



SARA Learnings and Future Direction

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State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)

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History of SARA

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The Principals of SARA

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The First 12 Months

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SARA Expectations

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Questions



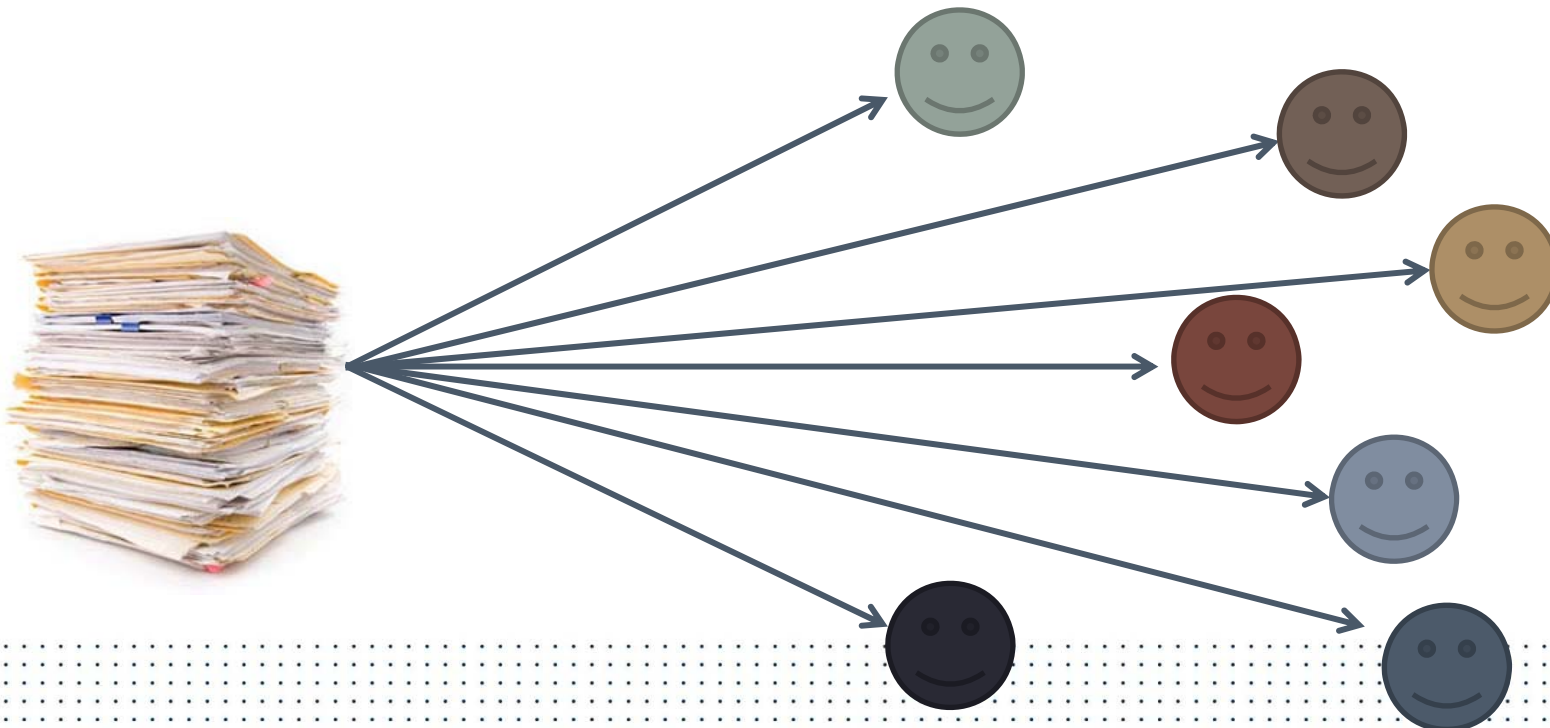
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History of SARA

Prior to SARA

In 2010-2011:

- 7 Referral agencies assessed 4,154 applications
- 17 Assessment Managers assessed 2,941 applications



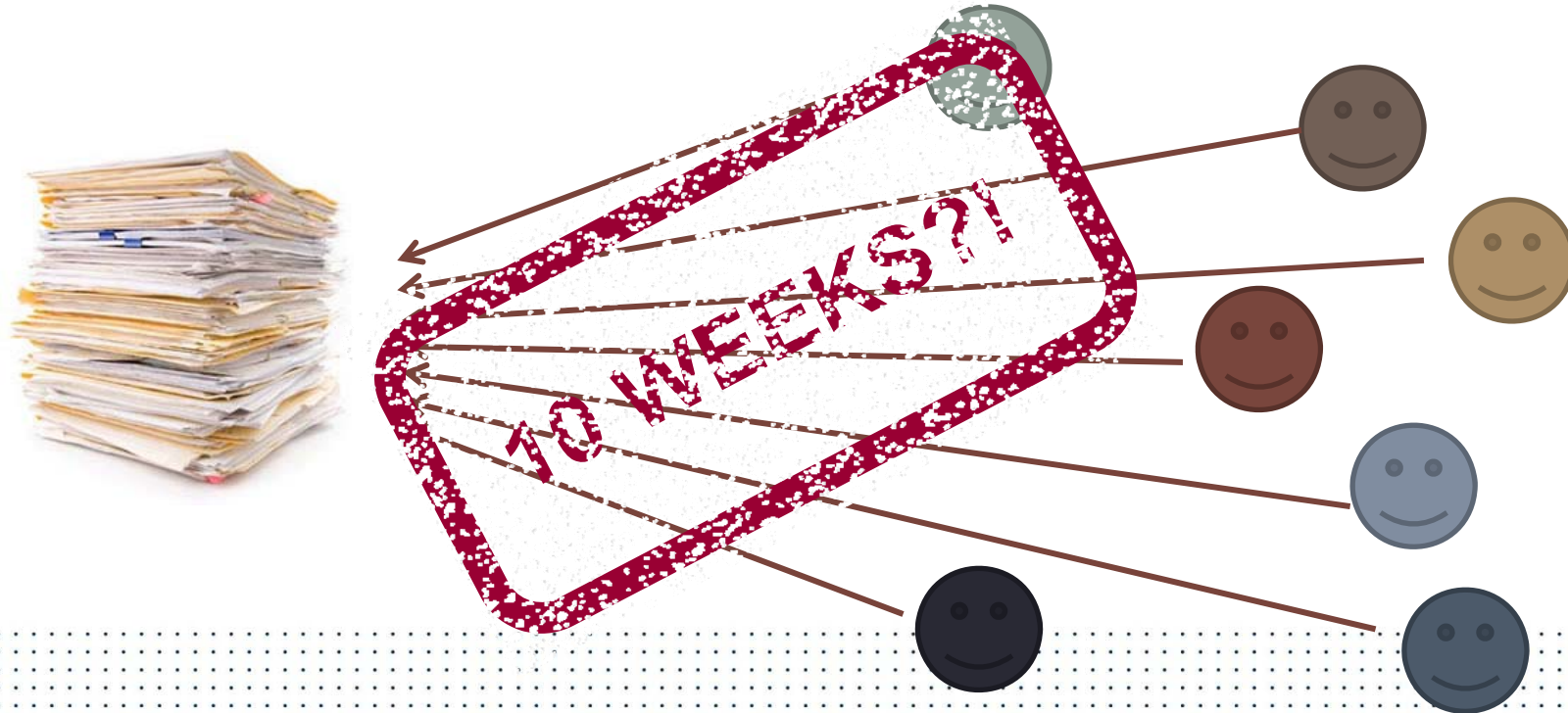
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History of SARA

Prior to SARA

Average assessment times were:

- 49.5 business days (Concurrence Agency)
- 41 business days (Assessment Manager)



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Common Criticisms of Pre-SARA System

Uncoordinated System!
Unclear State Requirements!

Unreasonable conditions
and information requests!

Time blow outs!
Costly litigation!

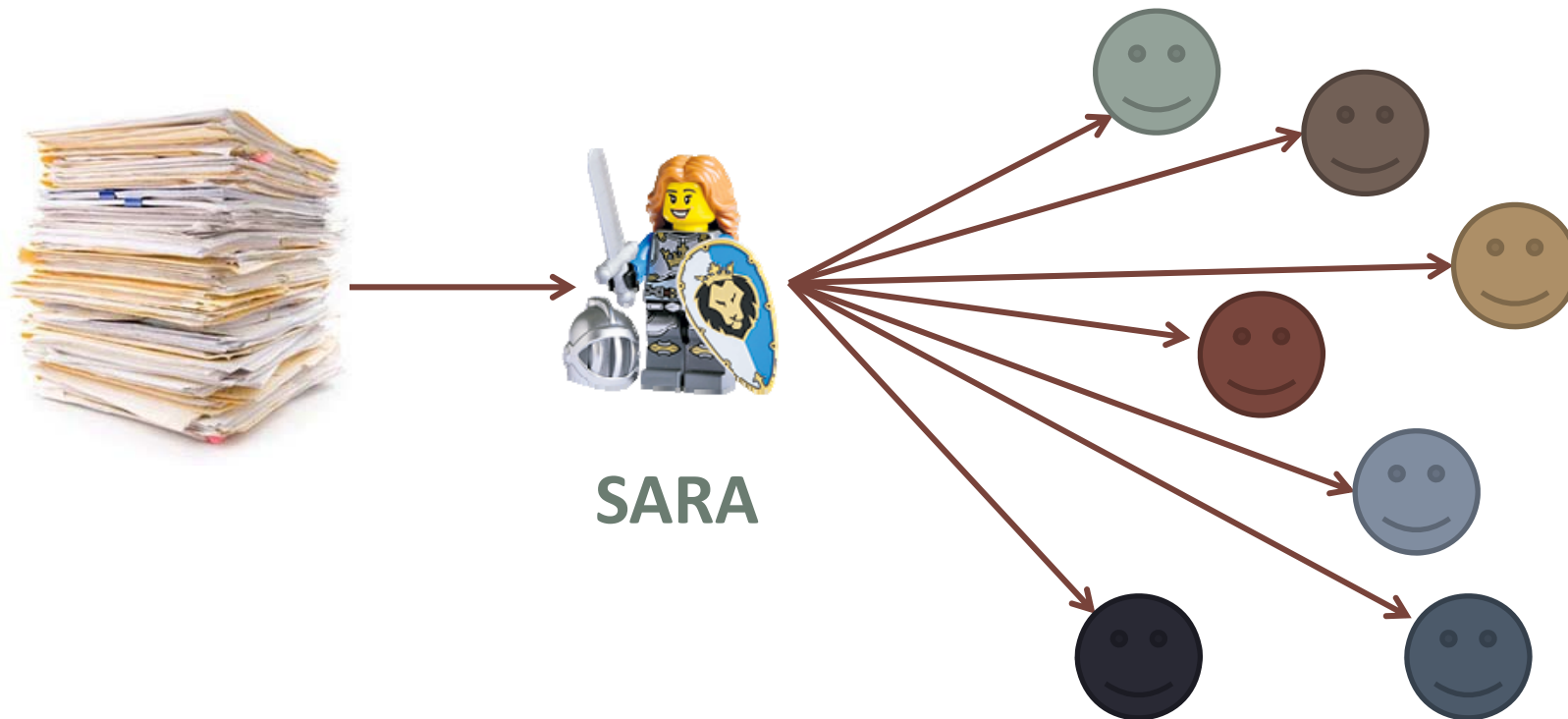
Boo!

What a bunch
of Muppets!

1

History of SARA

SARA became the single lodgement and assessment point for all DA's



2

The Principals of SARA

Better working arrangements between all departments

- Better coordination and responsiveness
- Greater certainty and consistency
- Balanced decision making
- Ensure reasonable and relevant conditions



Jameson, the mediator, uses his last remaining negotiating tool in an effort to break the stalemate.

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2

The Principals of SARA

Culture Change

- SARA is improving the DA culture between State Agencies
- Strives for stronger customer service and accelerated decision making
- Introduction of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor performance and guide improvements

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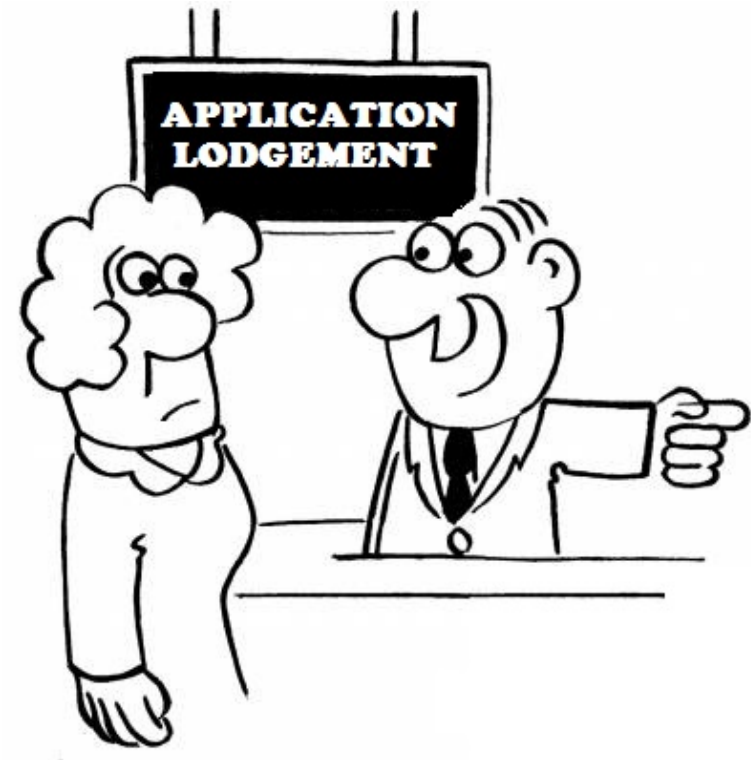
The Principals of SARA

Regulatory Reform

- Fine tune existing triggers
- Make more triggers GIS based
- Introduction of State Development and Assessment Provisions (SDAP)
- Introduction of FastTrack 5



- Reduces application costs
- Minimises timeframes
- Minimises red tape
- Increase certainty for applicants



Ah, you'll be wanting our red-tape department, third door on the left!

3

The First 12 Months

In the 2013-2014 financial year:

- **3,998** decisions issued by SARA
 - **632** decision notices as assessment manager
 - **1,706** referral agency responses
 - **1,430** permissible change requests and extend relevant period
 - **230** pre-referral responses



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The First 12 Months

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

- Drive and maintain a high level of performance
- Integral to delivering the best planning system in Australia

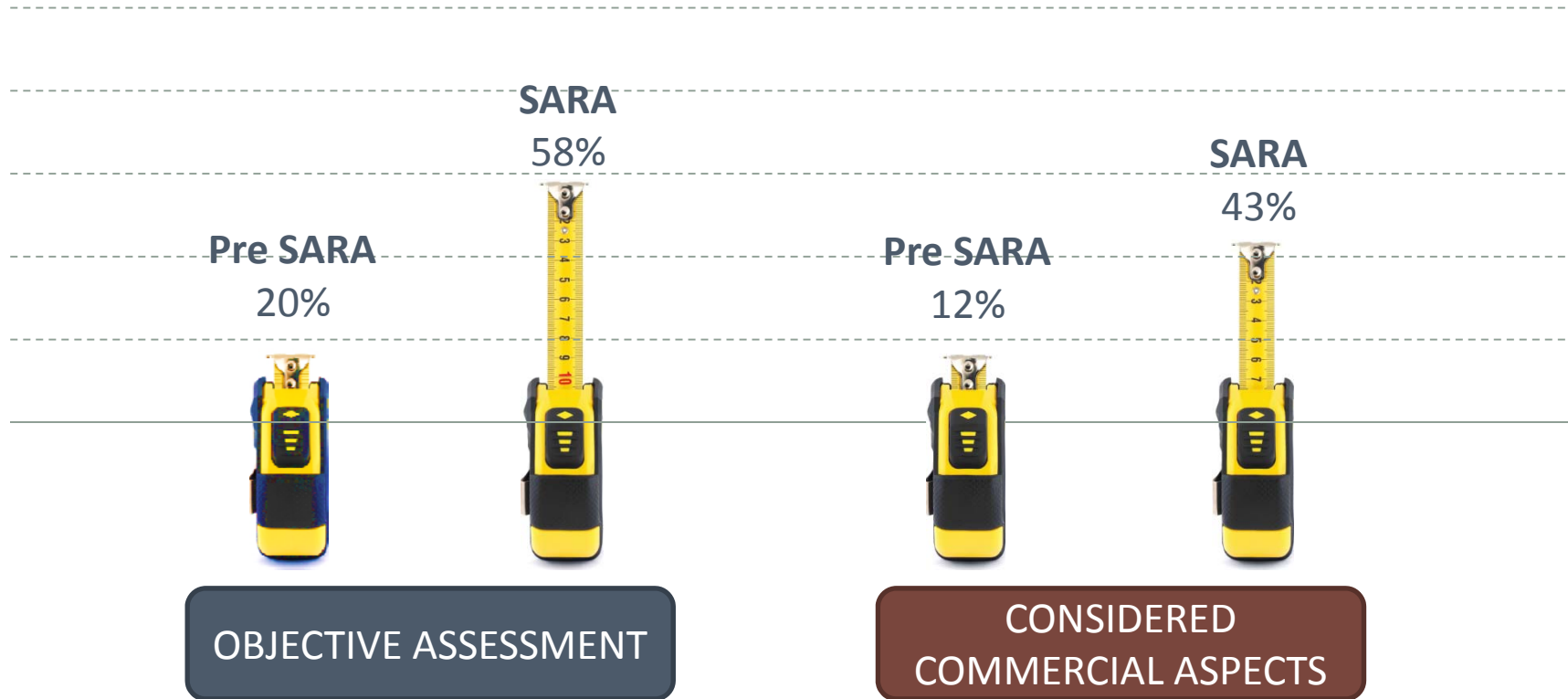
The 2013/2014 KPI's were:

- Customer satisfaction
- IDAS timeframes
- Information requests
- Appeals

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The First 12 Months

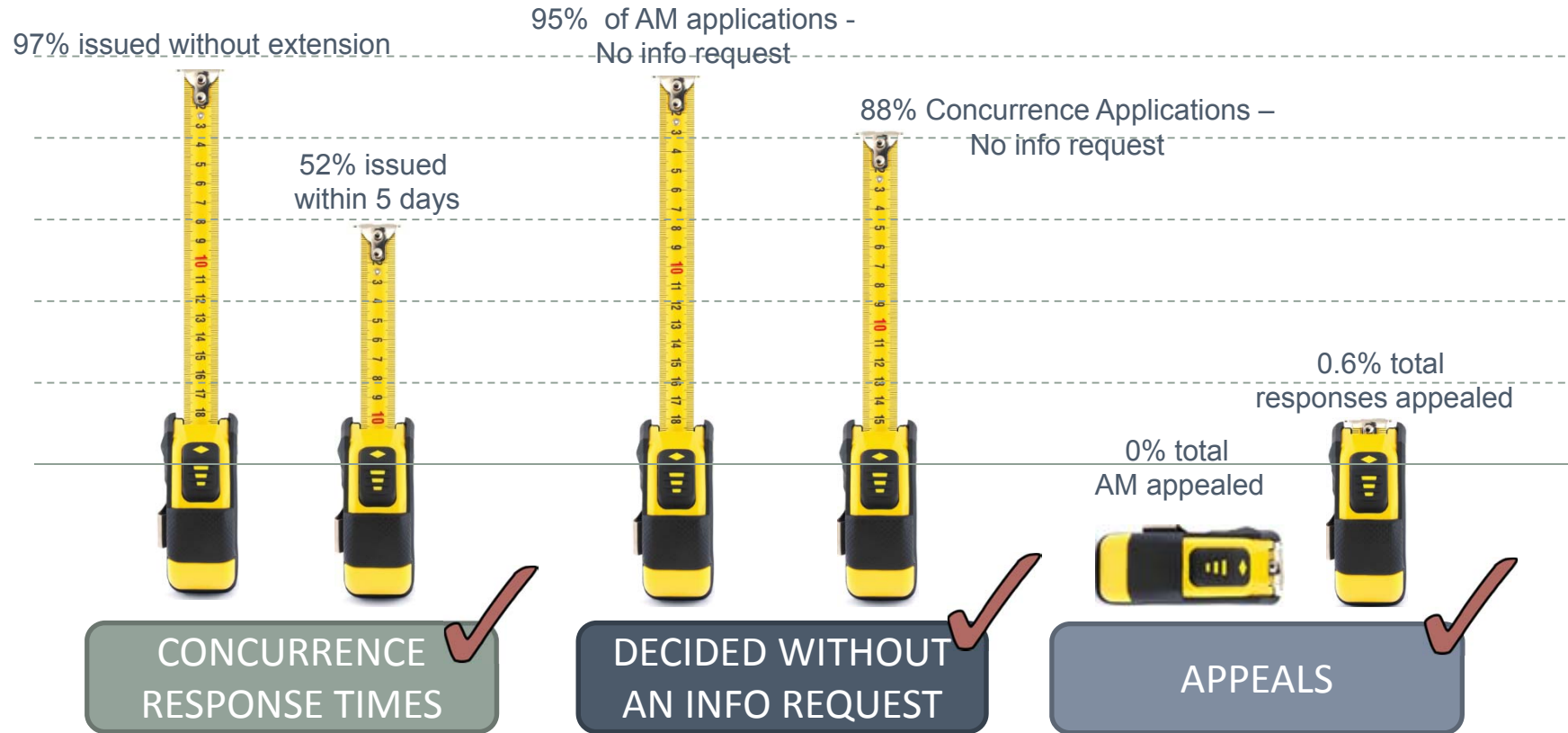
Customer Satisfaction



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The First 12 Months

IDAS Timeframes, Information Requests and Appeals

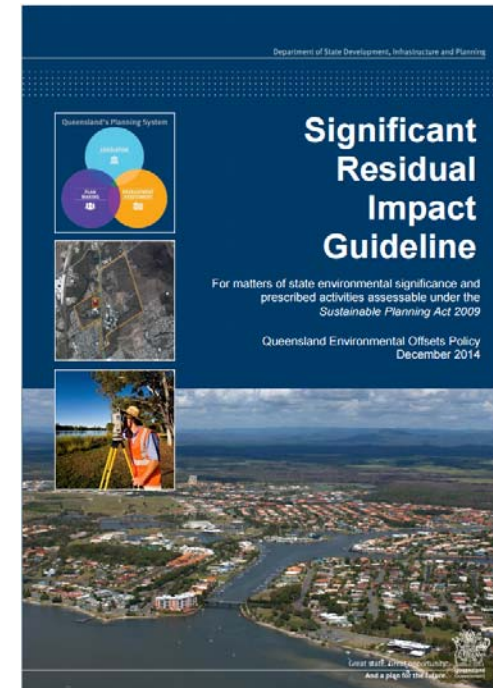


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The First 12 Months

Environmental Offsets Act

- Offsets introduced in 1980's to counterbalance unavoidable environmental impacts
- Over time, many policies developed leading to complexities and onerous regulatory framework
- Environmental Offsets Act 2014 seeks to reduce green tape and provide greater focus on environmental outcomes
- SARA has prepared the Significant Residual Impact Guideline to make the application process under SARA more transparent

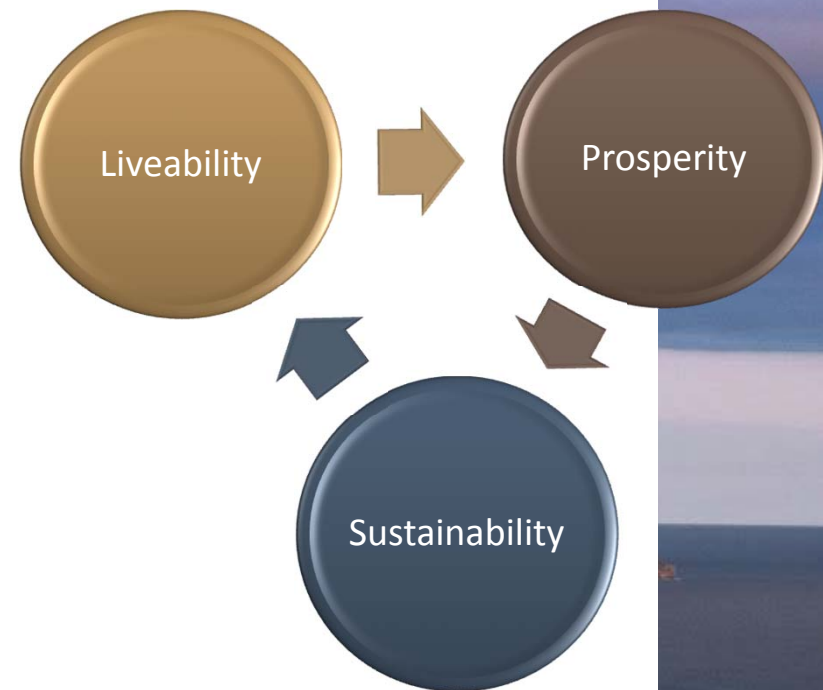


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The First 12 Months

Wind Farm State Code

- SARA has taken on the role of finalising the draft Wind Farm State Code and Planning Guideline
- Many Councils do not have the capacity to effectively assess these highly technical applications
- SARA will be assessment manager for new or expanding wind farms
- Draft code and guideline about to be re-notified



3

The First 12 Months

Highly acclaimed

- 2014 National Award for Planning Excellence, Planning Institute of Australia in the category of Improving Planning Processes and Practices Award
- 2013 Queensland Planning Institute of Australia Overall Winner in the category of Exceptional Planning Achievement



4

SARA Expectations

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but building the new.”

- Socrates



5

Questions?

That was wonderful!

Bravo!

Well it was pretty good

It wasn't bad

I didn't really like it

It could have been better

Boo!

Boo!