



Application of Environmental Accounts in Australia

Mark Lound
Accounts Development
Environment and Agriculture
Australian Bureau of Statistics



www.abs.gov.au

Outline of presentation

- Environmental Accounting in Australia
- Information push and policy pull
- Why is environmental accounting not used?
- Presentation of environmental accounts
- Applications of Accounts
 - land
 - energy
 - water
- Opportunities

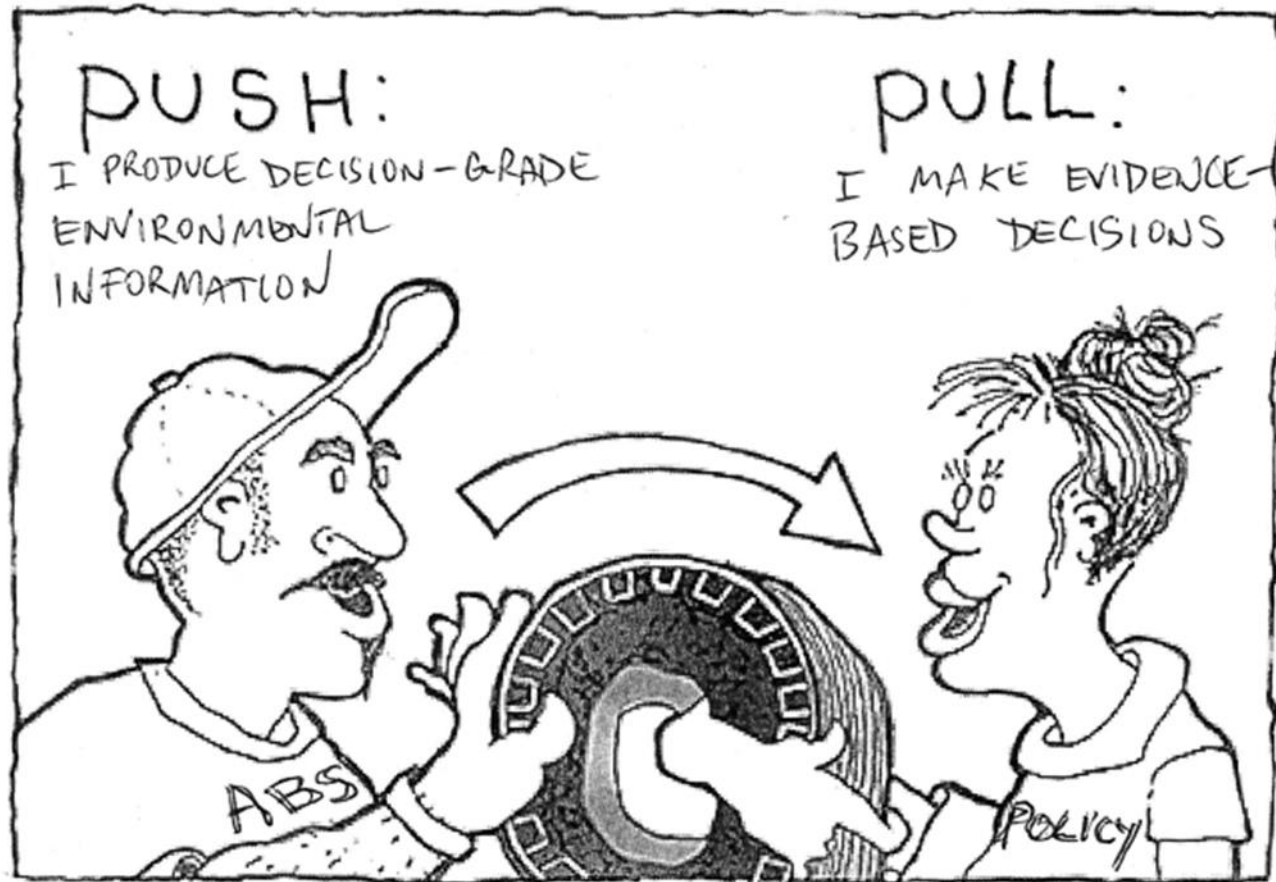
Why do we need environmental accounting?



Timeline of environmental accounting milestones for Australia

1991	Greenhouse Gas emissions (Department of Environment)			
1993	SNA revision and 1st edition of SEEA (EC, IMF, OECD, UN, WB)			
1995	Natural resources on balance sheet (ABS)			
1996	Energy account (ABS)			
1998	Mineral account (ABS)			
1999	Environmental expenditure, local government (ABS)			
2000	Water account – Physical and Monetary Supply and Use (ABS)			
	Greenhouse gas emission accounts (ABS)			
2011	Land account – Great Barrier Reef (ABS)			
	Water account – Asset (BoM)			
2012	SEEA Central Framework (EC, FAO, IMF, OECD, UN, WB)			
	Completing the Picture (ABS) Environmental Taxes (ABS)			
2013	SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (UNSD)			
	Waste accounts (ABS)			
	Ecosystem accounts (Victorian Environment and Primary Industry) Environmental Accounting Landscape (BOM)			
	Accounting for Nature (Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists)			
2014	Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts (AEEA) (ABS)			
	Experimental Environmental Expenditure Accounts (EEA) (ABS)			
2015	Experimental Ecosystem Account for Great Barrier Reef			

Information push and policy pull



Why is it not being used more in policy decision making?

- Interest in accounts peak when there is an event, i.e drought – water account, rather than consistently as with most economic data such as the National Accounts, unemployment data, CPI.
- Focus of NSOs and treasury and finance agencies remains with economic statistics
- Focus of environment and scientific agencies remains with biophysical data
- Promotion and understanding of the environmental accounts

But this is slowly changing.....

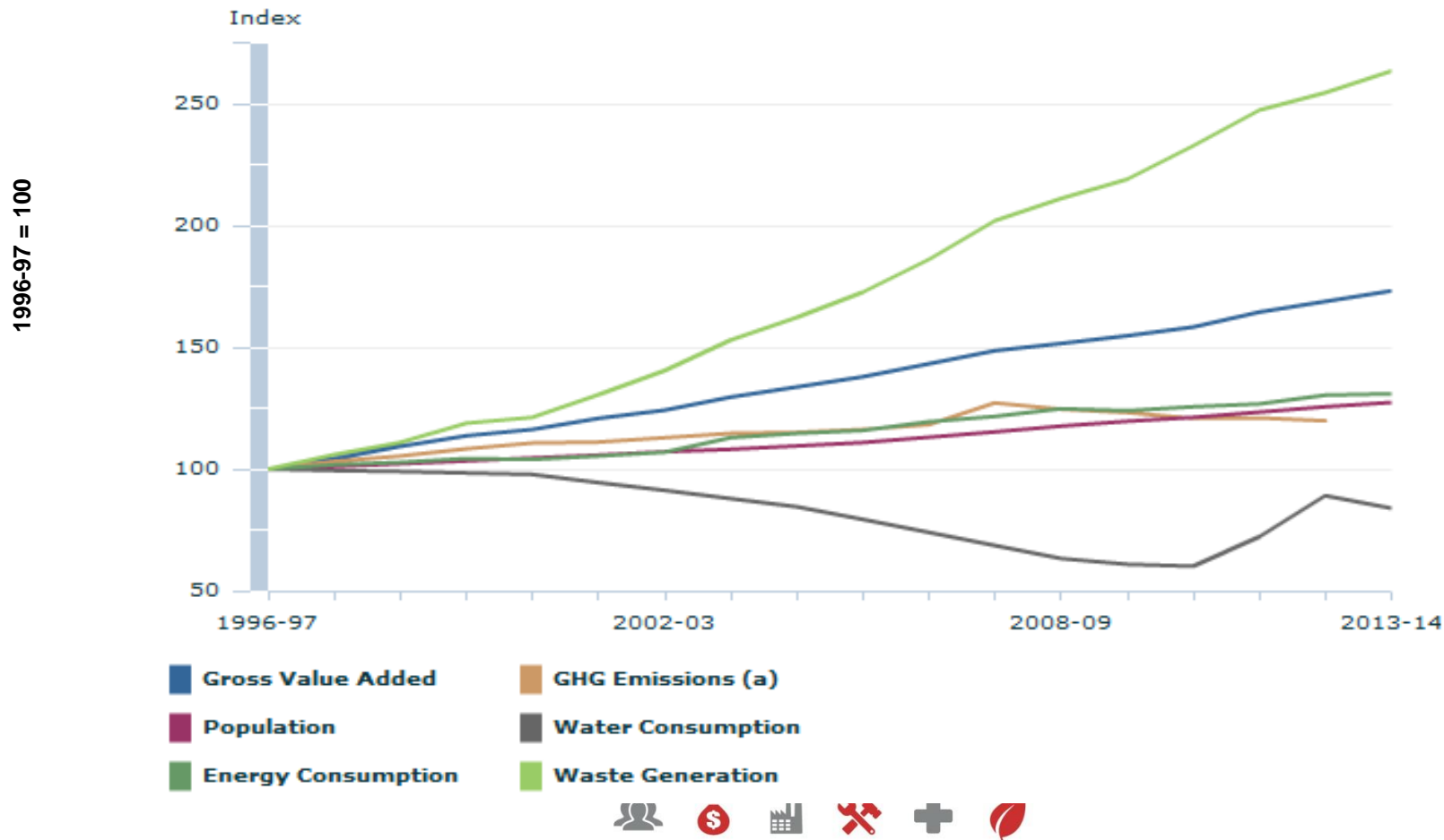
Understanding of Environmental Accounting?



Presentation of accounts

**Economic Growth and Selected Environmental Indicators,
Australia, 1996-97 to 2013-14, Index (1996-97 = 100) ABS 4655.0**

SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES, Australia, 1996-97 to 2013-14



Application of Land Accounts

- Great Barrier Reef Land Account and disaster recovery information after Cyclone Yazi 2011
- South Australian Land Account will be used to measure impact of new highway out of the capital city, Adelaide



Application of Energy Accounts

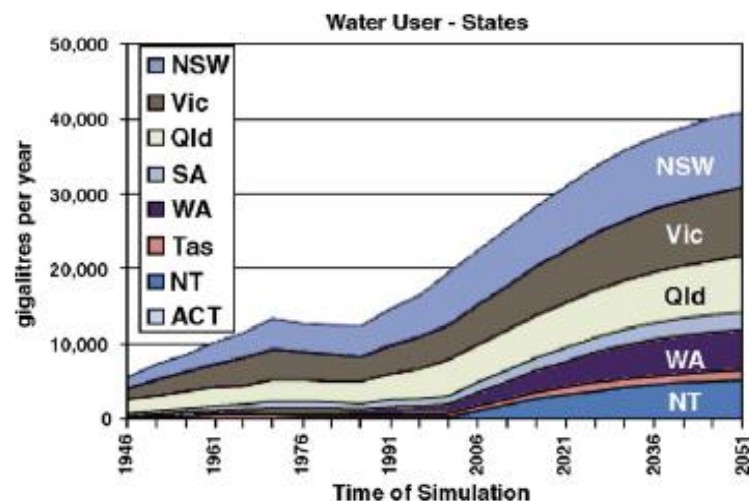
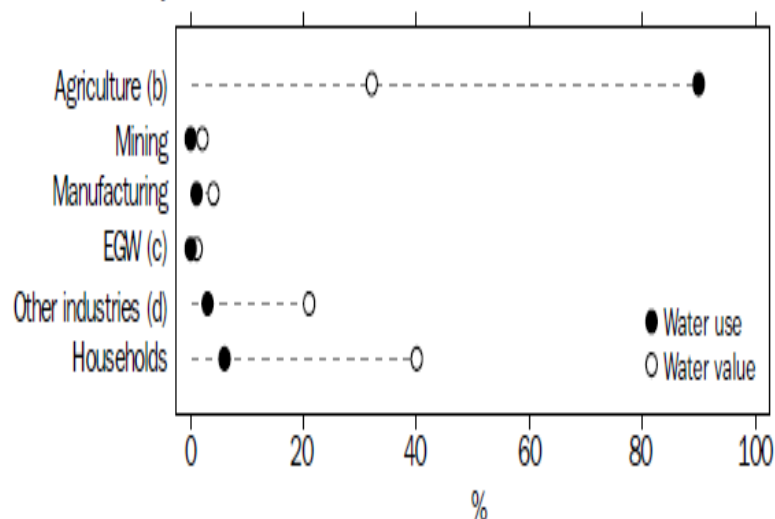
- Department of Industry:
 - funded increase in sample size in main environment survey to better understand energy useage by different industries and small/medium sized businesses
 - modelling industry impact from changes in energy prices
 - input to department project on energy productivity
- CSIRO funded the development of Energy Use Data Model as a result of poor energy use age forecasts



Application of Water Accounts

- Treasury analysis of allocation of water across Murray Darling Basin during drought to minimise the impact on GDP and Employment
- Input into forecasting models for water consumption across industry

6.5 DISTRIBUTED WATER USE AND VALUE(a), by industry—MDB—2009-10



Opportunities

- Update to Great Barrier Reef Environmental Economic Accounts will complement 5 yearly report on the condition of the reef
- 2021 State of the Environment Report will use environmental accounts as an information base as well as some jurisdictions (Victoria and the ACT)
- Outcomes of Agricultural Statistics Review will use the SEEA AFF as the statistical framework
- Collaborative working with the Department of the Environment and Energy, GeoScience Australia and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Questions and discussion

