



We report on the State of Victoria's  
environment to help government, business and the  
community take practical action

 Air quality

 Biodiversity

 Climate change

EIANZ Conference  
Emerging Trends in Environment Reporting  
**October 2017**

 Coastal waters

 Inland Rivers and Streams

 Land

## Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Act 2003 (Victoria)

- ▶ Established in 2003
- ▶ Independent Commissioner reports on the state of Victoria's environment every five years
- ▶ Report (and framework for reporting) must be tabled in Parliament
- ▶ Government must table response within 12 months



## Comprehensive review of Victorian, national and international reporting:

- ▶ Feedback from decision-makers (Victoria)
- ▶ Comparative analysis across Australian jurisdictions
- ▶ Review of leading international reporting processes



## Feedback from Decision-makers (1)

- ▶ Multiple reporting products for multiple audiences
- ▶ Consistent headline indicators and trend analysis
- ▶ Establishing an evidence stocktake to identify efficiencies in MR system and opportunities for cost sharing
- ▶ Utilisation of citizen science
- ▶ Co-creation with key agencies and partners

## Feedback from Decision-makers (2)

- ▶ Meta-narrative that links and connects reporting themes between other statutory environmental reports e.g. State of the Bays, State of the Forests and fire risk response
- ▶ Reporting that addresses knowledge gaps and supports evidence-based prioritisation of investment
- ▶ The reporting process needs to be a reform process that improves monitoring and investment regimes

# National Reporting (1)

Jurisdiction	Responsible Agency	Most Recent Report	Reporting Cycle
Victoria	Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability	2013	5 year
South Australia	EPA	2013	5 year
New South Wales	EPA	2015	3 year
Federal	Department of the Environment and Energy	2016	5 year
ACT	Commissioner for the Environment	2015	4 year
Queensland	Department of Environment and Heritage	2011	4 year
Tasmania	Tasmanian Planning Commission	2009	5 year
Western Australia	EPA	1998	Irregular, previous reports in 1992 and 1998

# National Reporting(2)

## Science

- ▶ Integration of monitoring and reporting and alignment of indicators and trend analysis...
- ▶ ... would be useful if there was a complementary effort to address knowledge gaps.

## Governance

- ▶ Clarifying (and formalising) the role of the Australian Government in state and regional SoE reporting
- ▶ Better quality assurance processes
- ▶ More strategic and formalised resourcing arrangements.

# National Reporting (3)

## Reporting

- ▶ Focus on influencing and informing decision making through:
  - ▶ More timely and succinct reporting (digital)
  - ▶ Multiple lines of evidence - management effectiveness, resilience, risk, ecosystem services and environmental-economic accounts.

## Engagement

- ▶ Formalising roles and responsibilities with other agencies, departments and data providers (co-creation)
- ▶ Seeking scientific consensus
- ▶ Better planning in stakeholder engagement and communication activities.



# International Trends (1)

- ▶ **Strategic focus** – Targets, follow-up actions and role in implementation.

When the reporter does not have a mandate to set and/or influence policy it is reflected in the quality of reporting.

- ▶ **Governance** – Clear governance structures, accountability to Parliament/Minister.

Inter-ministerial or departmental inclusion where each action is owned by specific Minister/department.

- ▶ **Stakeholder voice** – “Buy-in” from policy makers, businesses and community.

Involve partners in all phases of reporting – not just in final reviewing.

## International Trends (2)

- ▶ **Data management** – balance, comparability, accuracy, timeliness, clarity, reliability.









London, China, USA and Europe reports serve as best-practice examples – collection, collation and interpretation.

- ▶ **Communication** – online presence, social media, interactive web formats, visuals and film.

Improve accessibility and utility of reporting products.

# International Trends (3)

SOER has a long history at the EEA

			SYNTHESIS REPORT	GLOBAL MEGATRENDS	EUROPEAN BRIEFINGS	COUNTRY COMPARISONS	COUNTRIES & REGIONS
	<b>1995</b>						
1996							
1997							
1998							
	<b>1999</b>						
2000							
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2002							
2003							
2004							
	<b>2005</b>						
2006							
2007							
2008							
2009							
	<b>2010</b>						
2011							

- report (151 pp) + summary

**SOER 1995** - addresses 5 EAP targets

- focus on sectoral integration

- big report (446 pp) + summary

**SOER 1999** - addresses environmental trends

- focus on DPSIR, link between issues

- bigger report (569 pp, Parts A, B & C)

**SOER 2005** - addresses air, water, land

- focus on DPSIR, more set of indicators

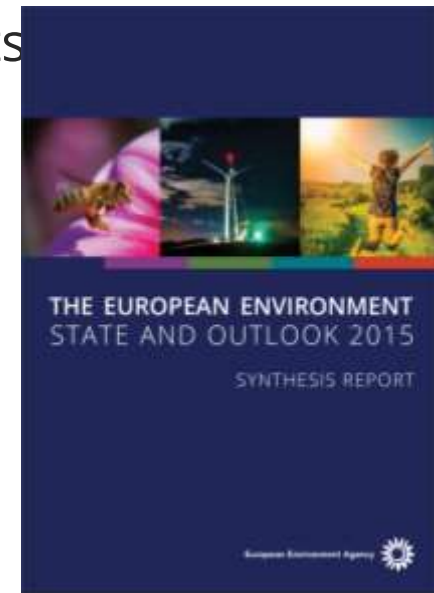
- several reports (Parts A, B, C + Synthesis)

**SOER 2010** - addresses 6 EAP priority areas

- focus on systemic challenges

## European Environment Agency SOER 2015

- ▶ **Focus** – integrated narrative across themes; community values, systemic challenges, multi-disciplinary, across scales and supports
- ▶ **Format** – synthesis report and online with links to data, indicators and references
- ▶ **Global megatrends** – outlook report; future impacts for Europe





# Victorian 2018 State of the Environment Reporting Framework

## State and Benefit

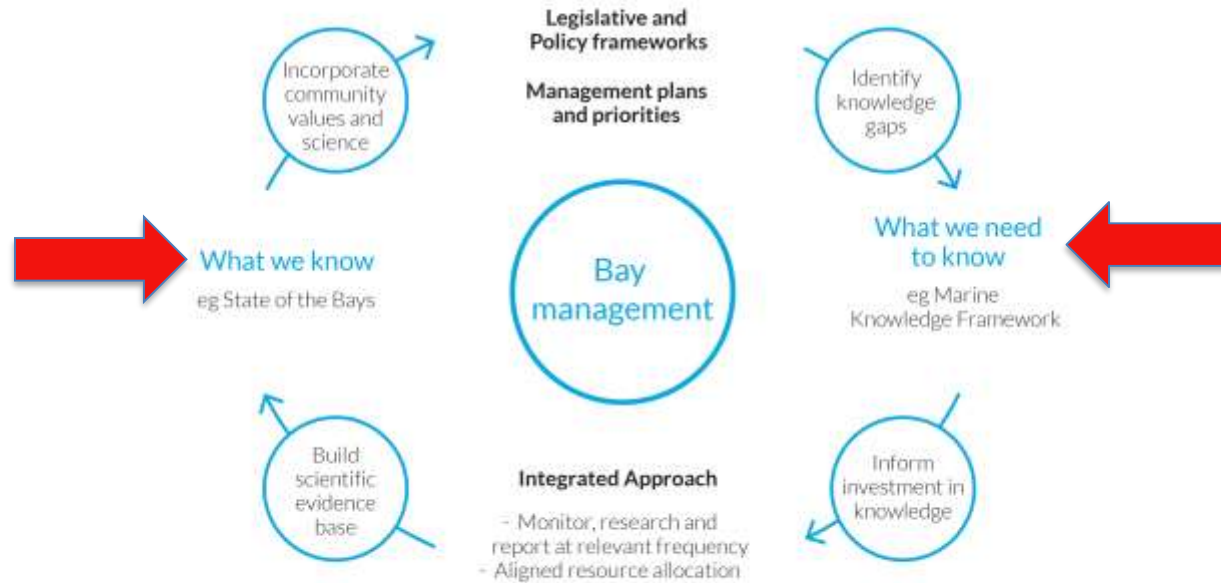
- ✓ *Delivering a report*
- ✓ *Delivering public sector reform*

## State and Benefit

- ▶ Contemporary environmental reporting – systemic challenges, MLE, community values (SDGs), citizen engagement
- ▶ Co-creation with partners - aligning reports, improving monitoring and investment regimes
- ▶ Multiple reporting products; transition to digital reporting
- ▶ Adopt UN's System of Environmental-Economic Accounts as international standard in Victoria
- ▶ Enabling a shift to management



## Adaptive management cycle for the bays



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