

Water
Why can't our
politicians get it
right?

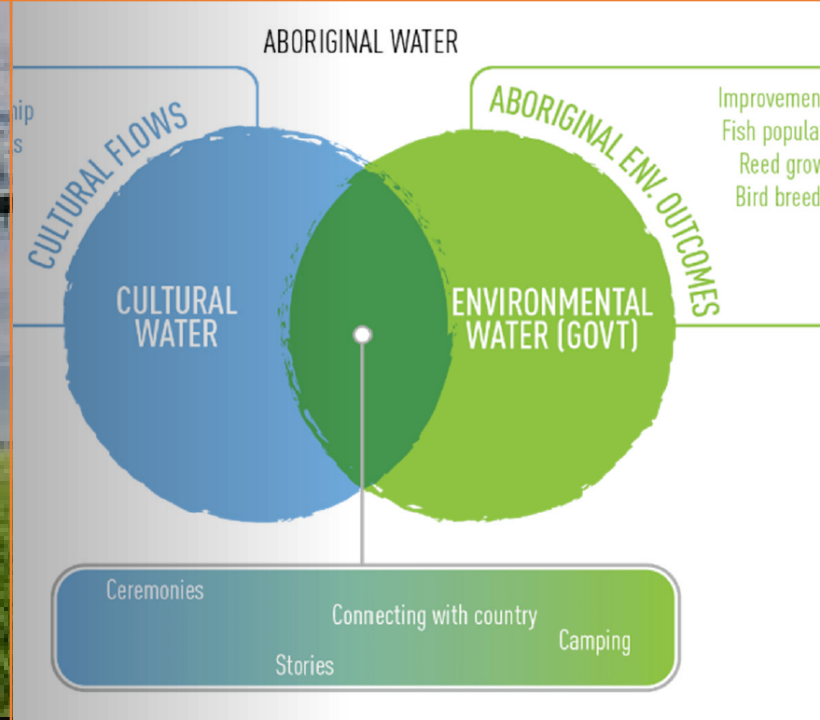
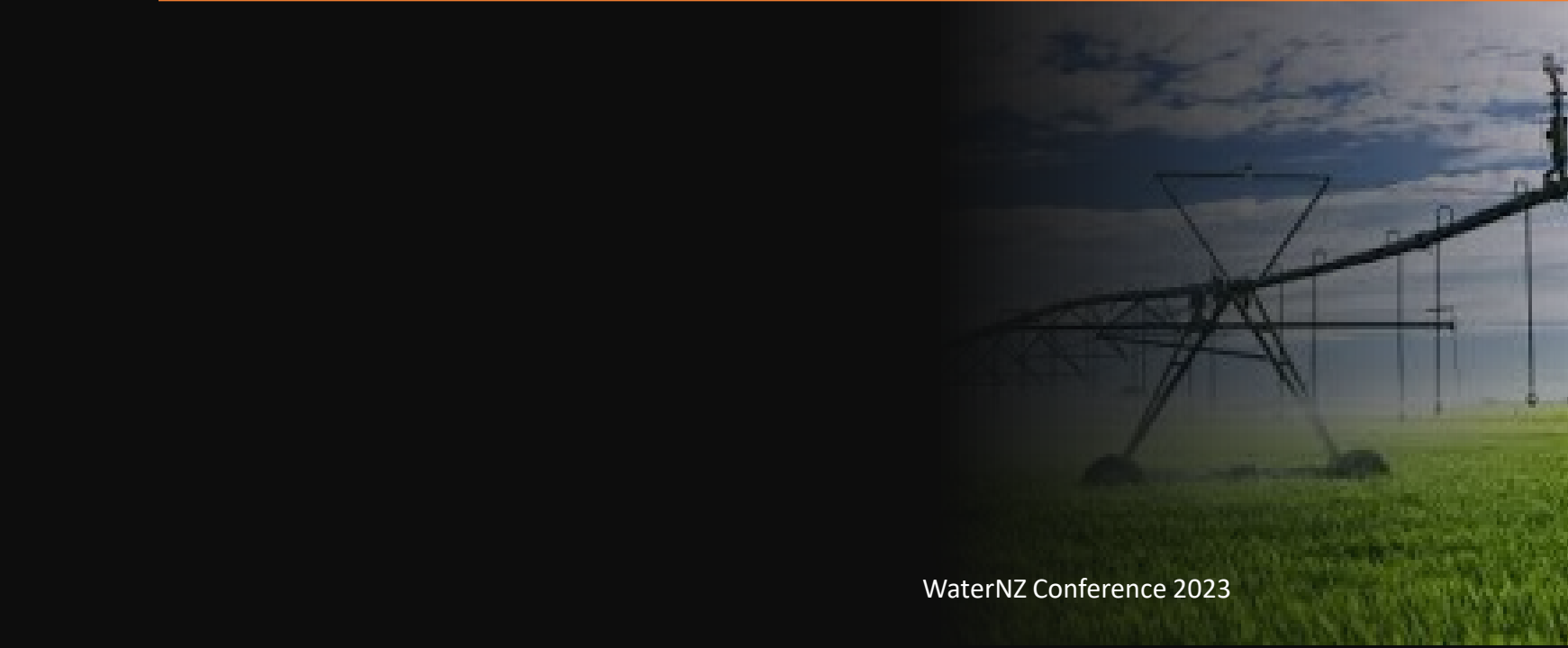
Hon Karlene Maywald
South Australian Water Ambassador

Because

It's just not that
easy.....



Competing Demands / Competing Agency





Constant state of variability

People

“In water resource issues we can nearly always be certain that people are integral. Therefore, it makes sense that a large part of the solution is going to involve those people.”

Maywald and Bouilly

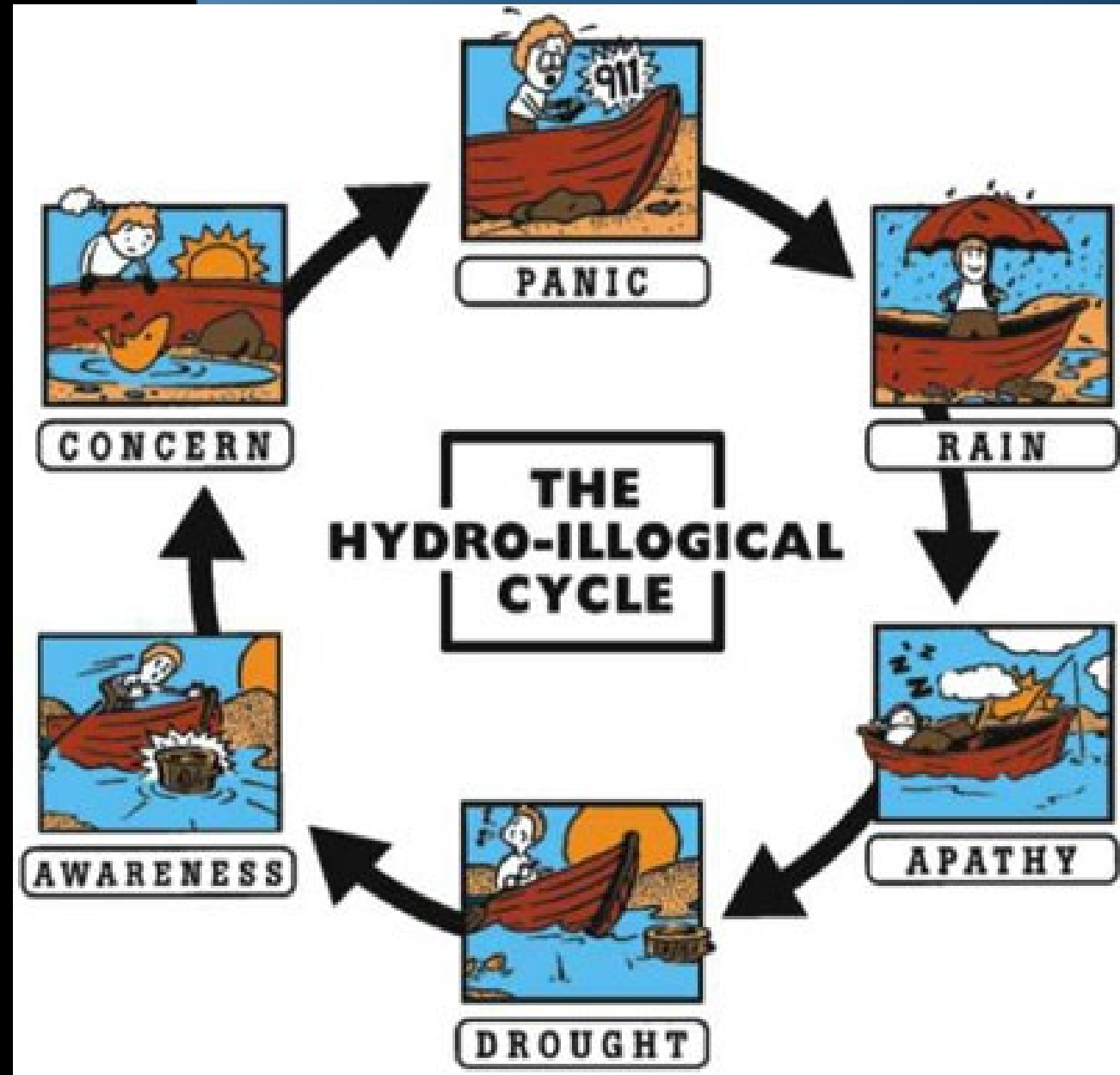


There will be conflict

“Bringing people with divergent, conflicting views together to work out what is fair for everyone is not something that is traditionally done well in water resource management”

Grabbe and Bouilly





Add to that...

- Multiple agencies with touch points and impacts
- Insufficient investment in infrastructure
- Ad hoc decision making
- Pricing not reflective of cost
- Environment carrying the cost
- Fierce competition for \$\$ from treasury



Politically.....it's a poison chalice !!!

Why a Whole of Government Approach?

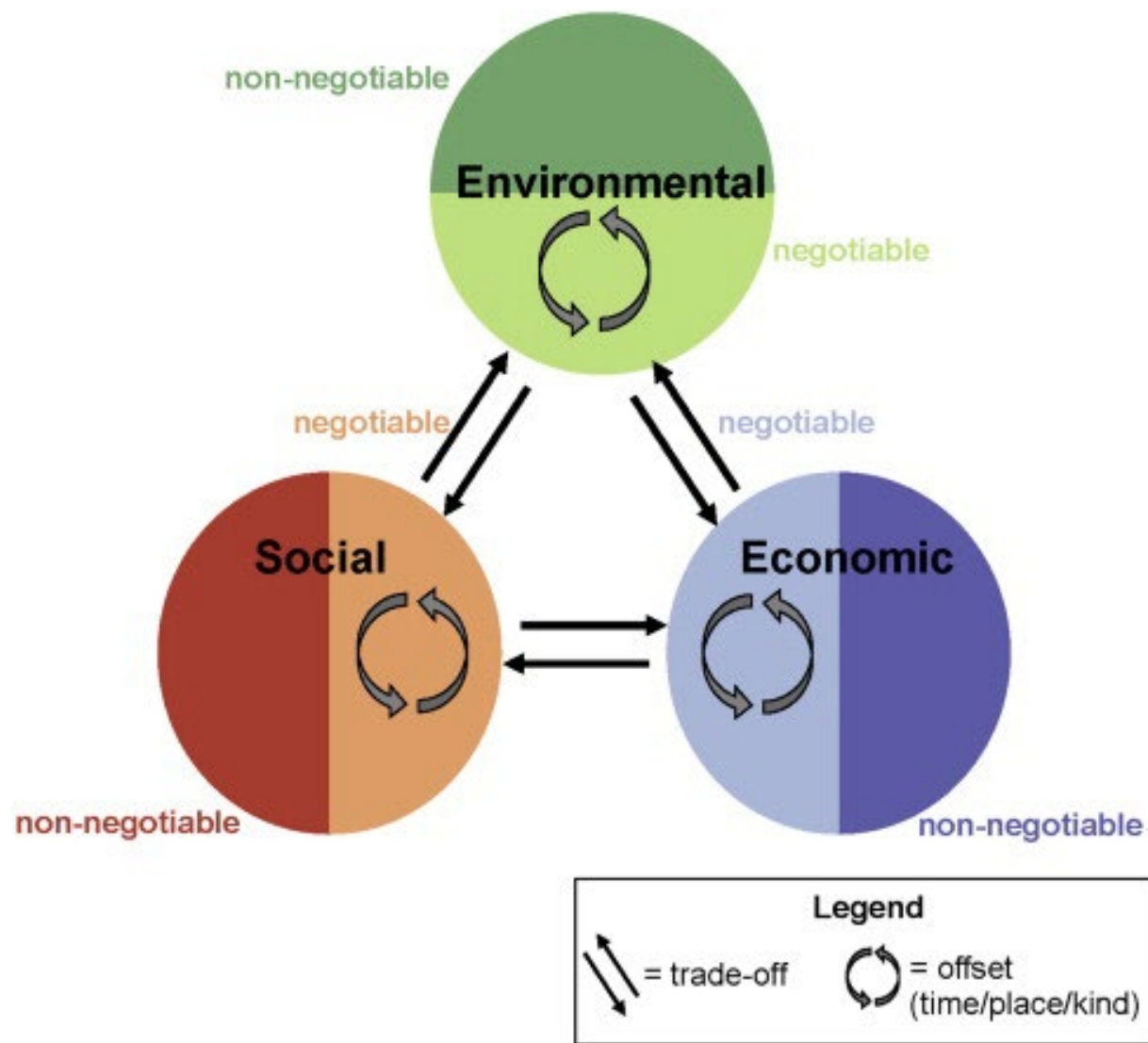
Environmental
responsibility

Economic
responsibility

Social
responsibility



And there will be trade-offs





Australia's Water Reform Journey

1917 - 1995 Cooperative Federalism

1994 – 2007 Council of Australian Governments

2007 – 2023 National Water Reform Agenda \$13 Billion and counting



Minister for Water Security South Australia's experience

- National and Local approach
- Water Security Council
- All agencies with a touch point with water
- One channel to Cabinet
- Authority of the Premier
- Treasury at the table
- Multiple cross agency working groups
- Science panels
- Stakeholder and Community engagement



Critical Elements of Water Management

- National and Local Leadership
- National principals / Local delivery
- Be clear & transparent (purpose)
- Co-design everything
- Sound monitoring, evaluation and reporting functions
- Use best available science to support decisions
- Adopt a quadruple bottom line approach (environment, social, governance and economic considerations)
- Engage with and build capacity in communities

Community Voices Principles

Community Voices Principle	Which means...
Leaders	Create leaderful communities and commit to inclusive, transparent and well-resourced engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.
Building Trusted relationships	Provide a safe environment to build trusted relationships through exploration of values, culture and conflict – people matter
Clarity of Purpose	Provide clarity on the reform purpose, roles, responsibility and matters that are non-negotiable.
Problem definition and joint discovery	Share power through knowledge exploration, problem definition and joint discovery of workable solutions.
Time, Flexibility and Windows of Opportunity	Allow for flexibility in time and process
Decision Making and Change Management	Demonstrate how decision making and reform implementation reflects the outcomes of the engagement process.



Intergenerational Equity