

SEPP (Waters) Review

Veronica Lanigan & Sally Lock



9/08/2016

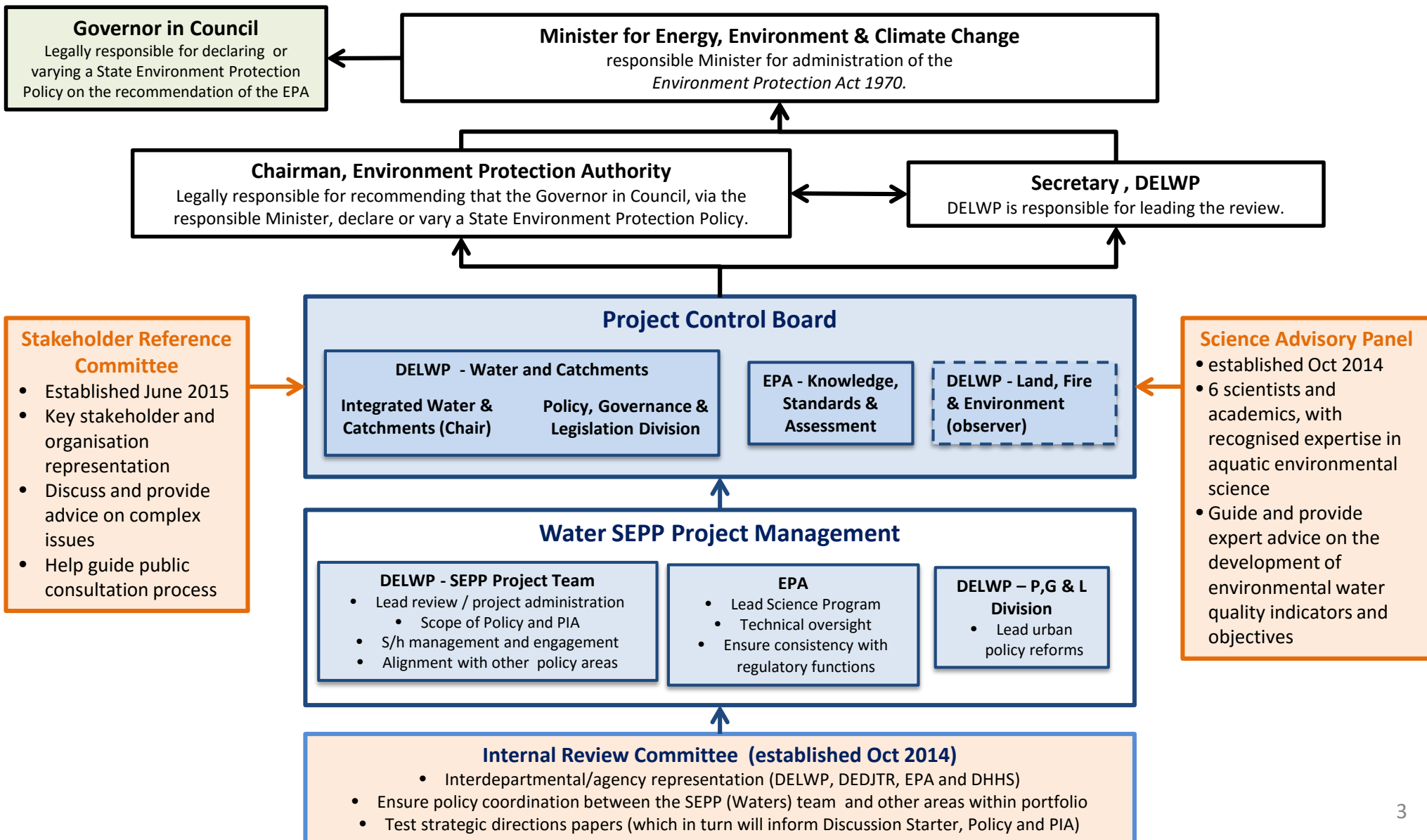
Department of
Environment, Land,
Water & Planning



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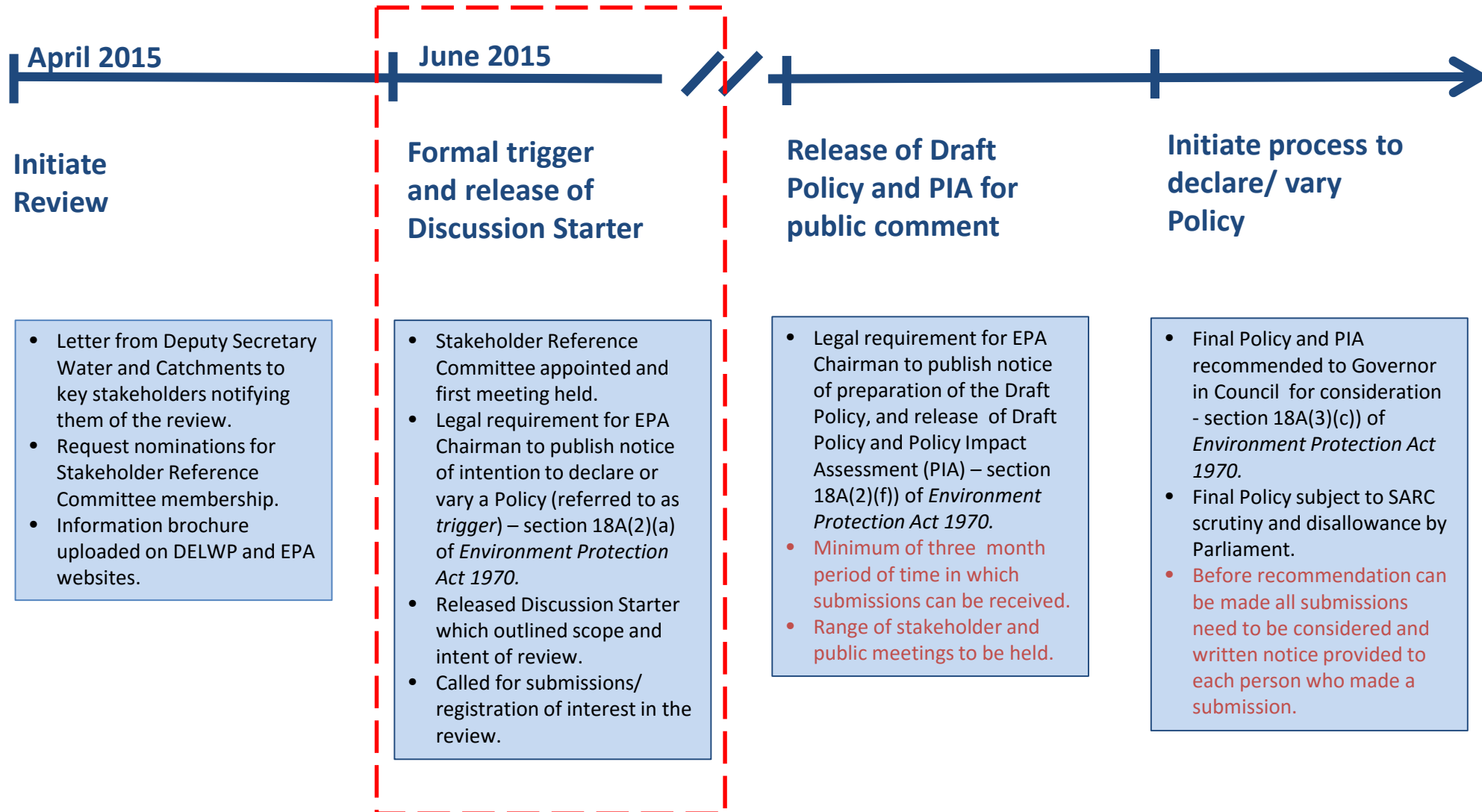
- There are two critical aspects to state environment protection policies (SEPPs) for water. They:
 - set in statutory policy the **environmental objectives and indicators** (“the numbers”) required to protect different **beneficial uses** for different water environments; and
 - establish the framework or set rules/obligations for managing the impacts of different activities on water quality, known as the attainment program and **implementation plan**.
- The current policies are over 10 years old – the review will combine into a single policy:
 - SEPP (Groundwaters of Victoria) (*GoV*);
 - SEPP (Waters of Victoria) (*WoV*); and
 - the schedules to these policies.

Roles and Responsibilities

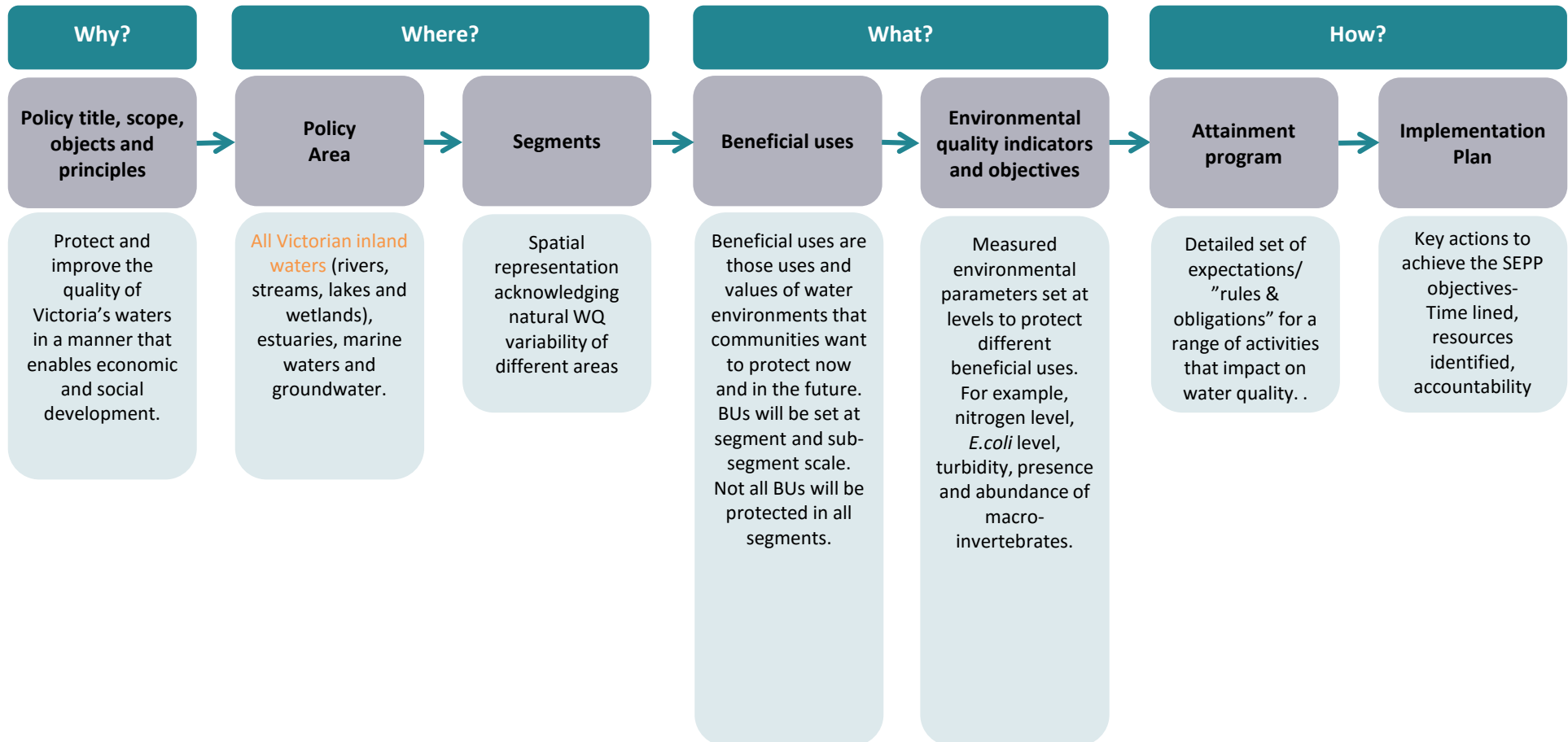


Key stages in SEPP (Waters) Review

Including community and stakeholder involvement



Building blocks of SEPP (Waters)



Beneficial Uses



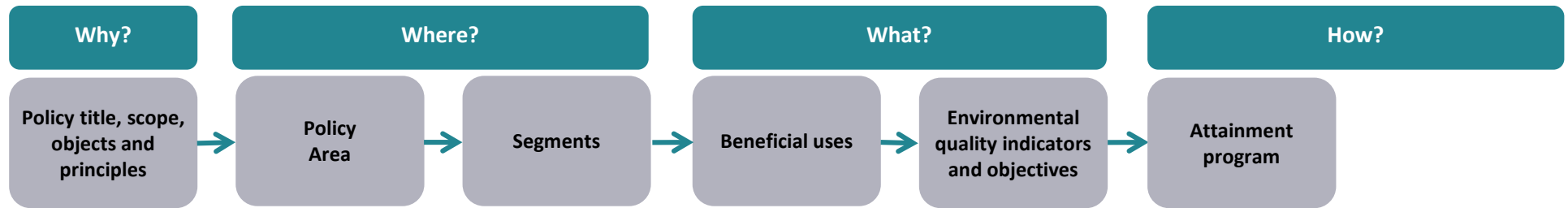
Beneficial Uses

- Aquatic ecosystems / Maintenance of ecosystems where groundwater discharges to surface waters
- Primary contact recreation
- Secondary contact recreation
- Aesthetic enjoyment
- Indigenous cultural and spiritual values
- Non-indigenous cultural and spiritual values
- Potable mineral water supply
- Agriculture and irrigation /agriculture, parks and gardens
- Stock watering
- Aquaculture
- Industrial and commercial use
- Fish, crustacea and molluscs for human consumption
- Buildings and structures

Challenges

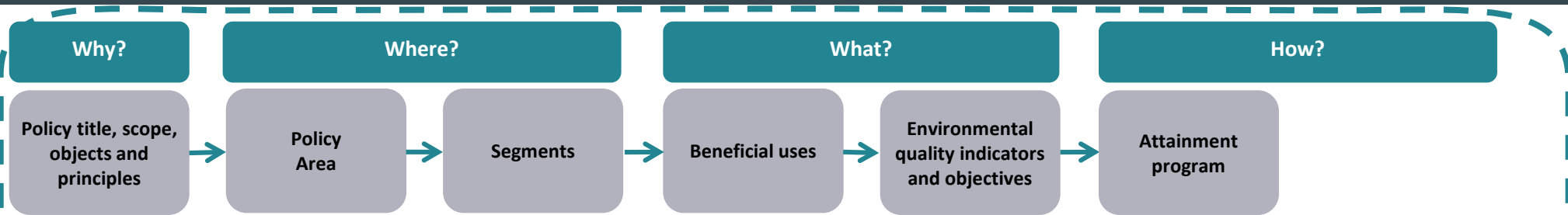
- Refine list of BUs — consolidate BUs from SEPP (GoV), SEPP (WoV) and schedules
- Use existing data to inform distribution of BUs across segments and sub-segments

Attainment Program



- Attainment Program - detailed set of expectations / rules for a range of activities that impact on water quality. For example, permitted activities (discharge to water), WQ requirements for point sources (stormwater/ irrigation) and diffuse sources (agriculture, forestry).
- Typically include guidance, management controls and methods to be followed to achieve the policy objectives- environment protection.
- Attainment clauses collectively make up the program by which environmental quality objectives are to be collectively achieved or 'attained'.
- Revised attainment program will focus on:
 - outcomes rather than how
 - Being enabling versus prescriptive

Attainment Program review

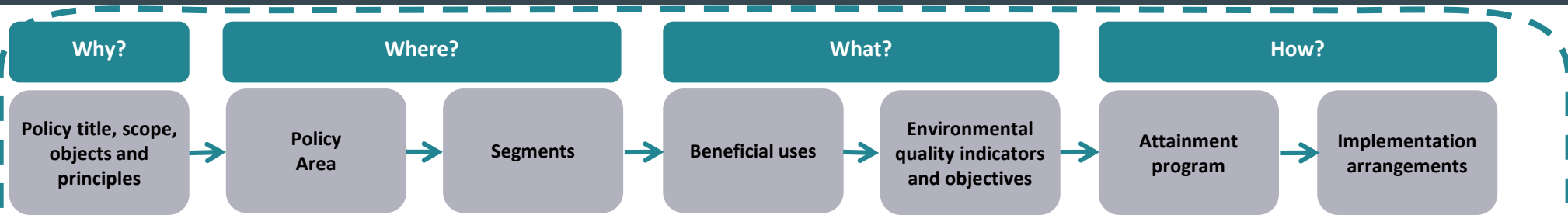


- Review of attainment clauses major work for the review
 - Permitted activities (i.e. licensed point source discharges) **EPA**
 - Other point source pollution (stormwater) **DELWP**
 - Diffuse sources of pollution **DELWP**
 - Groundwater (i.e. SEPP GoV) **EPA**

Priority clauses

- Clause 24 regional target setting
- Clause 26 off-set measures
- Clause 31 m'ment of wastewater reuse & recycling
- Clause 32 on-site domestic wastewater m'ment
- Clause 35 sewerage management

Implementation arrangements



Implementation Plans

- In addition to policy
- Implementation plan will identify a number of key actions required to ensure SEPP (Waters) does what it is mean to do. For example, if guidance notes need to be developed or how a monitoring and assessment program will be coordinated across agencies
- Accountability/resources/time lined.
- Opportunity to develop more detailed planning based for spatial area (catchment) or on a particular issue (agriculture).

Clauses of interest



Clause 24

Regional Target Setting-

- Vehicle to protect & improve river health
- Regional waterway management plans

Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIP)

- SEPP non-compliance with objectives
 - State driven planning in priority areas

Clauses 32, 33, 34

- Onsite Domestic wastewater m'ment
 - VAGO
 - ODWM plans
 - WC long term wastewater planning

Legislative reform

- EPA Independent Inquiry
 - EP Act review
 - Revoke vary or amend permits
- Local Government Act
 - Cost recovery and enforcement of upgrades

Questions

- Any general Questions on the review