



**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**



COMPLETING THE PICTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING IN PRACTICE

Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting by the Australian Bureau of Statistics

WAVES 2nd Partnership Meeting
2-4 April 2012

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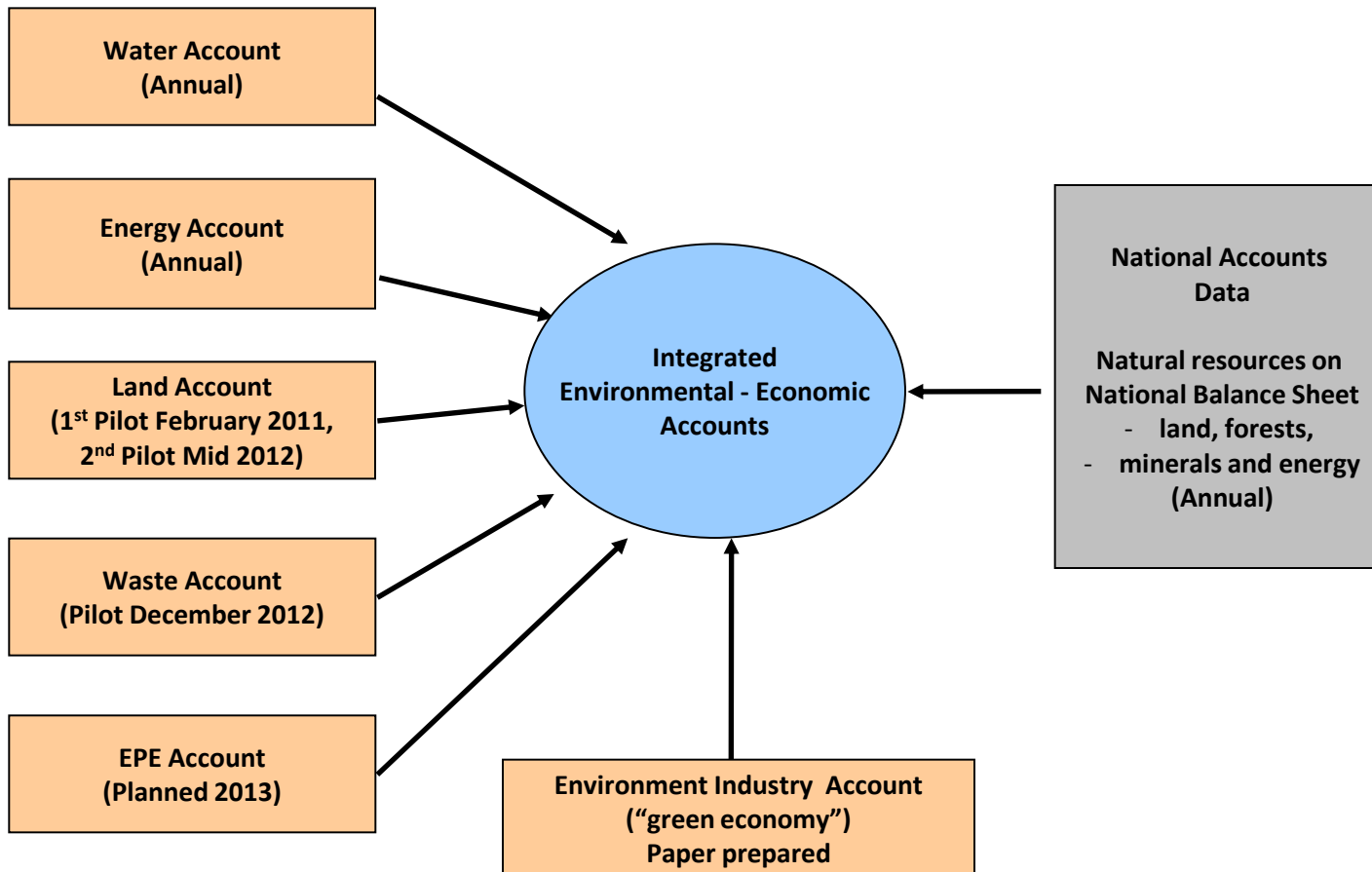
Update: Key activities in 2011-12

- Contributing significantly to the development of the SEEA
- Continuing to produce selected accounts (water, energy, land, natural resources on the balance sheet)
- Increasing awareness and understanding of SEEA (within ABS, Australia more generally and internationally)
- **Building capacity** (within ABS, Australia more generally and internationally)

Contributing significantly to the development of the SEEA

- Chair UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)
- Part of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Parts 1 and 2 Editorial Board
- Wider contribution to the resolution of issues in SEEA
- Adoption of the SEEA Part 1 as an international statistical standard (putting the SEEA at the same level as the System of National Accounts)
- Hosting the 3rd meeting of the Expert Group on ecosystem Accounting 16-18 May 2012 (Melbourne, Australia)

Continuing to produce selected Environmental accounts



Increasing awareness and understanding of SEEA

- Communicating key features of the environmental accounts
- Working with data producers and data users to understand which environmental accounts would be most useful and how they could be regularly produced
- Developing examples of policy applications and describing an annual set of environment-economic accounts

- Working across government to make best use of existing data and respecting the roles and responsibilities of different agencies, recognising that the ABS will not be the only agency producing environmental accounts (e.g. Bureau of Meteorology, Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, State Governments and NRM regions)
- The data needed to underpin the accounts is critical to the success of environmental accounting
- Identifying gaps and deficiencies in data and investigating ways to address these



International speakers

Targeted at senior decision-
makers and policy analysts

Accompanying publication

Places limited

Register your interest with:
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Policy applications of accounts

Example Policy Issues

Climate change

Green Growth

Sustainable production and
consumption

Water Scarcity

Biodiversity conservation

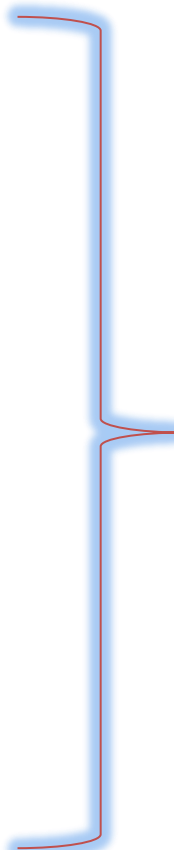
Pollution and waste management

Great Barrier Reef

Murray-Darling Basin

Coal seam gas

Wellbeing and sustainability



Water accounts
Carbon accounts
Energy accounts
Land and ecosystem accounts
Waste accounts
Fish accounts
Mineral accounts
Environmental protection and
resource management accounts
Environmental taxes and subsidies
Material flow accounts
Etc.

Some take home messages...

1. Environmental and economic information is vital for informed, sophisticated decision-making and policy analysis
2. SEEA is an internationally recognised standard explicitly designed for this purpose
3. SEEA is an accounting standard, not an ideology
4. SEEA enables a wide range of issues to be studied, including sustainability, well-being and green growth
5. ABS produce several environmental-economic accounts, and sees a need to expand this program
6. In order to produce additional and more frequent accounts the ABS will have to work closely with others
7. ABS will continue to work nationally and internationally to increase the use and understanding of the SEEA