



Future Scenarios

Working proposal

NSW FOREST MONITORING AND
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

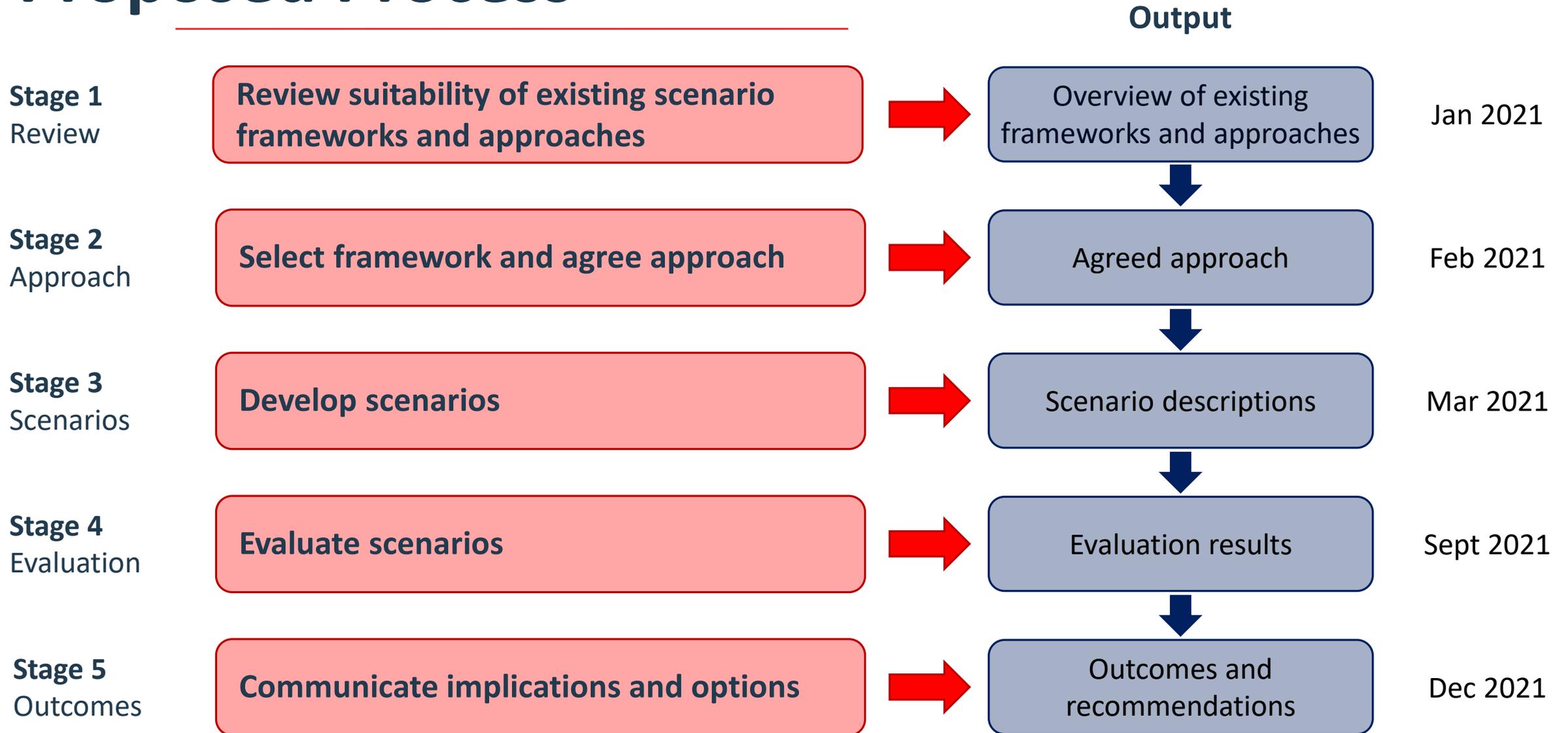


Natural
Resources
Commission

Why?

- The Premier's terms of reference specifies that the program strengthen the NSW Government's ability to strategically and adaptively manage forests.
- 2020 has been a pivotal moment – NSW Bushfire Inquiry, drought, COVID-19
- Now is the time to think about what we want for the future of NSW forests, pathways to get there, and consequences of different decisions.
- Scenario development provides a forum for strategic conversations that improve our ability to anticipate and plan now for future circumstances.
- The scenario development process can assist in simplifying the overload of information, challenge prevailing mind-sets, promote cross disciplinary action and develop a shared understanding across diverse stakeholder groups.

Proposed Process



Stage 1 - Review

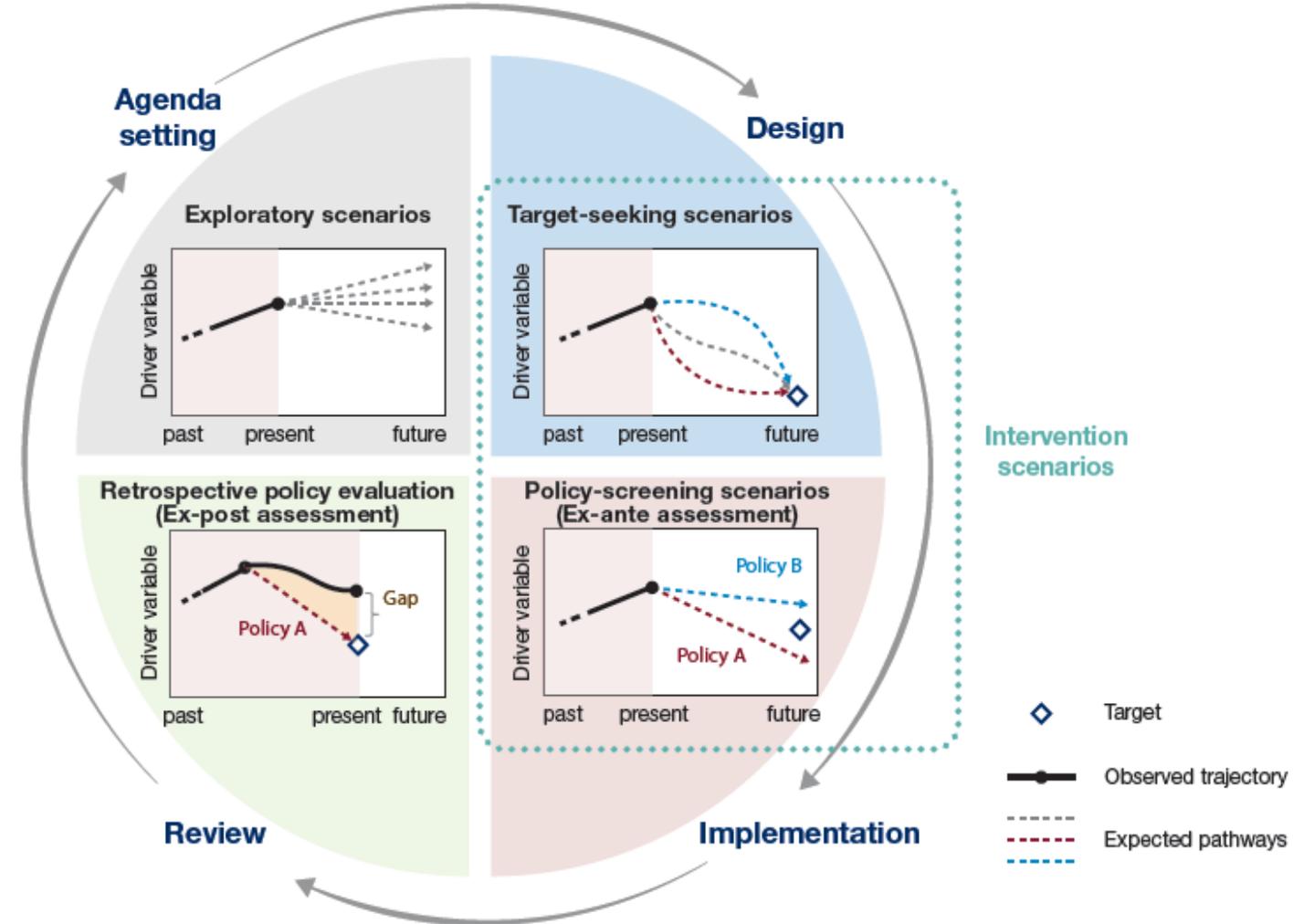
- Identify and review existing and relevant futures work
- Synthesise relevant strategic scenario activities by governments, academia and industry including – for example: Common Planning Assumptions Group (CPAG), NSW Water, Natural Capital Assessment Method, CSIRO, forest industry, conservation, tourism, etc.
- Analyse trends and potential shocks that may impact NSW forests. Identify potential large-scale changes at the intersection of multiple policy domains that are likely to influence the future of NSW forest management

Learning and insights to date

- Numerous futures frameworks and approaches are available
e.g. Strategic Foresight, Nature Futures Framework, Sustainable Future Scenarios
- Agreed definitions are available
e.g. CPAG definitions for *Scenario Planning* and *Plausible Future Scenario*
- Climate projections (NARClIM) and research on climate change impacts on some forest components is available
e.g. AdaptNSW – Regional Vulnerability Assessment, Biodiversity adaptation, Bushfire, Soil properties and erosion, Water resources
- **No existing integrated scenarios to address state-wide evaluation questions**

What type of scenarios?

- Plausible future scenarios are **stories**, not predictions, about how the future could unfold
- Scenarios capture a range of future possible outcomes and interactions - combinations of **good, bad, expected** and **surprising**¹
- There are different types of scenarios for different purposes and phases of policy development
- Plausible scenarios can explore the likely key decisions that the NSW government may make
- **Evaluation of scenarios can explore the impact on NSW forest values and forest dependent communities**



¹ Common Planning Assumptions Group

What can we use scenarios for?

- Scenarios can be used to examine a range of plausible futures, based on potential trajectories of drivers. They can contribute significantly to high-level problem identification and forecasting the important decisions that will be made.
- Exploratory scenarios are used to identify the scope of policy or management alternatives that may be considered and identify the likely decisions that will be made.
- A shared understanding of the information requirements to support future decisions can drive the adaptation of the forest monitoring program. It provides for the allocation of monitoring resources to those programs that will generate the information of most value.