



A national standard for environmental offsets

NELA national
conference

21 November 2014

Amanda Cornwall

NELA's proposed standard



- meet Minister Hunt Jan 2014
- one-stop-shop negotiations
- align state & terr with federal offsets policy
- compare global best practice
- not an ecological standard
- not a national scheme

Environmental offsets in Oz



- 30 years of offsets
- native veg, planning, threatened species regs
- 'maintain or improve' goal
- avoid, minimise, offset
- 'price' drives behavior
- world leader in experimenting with markets

Market characteristics in 2014



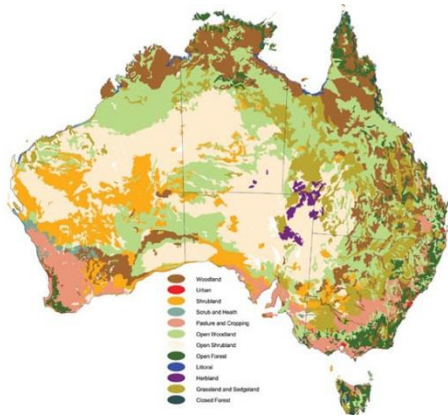
- well est methods and ratios to address risk
- nature complex & unpredictable
- like-for-like rules limit matching
- cost barriers to supply
- multiple methods & reg regimes
- wealth of data and mapping

Trends 2014 – improve supply



- ◉ streamlining different regimes
- ◉ ‘proportionate’ matching
 - ◉ Vic general (new Biod Equiv Units), specific (retain EVC and HH)
 - ◉ Qld no ecol equiv, prop size & scale, maintain ‘viability’
- ◉ credit registers
 - Vic native veg 2007, new legis’n
 - BioBanking NSW 2009 review
 - new WA native veg & Qld enviro offsets DBMP

Improve certainty and strategy



- set aside high value areas
- location risk map Vic determines L, M, H
- H = DEPI threatened species modelling + scores for signif
- Funds
 - NSW major projects + interim fund
 - Qld proponent can choose \$
 - Reef Trust proposal, requ amend't

Contentious issues in 2014



- 'maintain and improve' purpose – removed in Qld, clarified in Vic
- approp of offsets, GBR & coal
- timing - offset secured before works
 - ✗Maules Creek
 - ✓Vic Native Veg Regs
- exptns major projects NSW & Qld
- public reporting on outcomes

Action



- improve quality of dialogue on offsets
- NELA lead national biodiversity offset standard
- powerful links to global best practice



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