



Natural
Resources
Commission

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NRM REPORTING IN NSW

THE NRC'S PERSPECTIVE

Environmental Reporting Symposium - Victoria

28 November 2013

NSW current reporting arrangements

- NSW State of the Environment Reports
- State of the Catchment Reports
- Local Government State of the Environment Reports

NSW State of the Environment Report

- Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991, focuses on trends in environmental indicators
- Pressures, State, Response
- 2012 report new focus on key drivers and pressures arising from people impacting the environment

Alignment and efficiency

SOE Report	#	Frequency	Previous report	Next report
National	1	5 yearly	2011	2016
NSW	1	3 yearly	2012	2015
Catchment	13 - 11	3 yearly	2010	X
Local Government	152	4 yearly	Variable – report every election year	

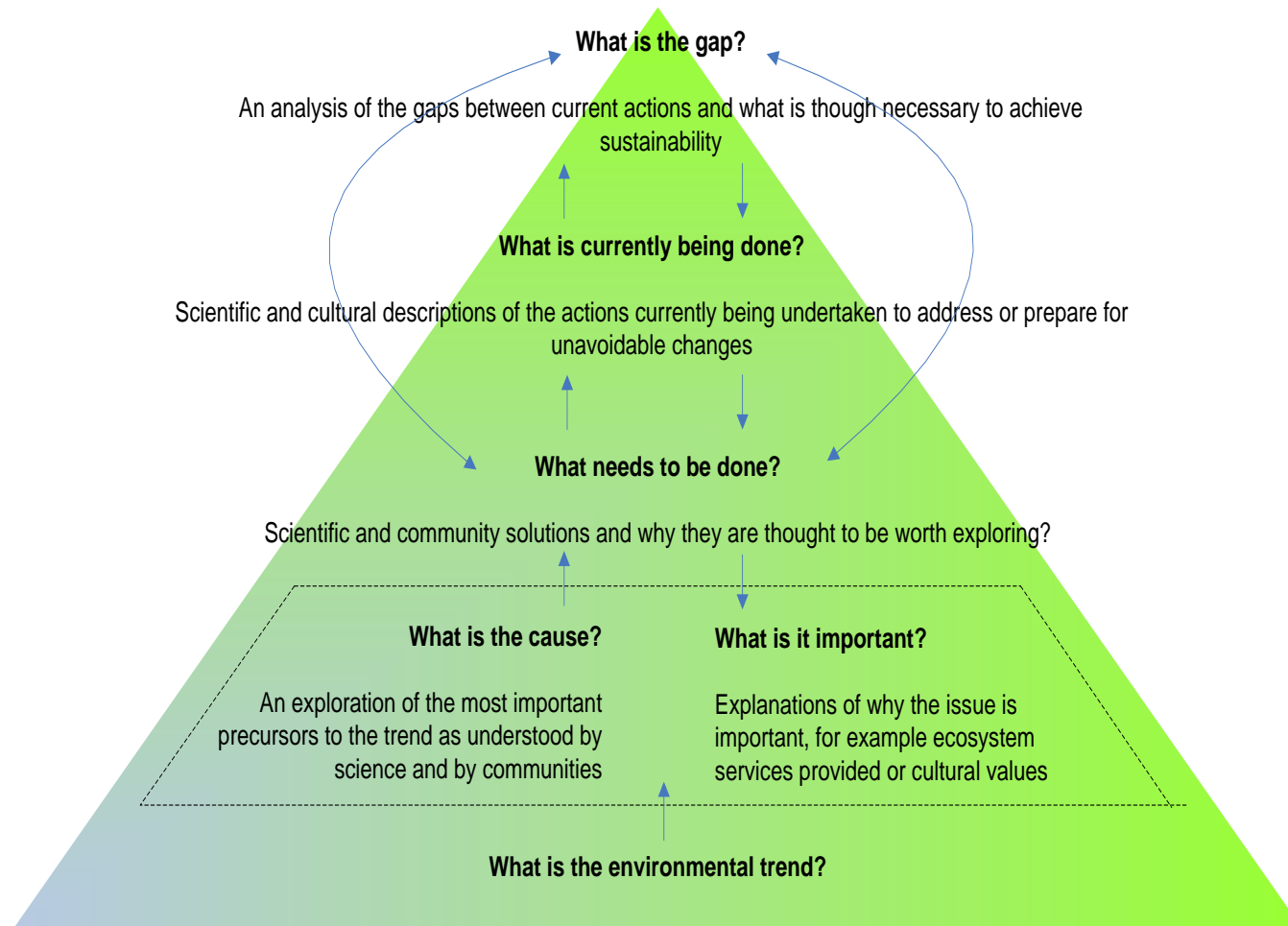
NRC advice on NRM MER

- Focus monitoring and analysis on critical knowledge needs
- Collaborate across different scales
- Deliver timely and relevant information

Criteria for environmental reporting initiatives

- Sound theoretical basis
- Resilience thinking
- Robust interdisciplinary science, referential, mix of fast and slow variables
- Co designed by stakeholders
- Policy alignment and relevance
- Policy impact, visible, useful
- Cost effective, risk based
- Drives adaptive management
- Data available, accessible, quality assured and stored to enable repeatability

Integrative reporting models



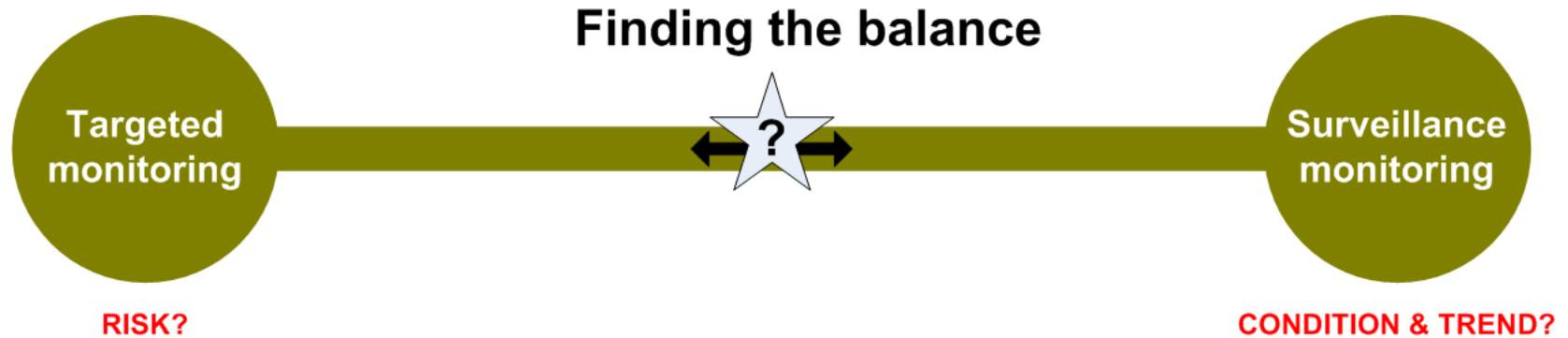
What is the value of environmental reporting?

- Is it for top down accountability?
- Is it for learning and improvement?
- Is it for community education?
- Is it to record for historical purposes downward trends?
- Is it for decision support?

What we found

- Relevance for decision making
- Capacity to interpret and integrate
- Sustainable funding
- ‘Reporting for reporting’s sake’

Cost and relevance



Invest more in surveillance monitoring if it can:

- Reveal something of greater importance more than targeted monitoring
- deliver more benefits (or avoid greater costs) more than targeted monitoring

Improving decision support

