Jody Swirepik – Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
14% of Australia’s landmass

$24 billion agriculture industry

46 species of native fish

35 endangered birds

40% of Australia’s farms

9,200 irrigated agriculture businesses

Over 30,000 wetlands, 16 Ramsar listed

16 endangered mammals

16 endangered mammals

45+ Aboriginal nations

Diverse population

Over 30,000 wetlands, 16 Ramsar listed

14% of Australia’s landmass

$24 billion agriculture industry
Before the Basin Plan

13,623 GL

was the average amount of water extracted from the Basin’s rivers annually

Baseline 13,623 GL

Total reduction

2,750 GL

Target 10,873 GL

~20% change

3,468 GL northern Basin

7,405 GL southern Basin

Australian Government
Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
Getting a decision across several domains is difficult. All the threads need to be in place or you risk unravelling.

People, near or far, directly impacted or not

Technical basis—
- science
- modelling
- economics
- social research

Players—
- Different levels of government
- Agencies
- Industry Groups
- NGOs

Decision makers, funding, decision making opportunity
What can help? Some tools for the toolbox...

- Scenario testing / modelling / projections
- Strength of information base - interactions and impacts
- Multidisciplinary teams, Independent scrutiny
- Governance, institutions and legal underpinning for decision making
- Socio political awareness relating to decision making
- A healthy social licence
- Capacity to build a decision - many exposures, smaller decisions
- MER (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting) and Review
- Clarity around capacity for adaptation versus providing certainty.