

Environmental Accounts and institutional arrangements in Australia

International Seminar on Environment Statistics and
Accounting

Rio de Janeiro
21-22 September 2009

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Presentation outline

1. Governance in Australia
2. Australian environmental information landscape
3. National Statistical System

1. Institutional arrangements

As far as possible, environmental management, standard setting and regulatory enforcement and service provision are institutionally separated in Australia



Australian Government

- Policy development eg Emission Trading Scheme, Water Act
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
 - Matters of National Significance eg Ramsar wetlands, Great Barrier Reef
 - Five yearly State of Environment report

State and Territory Governments

Australia has 6 State and 2 Territory Governments

- determine the conditions on which environmental assets and services are made available to others eg licences to irrigators
- Develop and implement policies and programs eg energy efficiency programs

Local Governments

Tier of government that provides many environmental services

- Waste collection

Council of Australian Governments

- Prime Minister, Premiers of each State or Territory Government, and head of the Australian Local Government Association
- Ministerial Councils
- Groups

COAG

Ministerial Council on Energy

National policy and governance body for the Aust. Energy Market responsible for delivering the economic and environmental benefits for Aust. resulting from implementing the COAG national energy policy framework

Renewable and Distributed Generation

Energy Efficiency

Energy Market Reform

Energy Security

National Framework for Energy Efficiency (Stage 1)

Nine policy packages including EEO

Residential buildings

Commercial buildings

Commercial/Industrial Energy Efficiency

Government Energy Efficiency

Appliance and Equipment Energy Efficiency

Trade and professional training and accreditation

Commercial/industrial sector capacity building

General Consumer Awareness

Financial sector awareness

National Framework for Energy Efficiency (Stage 2 (From 2007))

Stage 1 plus five new measures plus energy efficiency data gathering and analysis project (EEDP)

Expand and enhance minimum energy performance standards

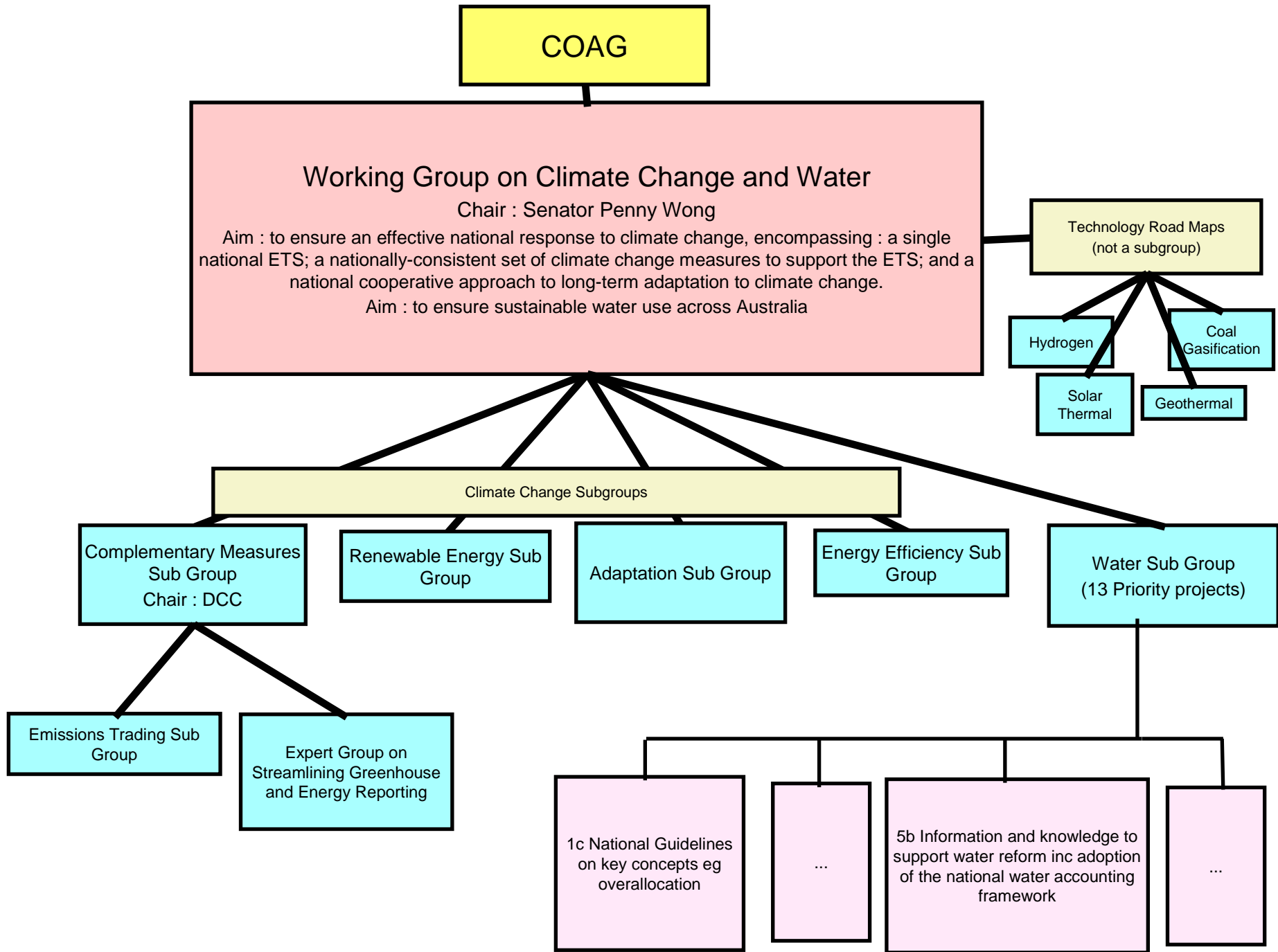
Heating, ventilation and air conditioning high efficiency systems strategy

Phase out of inefficient incandescent lights

Govt. leadership through green leases

Development of measures for a national hot water strategy

Energy efficiency data gathering and analysis project



2. Australian Environmental Information landscape

- State of Environment Reporting
 - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act requirement
 - 2006 report recognised need for improved environmental reporting
 - Ministerial Council requested Environment Department to investigate

Australia 2020 Summit

- New Government
- 1000 invitees
- 10 themes
 - Population, sustainability, climate change, water and the future of our cities
- Australia needs a set of environmental accounts



Scientific community

- Australia has a set of economic accounts – the National Accounts
- Australia needs a set of environmental accounts
- a model to monitor and track the health and change in condition of Australia's major environmental assets

Hydrological community

- Water Act 2007
- Bureau of Meteorology responsible for Australia's water information
- Annual National Water Account
 - Pilot December 2009
 - First Account December 2010
- Hydrological balance of water system

Statistical community

- Australia has a very active statistical community
- Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975
 - Government's Central Statistical Agency and through arrangements with the States, provide statistical services
 - Six functions

Legislated functions of the ABS

1. to be the **central statistical authority** for the Australian Government and provide statistical services to the Governments of the States
2. to **collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information**
3. to ensure **coordination** of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with a particular regard to
 1. **avoiding duplication** in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes
 2. **attaining compatability** between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies
 3. **maximising the use**, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies.

Legislated functions of the ABS

4. to formulate and ensure compliance with **standards** for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes
5. to provide **advice and assistance** to official bodies in relation to statistics
6. to **liaise** between Australia and other countries and international organisations in relation to statistical matters.

3. National Statistical System

- ABS are only one producer of statistics in Australia

National Statistical System comprises many producers

- Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics
 - Australia's Energy Balances
- Bureau of Meteorology
 - National Water Account
- Department of Climate Change
 - Australian Greenhouse Gas Accounts
- Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment
 - Environmental asset accounts

What role is ABS playing in the NSS?

3. ensuring **coordination** of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with a particular regard to
 1. **avoiding duplication** in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes
 2. **attaining compatibility** between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies
 3. **maximising the use**, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies.
4. Formulating and ensure compliance with **standards** for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes
5. providing **advice and assistance** to official bodies in relation to statistics

Thank you

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