Government owned assets – cost of capital services

There was strong support in principle for including a return to capital, viewed as an opportunity cost, in the measurement of non-market output. However, concerns were expressed about the rate of return to be chosen and availability of data for capital stock.

In terms of the range of assets which could be covered, most participants favored including those assets in the generation of government output similar to those assets used in market production. A smaller number favored including roads and other infrastructure assets. Progressively fewer favored including assets such as city parks serving the community at large and land.

It was agreed that these range of positions of the AEG should be sent to all countries (and inserted on the website) seeking reactions on both conceptual and practical grounds.