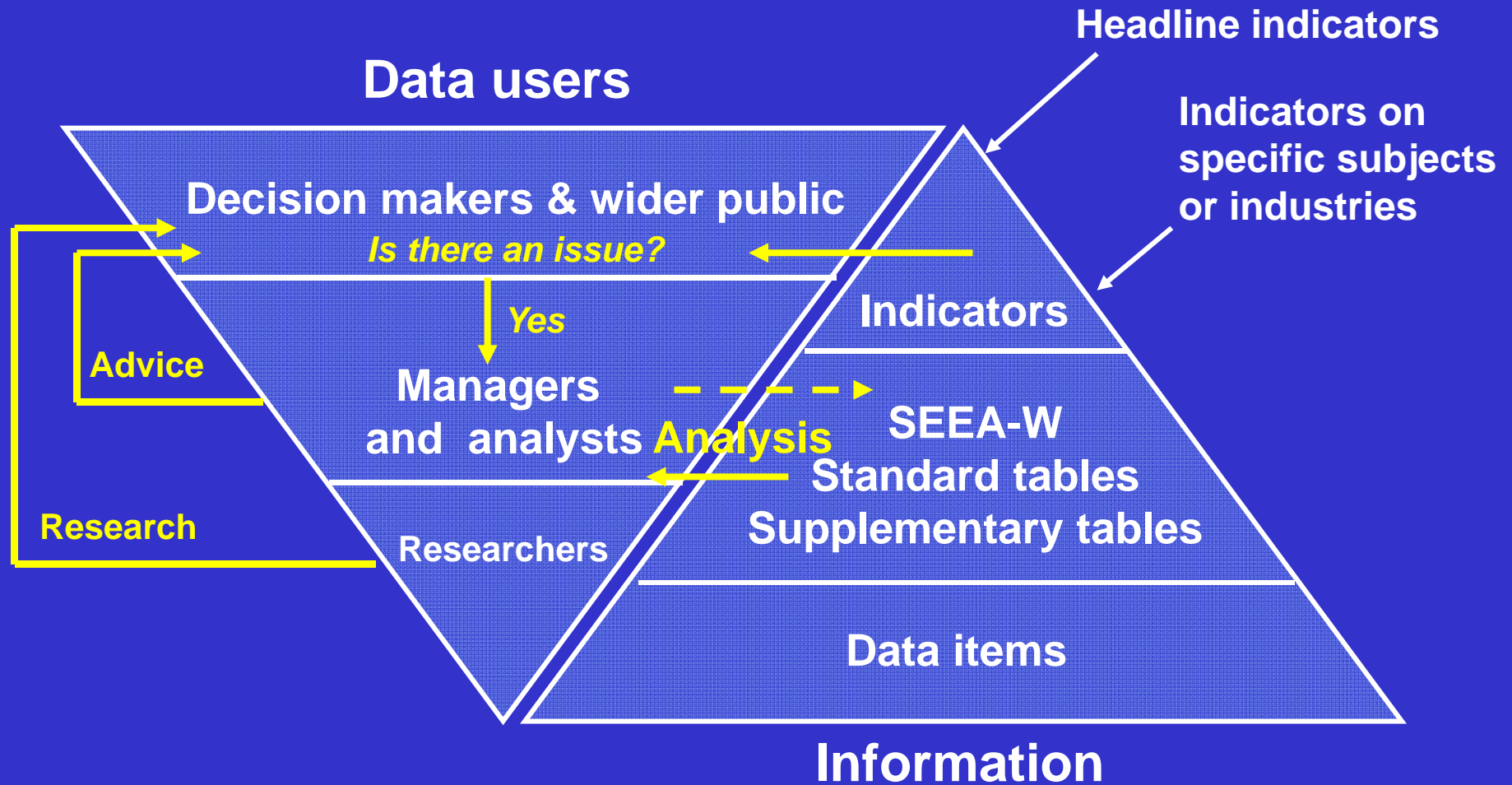
Help to identify
pieces that are
missing

Can make
connections to other
statistics - especially
economic statistics



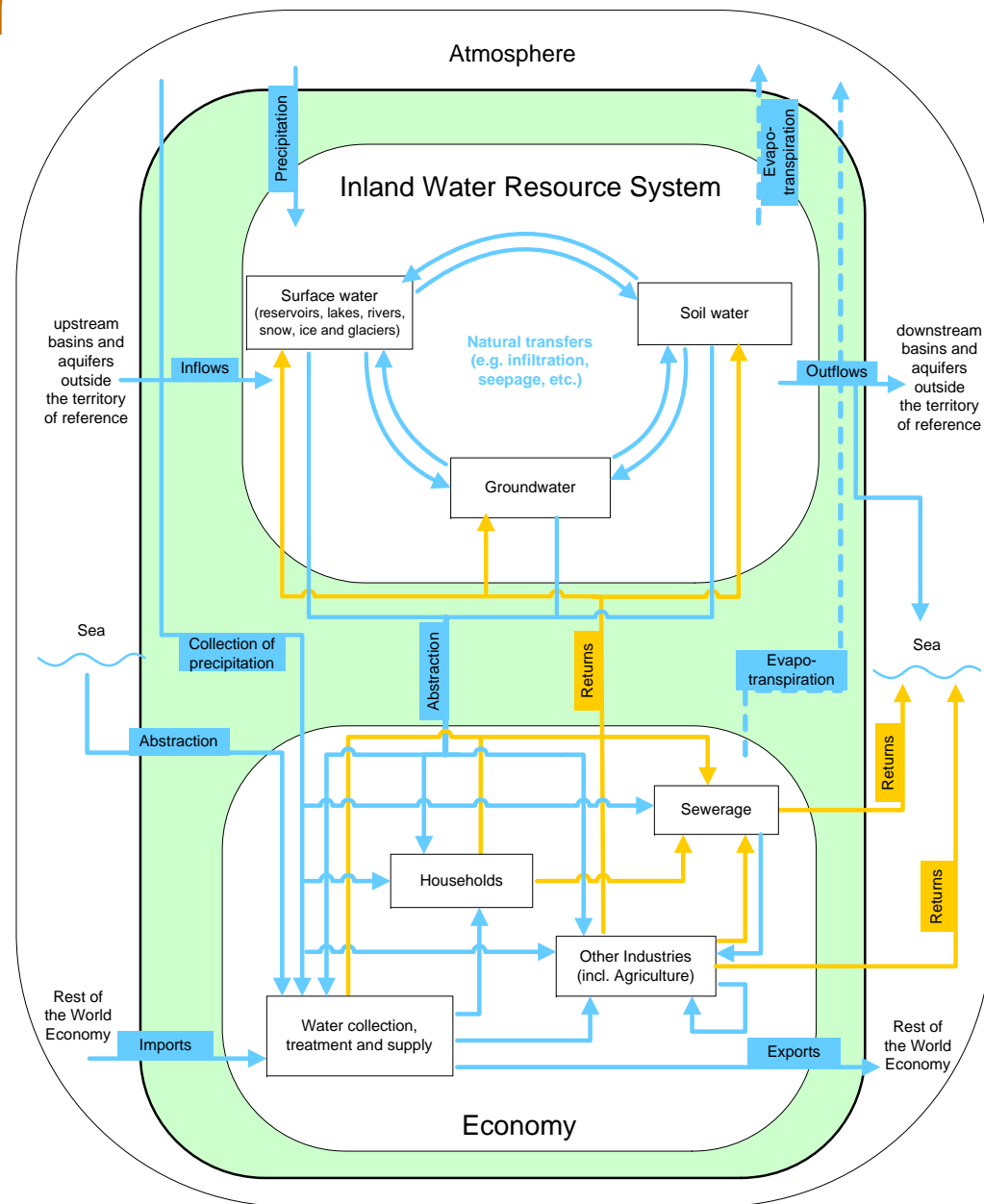
Source: Julie Hass, Statistics Norway

Audiences for information Indicators and accounts



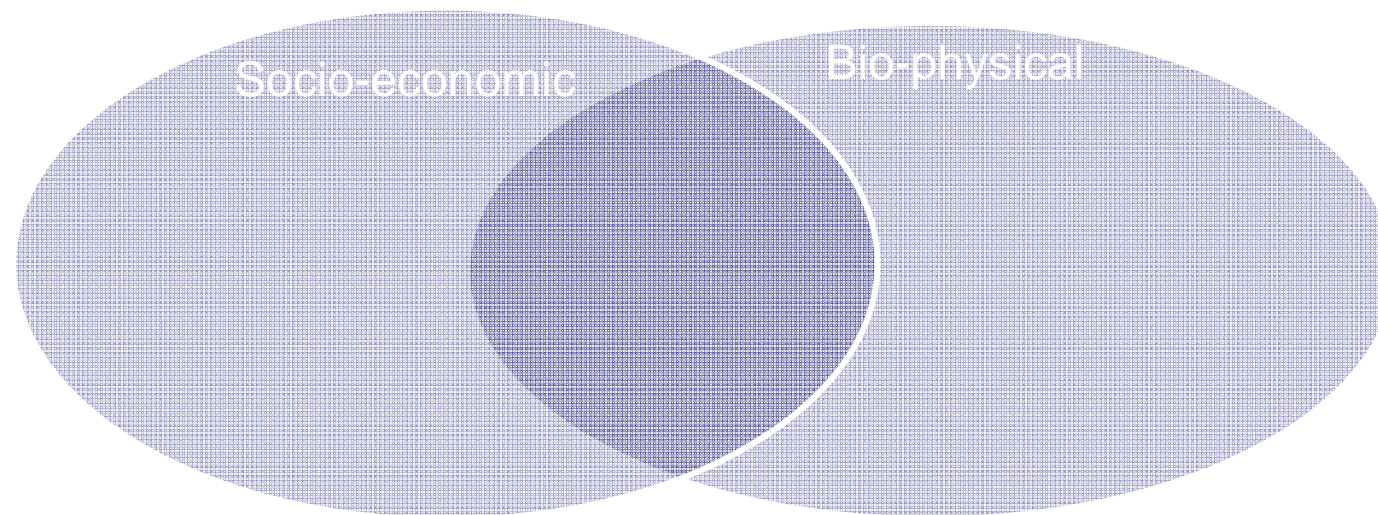
SEEA-Water

- Economy and environment
- Stocks and flows
- Monetary and physical
- Pollution
- Water quality



An Integrated Environmental- Economic Information System for Australia

researchers



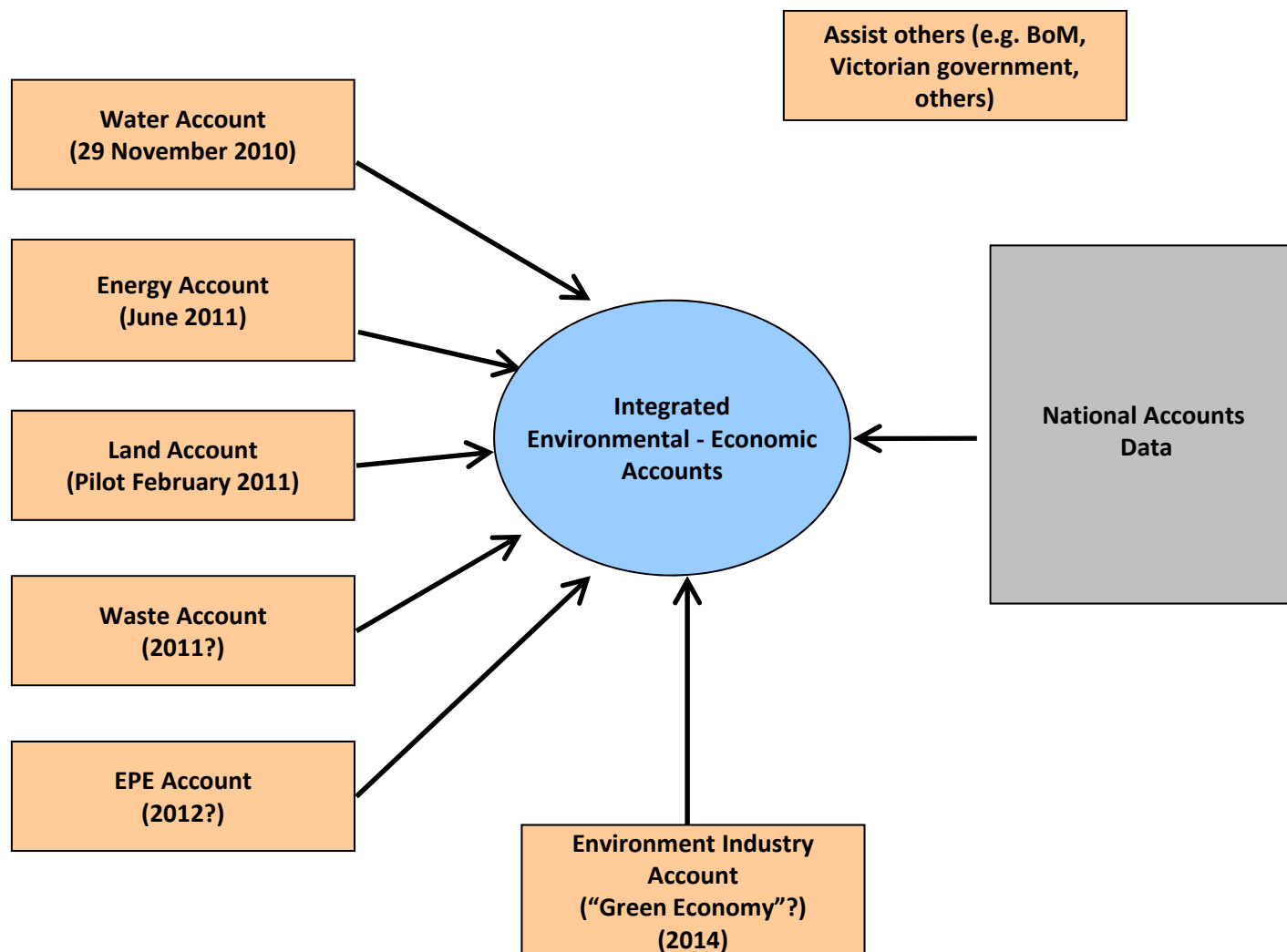
Treasury, ABS, ABARE,
PC, PM&C, DRET,
state/territory, etc

DEWHA, BoM, DCCEE,
Geoscience Australia,
MDBA, BRS, CSIRO,
state/territory, etc

Some agencies and researchers operate across both spaces

ABS Proposed plan for Integrated Environmental- Economic Account

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4655.0.55.001>



Australian Government Rio + 20 submission

Rio+20 outcomes should include:

- " agreement to develop credible frameworks for measuring sustainable development outcomes, including robust, consistent and accessible economic, environmental and social information, which promotes the integration of the information across these spheres;
- " support for the SEEA as the international statistical framework for environmental accounting;"
- <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=510&nr=692&menu=20>

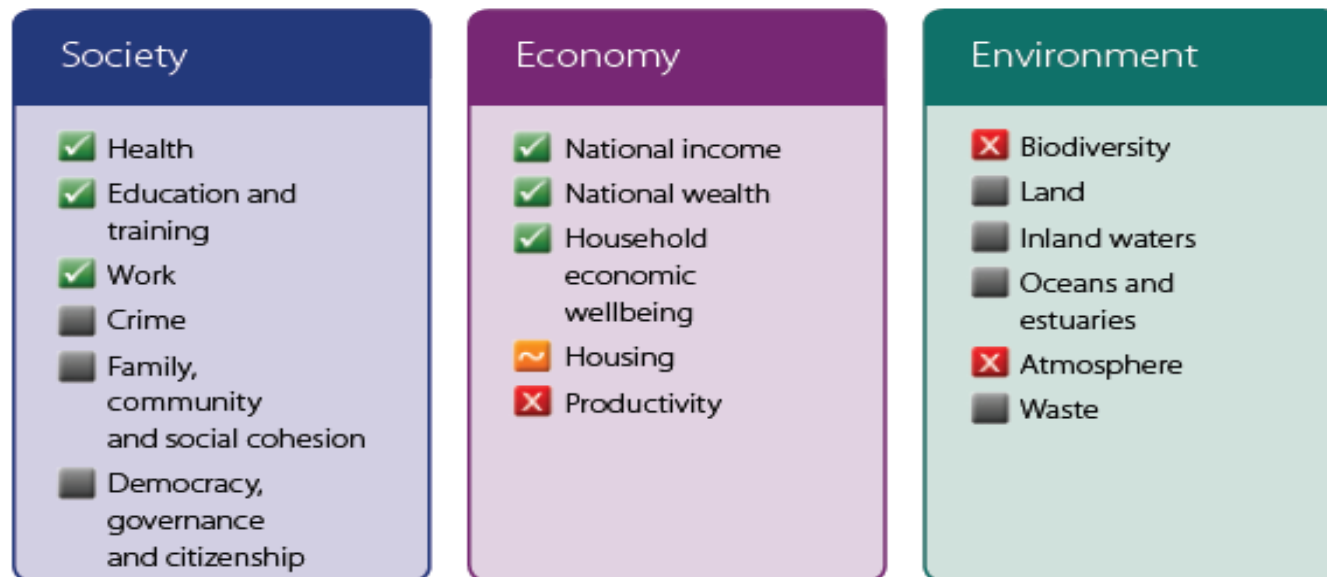
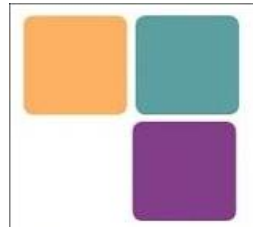
OECD Towards Green Growth – Monitoring Progress

“A first and crucial ingredient of the measurement agenda is thus to develop and populate a **consistent environment-economy accounting framework**. The System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) will provide such a framework. Measurement efforts should be placed within this framework so as to maximise consistency and international comparability.”

http://www.oecd.org/document/56/0,3746,en_2649_37425_48033720_1_1_1_37425,00.html

Measures of Australia's Progress

Current dashboard

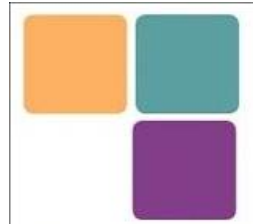


Legend

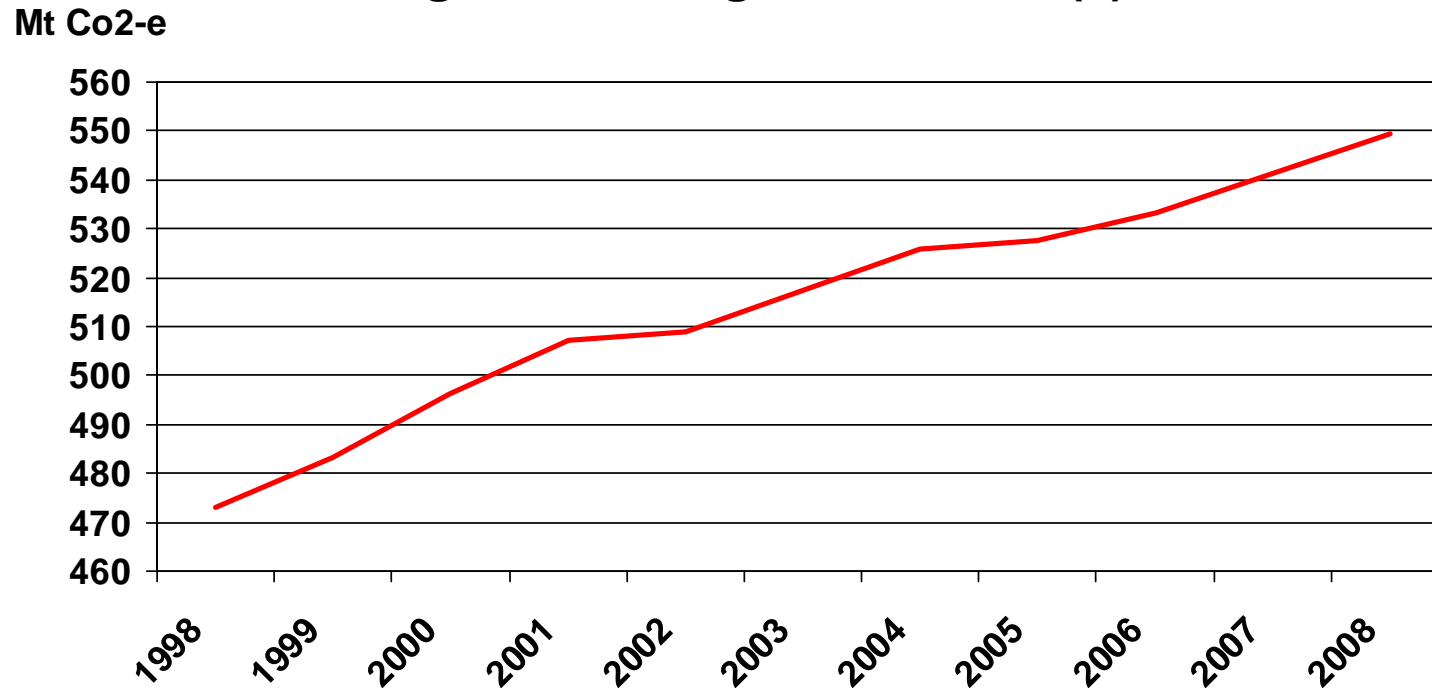
- ✓ Progress has generally been made in this headline indicator compared with ten years ago
- ✗ This headline indicator has generally regressed compared with ten years ago
- ~ There has been no significant movement in this headline indicator
- There is either no headline indicator for this area of progress or no time series

Measures of Australia's Progress

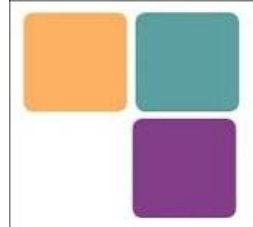
Headline indicators – an example: **Atmosphere**



Net greenhouse gas emissions(a)



(a) Excludes emissions from 'Land used, land use change and forestry'.



Measures of Australia's Progress

Supplementary indicators

Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threatened flora species• Proportion of total terrestrial area protected• Threatened ecological communities
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual area of forest conversion and re-clearing• Change in native forest area
Inland waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Net water consumption / Water consumption per person• Agricultural water use• Reuse of water per person
Oceans & estuaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian fish stocks overfished and/or subject to overfishing• Commonwealth marine parks and protected areas
Atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Net greenhouse gas emissions per person / By sector / Per unit of GDP• Energy production from renewable sources (PJ)
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total waste generated + Waste generated per person• Total waste disposed to landfill• Waste diversion rate• Waste emissions



Measures of Australia's Progress

Future directions – MAP 2.0 Consultation



*“... generate a national and global dialogue on what we care about
... and whether this is reflected in our metrics”*

Joseph Stiglitz, 2010

Conclusions

- Sustainability as a concept
 - is relevant to how Australians view progress
 - can be underpinned by robust measurement
 - not exclusively the domain of social, economic or environmental statistics
 - integration is essential to understand relationships and linkages
 - SEEA offers real opportunities

Contacts



Measures of Australia's Progress

MAP 2.0 Blog: www.abs.gov.au/about/progress/blog

Email: measuringprogress@abs.gov.au

Environment Statistics and SEEA

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