

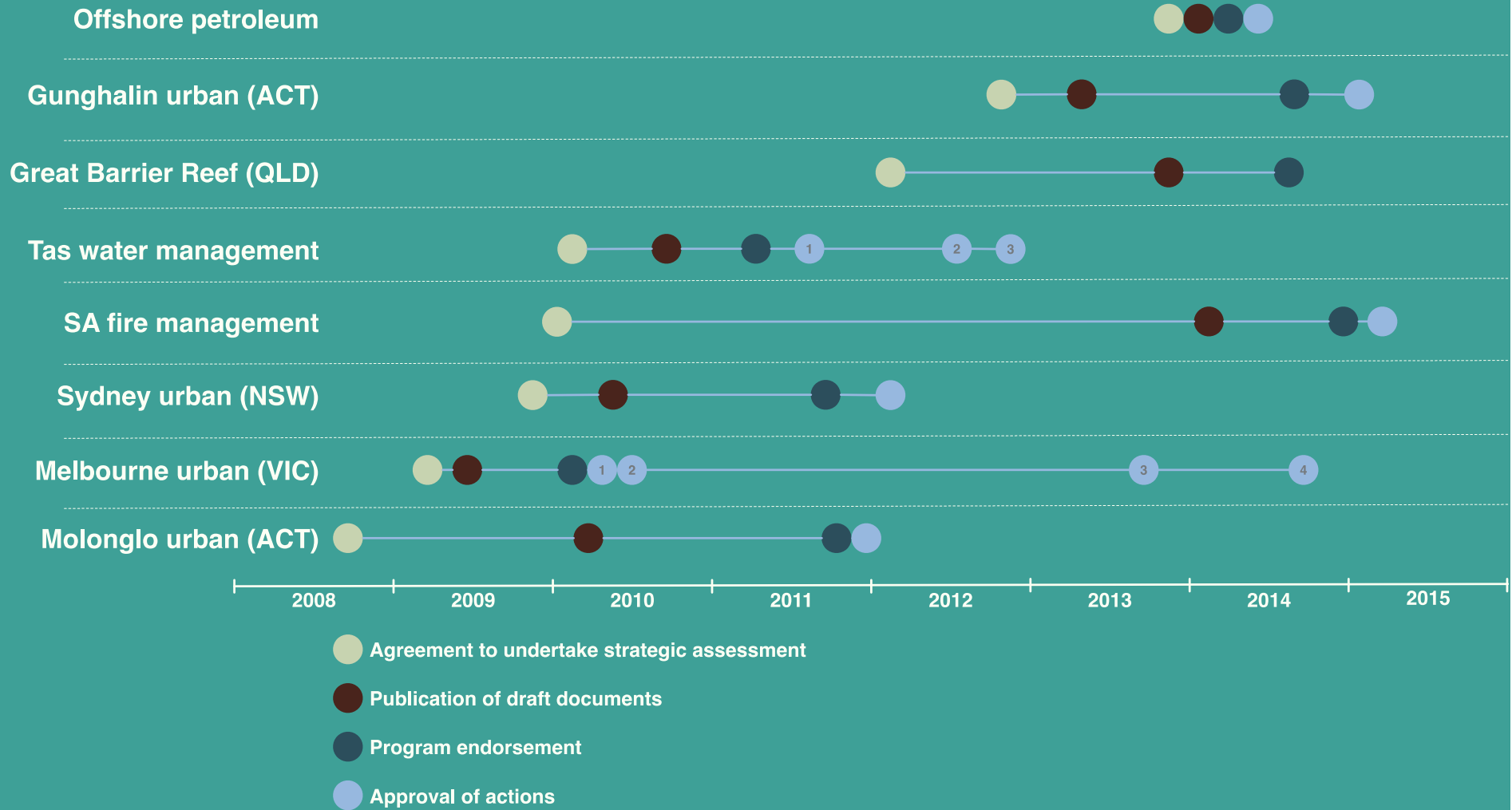
Are strategic assessments the answer?

Peter Hemphill – Open Lines Consulting

Commonwealth's definition

“Strategic assessments are a landscape scale assessment and unlike project-by-project assessments, which look at individual actions (such as a port or a mine), they can consider a much broader set of issues; for example, a large urban growth area that will be developed over many years or a fire management policy across a broad landscape” - Commonwealth Government

Completed assessments



Agenda

1. Dealing with landscapes and long timeframes
2. Assessing complex issues
3. Making good decisions
4. Designing programs that can be implemented
5. What's next?

Dealing with landscapes and long timeframes

- Turning the equivalent of hundreds of individual project assessments into one large project
- Assessments over large areas and timeframes
- Providing both certainty and flexibility
- Implementing a program over 30+ years

Perth-Peel strategic assessment area

~180 km north to south

~60 km east to west



Strategic Assessment	Scope	Key MNES	Main Commitments
Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 181,000 homes • 2,500 ha employment land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 TECs • 9 Threatened flora • 4 Threatened fauna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$530 million Conservation Fund • 2000 ha native veg
Molonglo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33,000 homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 TECs • 3 Threatened fauna • 1 Migratory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box Gum Woodland protection (372 ha) • Pink-tailed Worm Lizard habitat protection (119 ha)
Perth-Peel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion to 3.5 m • Urban, industrial, rural residential • Basic Raw Materials • Pine harvesting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 TECs • 14 Threatened fauna • 39 Threatened flora • 3 Ramsar • 28 Migratory shorebirds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC

Assessing complex issues

1. Focusing on the important issues
2. Framing the assessment
3. Dealing with data

Focusing on the important issues

- Aim is to identify and assess all relevant MNES
- Application of criteria to prioritise the list of MNES into four categories:
 - Category 1: MNES with high reliance on the SAA
 - Category 2: MNES with a moderate reliance on the SAA
 - Category 3: MNES with a low reliance on the SAA
 - Category 4: MNES not reliant on the SAA
- Assessment approach developed for each category

Perth-Peel MNES

Category	TECs	Threatened Flora	Threatened Fauna	Migratory species	Ramsar	World / National Heritage	Total
Category 1	10	22	4	15	3	2	56
Category 2	1	16	8	13			38
Category 3		3	1				4
Category 4		10	28	22			60
Total	11	51	41	50	3	2	158

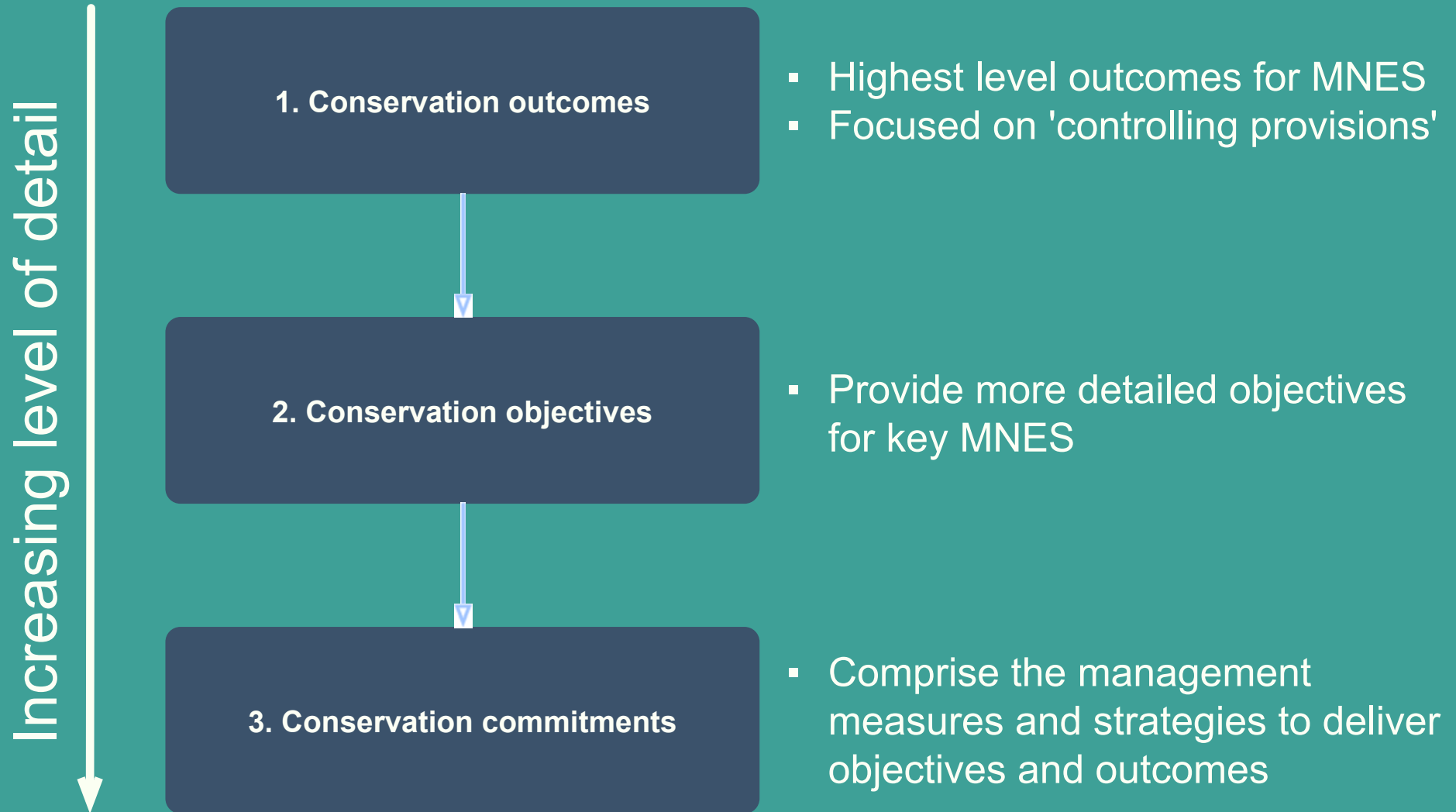
Grand Spider Orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*)

- Defined as a Category 1 species:
 - Endangered
 - More than one important population within strategic assessment area
 - >50% of all known records within strategic assessment area
 - Between 5-33% of the Commonwealth's distribution mapping within strategic assessment area



www.florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au

Framing the assessment



Defining conservation objectives

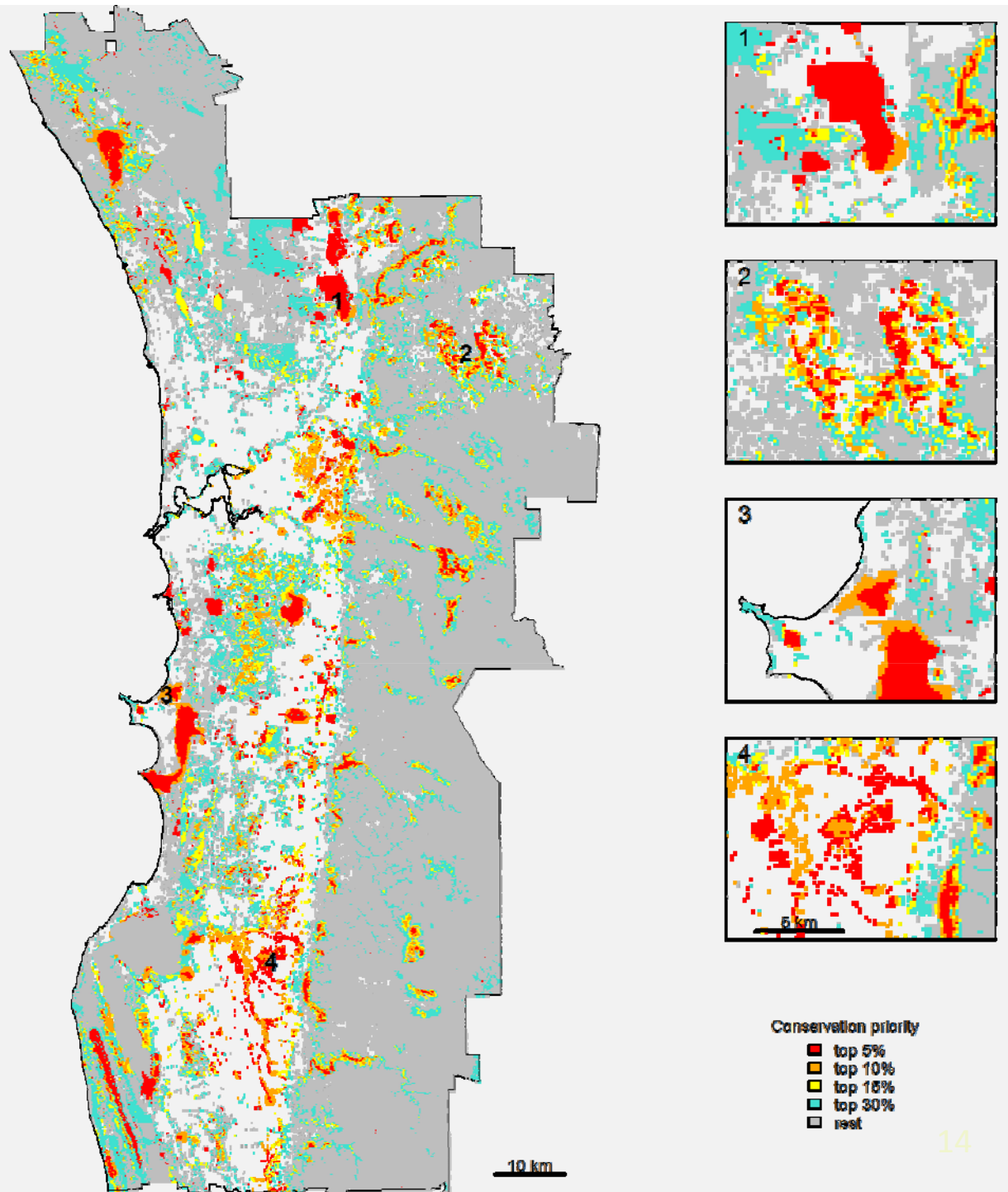
- Conservation objectives are clear statements about what will be delivered for MNES
- Key concept is “long-term viability”. Defined for threatened species as:

Long-term viability occurs where a threatened species continues to persist and where remaining populations have the following aspects:

- *successfully reproducing individuals and maintenance of population size;*
- *maintenance of genetic diversity;*
- *an extent of occurrence comparable (or improved) to present conditions; and*
- *available habitat comparable (or improved) to present conditions.*

Dealing with data

Whitehead et al (in prep). Report by the NERP environmental decisions hub



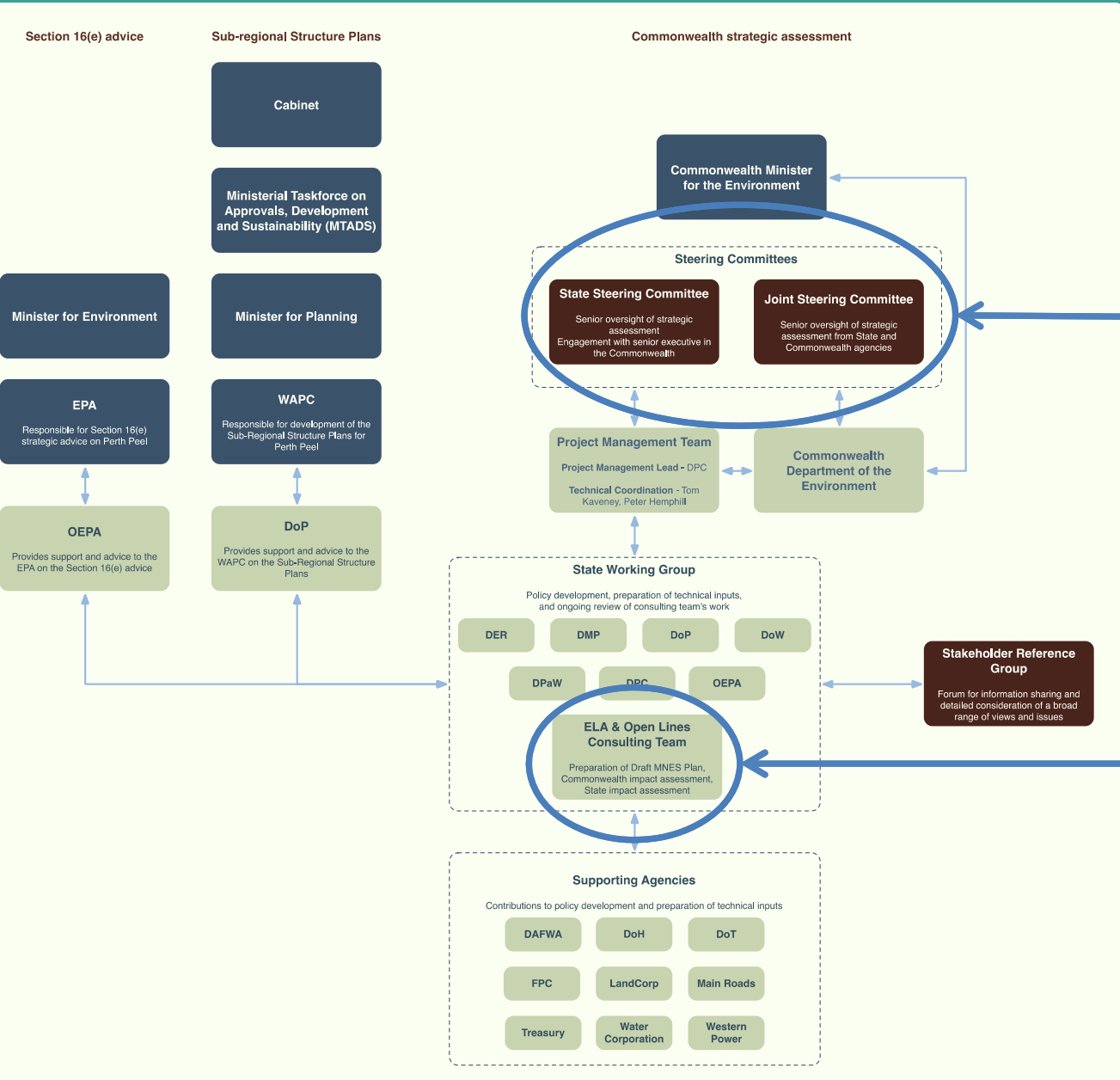
Making good decisions

1. Drivers for decision making
2. Scale and complexity of decision making
3. Crystal ball gazing
4. Whole of government

Drivers for decision making



Project governance



Senior steering committees

Consulting team

Designing programs that can be implemented

- Providing both certainty and flexibility
- Dealing with complex issues around funding
- Ensuring conservation commitments can be delivered
- Incorporating the principles of adaptive management

What do we mean by implementation?

- The legislation, processes and governance that will deliver the agreed outcomes of the strategic assessment
- This includes delivery of both the development and conservation outcomes

Elements of implementation

- State planning and approval processes
- Offsets
- Funding
- Governance
- Monitoring & reporting

State planning and approval mechanisms

Aim:

- Embed development outcomes and conservation hierarchy into existing state planning and approval mechanisms

Issues:

- What mechanisms are available?
- How can they deliver the conservation outcomes, objectives and commitments?
- What new mechanisms may be needed?

Offsets

Aim:

- Provide comprehensive and affordable offsets

Issues:

- What offsets are required?
- How do existing conservation measures get accounted for?
- Who pays for offsets?
- Are there adequate offsets available?
- How are offsets delivered over time?

Funding

Aim:

- Provide ongoing funding for implementation

Issues:

- How much funding is required?
- What are the costs and benefits of funding the strategic assessment?
- What funding model is used?
- How is funding managed?

Governance

Aim:

- Ensure that implementation is delivered efficiently and approvals are maintained

Issues:

- Who is responsible for what?
- Who has overall responsibility?
- What are the responsibilities for developers?
- What are the responsibilities for local government?
- What mechanisms are in place for accountability and transparency?

Monitoring & Reporting

Aim:

- Ensure outcomes are being delivered and approvals are maintained

Issues:

- What are the most effective monitoring and reporting tools?
- What data is required?
- What stages of the project require monitoring and when?

Next steps

- Structured decision making
- Climate change analysis
- Ecosystem modelling
- Conservation prioritisation

Questions?

PHONE: Peter Hemphill - 0414 709 744

EMAIL: peter@openlines.com.au

WEBSITE: openlines.com.au

OFFICE: Level 3, 8-10 Hobart Place, Canberra