

# Water Planning Reform

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# Why is water planning important?

- Water planning provides security and certainty for water users and future investors in water-based businesses and the environment
- DEWNR manages 14,929 water licences and 2,654,800 megalitres of allocation.
- The gross value of irrigated agricultural production in SA is \$1.43 billion.
- 27 % of the value of SA's agricultural production relies on irrigation (ABS data 2011-12)
- Sustainable water resource management also supports mining development worth \$4.4 billion annually



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# Current status in water planning in South Australia

- 19 existing water allocation plans
- 2 new plans are being developed for resources that have previously not had a plan
- 4 plans are currently being amended

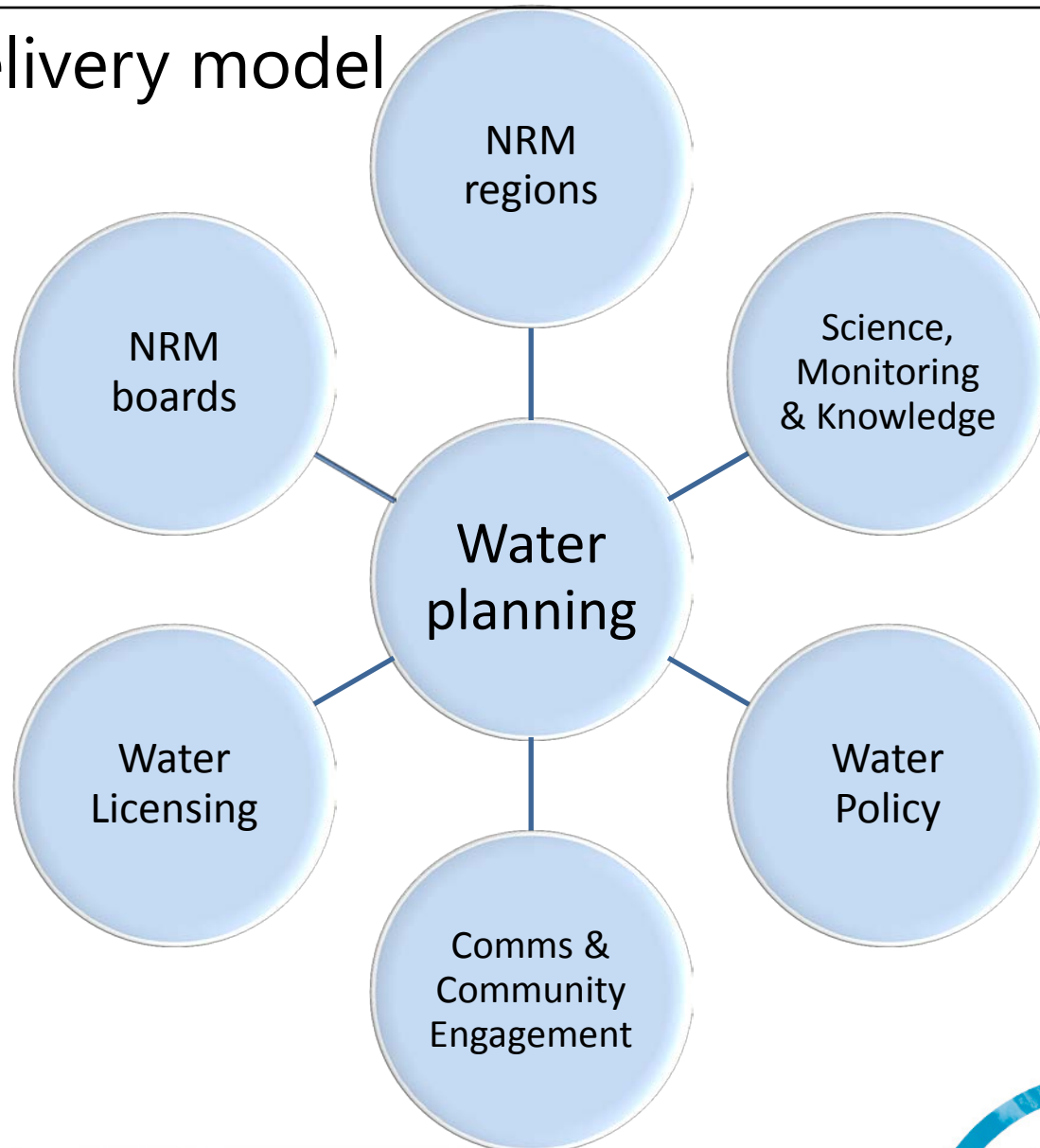


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# Shared delivery model



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# Challenges in water planning

- The time taken to complete water plans and NRM plans has been long in many cases
- Communities continue to ask for better engagement
- Need for science – evidence for policy decisions – monitoring/evaluation – cost
- Licensing is ongoing and expensive
- The legislation around water planning is complex, hard to administer and overly bureaucratic
- Achieving a balance (trade off) between economic, social and environmental water needs is not easy
- Resourcing with reducing budgets



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# Water planning reform is a strategic priority

- DEWNR Corporate Plan
- Key action in the *Agriculture and NRM: Working Together* agreement
- Premium food and wine from our clean environment.



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# The need for change

- To develop a Statewide mechanism to schedule or prioritise work
- To improve the ad hoc governance arrangements for water allocation plans & other tasks
- Improve the sharing of experience and learnings across regions
- Consider amendments to the NRM Act to make it less complex & bureaucratic

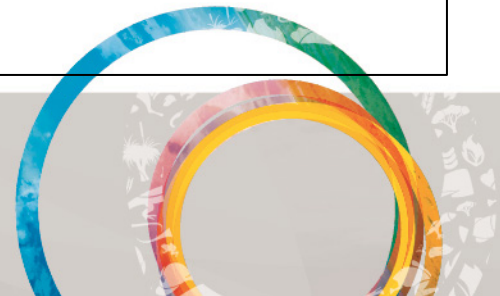
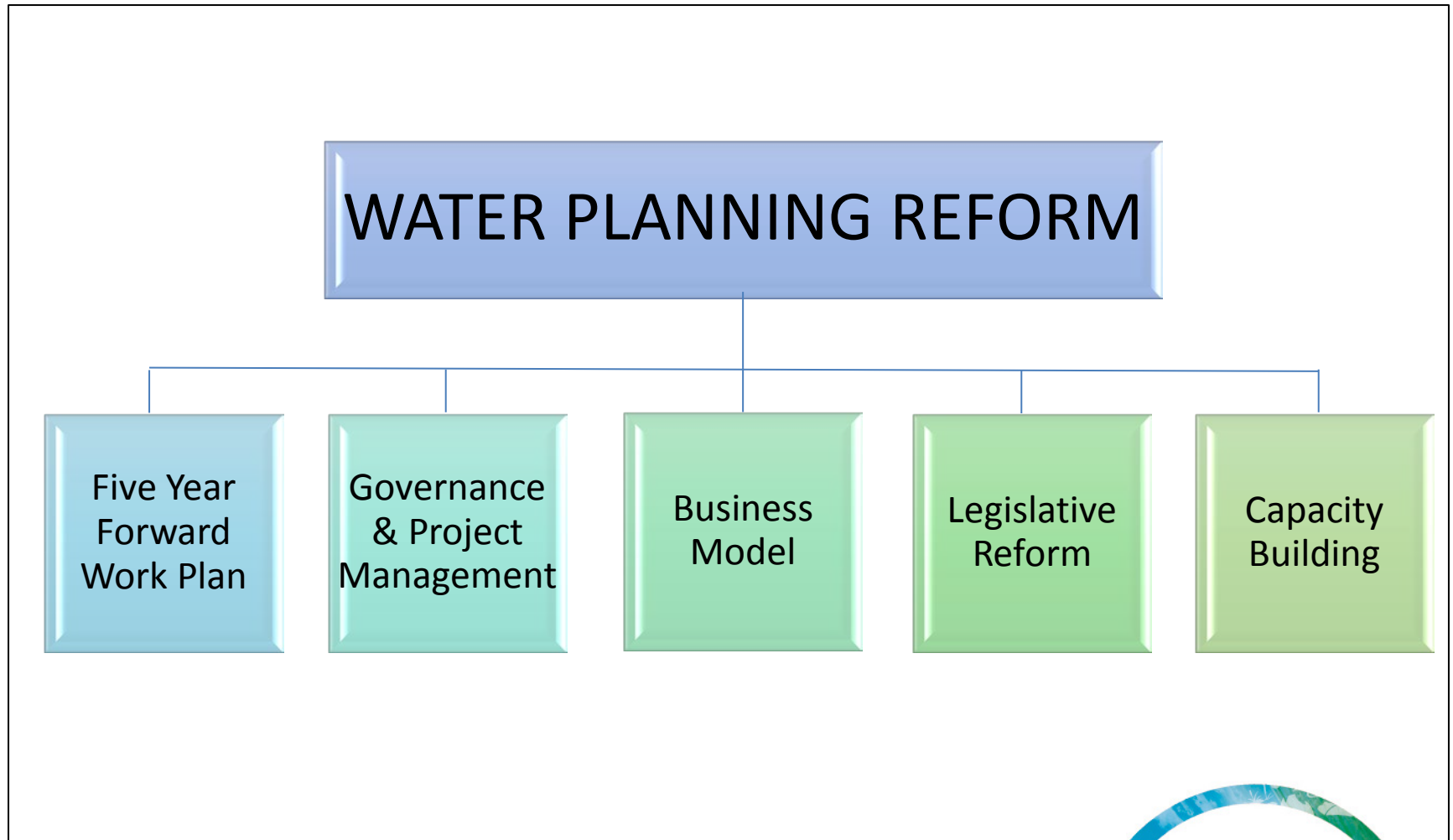


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# There are multiple work streams





# Develop a statewide priority schedule for water planning work

Five Year  
Forward Work  
Plan

- Using a risk based approach
- Risk criteria developed with NRM regions
- Major tasks for each water resource are mapped to provide a work schedule
- Five Year Forward Plan jointly approved by DEWNR Executive and NRM Board Presiding Members in November 2014
- To be reviewed annually



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# High priority water resource management work identified by a risk assessment

Five Year  
Forward  
Work Plan

Combined prescribed & non-prescribed areas (region)	Resource condition	Social and economic	Effectiveness of current controls	Financial risks	Total	Work priority	Reputational (tie-breaker)
Southern Basins & Musgrave (EP)	6	8	4	4	22	High	8
Lower Limestone Coast (SE)	2	8	6	6	22	High	8
Western Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR)	6	8	6	2	22	High	6
Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands (AW)	6	6	6	4	22	High	6
Cooper Creek (SAAL)	6	6	6	2	20	High	8
South East regional surface water (including drainage system) (SE)	6	4	6	4	20	High	8
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (SAMDB)	6	4	6	4	20	High	6
Yalata and Maralinga (AW)	6	6	4	4	20	High	4



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# Developing a new governance framework for water planning activities

- Whole of lifecycle project management approach
- Agreed implementation plan for each water allocation plan is required, before a plan is recommended for adoption
- Requires a partnership between DEWNR and NRM boards



# NRM Act reform

Legislative  
Reform

- There is a case for further reform to:
  - enable greater flexibility for NRM boards in developing and amending water allocation plans, including consultation requirements
  - facilitate a fit-for-purpose licensing regime that does not duplicate requirements and uses resources efficiently
  - create a modern, simpler, water planning system that can be better understood and embraced by the community



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# Building capacity

- Cross-departmental project teams will work on individual water allocation plans
- Build skills and knowledge in water planning across DEWNR
- Ensure greater consistency in policy and scientific approaches to water allocation plans



# Sustainable delivery model

## Short term

- Investigate options to fund priority statewide work together with the NRM boards

## Medium /long term

- Opportunity to develop a sustainable delivery model for water planning



# WATER PLANNING REFORM

Five Year  
Forward  
Work Plan



Governance  
& Project  
Management



Business  
Model

Being developed

Legislative  
Reform

Scoping underway

Capacity  
Building

Underway & ongoing



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