



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Developing a national strategy for environmental-economic accounting

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TIMELINE OF ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING

1991 Greenhouse Gas emissions (Department of Environment)

1995 Natural resources on balance sheet (ABS)

1996 Energy account (ABS)

1998 Mineral account (ABS)

1999 Environmental expenditure, local government (ABS)

2000 Water account – Physical and Monetary Supply and Use (ABS)

Greenhouse gas emission accounts (ABS)

2008 Accounting for Nature Model (Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists)

2011 Land account – Great Barrier Reef (ABS)

Water account – Asset (BoM)

2012 Completing the Picture (ABS) Environmental Taxes (ABS)

2013 Waste accounts (ABS)

Environmental Accounting Landscape (BOM)

Ecosystem accounts (Victorian Environment and Primary Industry)

Accounting for Nature - Proof of Concept Trials (Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists)

2014 First Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts (AEEA) (ABS)

Experimental Environmental Expenditure Accounts (EEA) (ABS)

2015 First experimental Ecosystem Account for Great Barrier Reef

Adapted from a table presented by the ABS in Aug 2017

A common national approach to environmental-economic accounting

Ministers agreed to work together to develop a common national approach to environmental accounts in 2017. This important work will ensure accurate and reliable information is available to governments, communities and business to better understand the condition of the environment and make better decisions. It will improve the ability to track outcomes in specific locations and across state and territory boundaries, and demonstrate the value of the environment to our standard of living.

Meeting of Environment Ministers

November 2016

Why a national approach?

- Systematically inform decision making and environmental management decisions
 - Improve consistency in reporting across Australia
 - Create stronger links for decision makers between social, economic and environmental outcomes
 - Coordinate effort and ensure the efficient use of resources
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Developing the strategy for a common national approach

- A collaboration between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, with input from across sectors.
- Strategy – why a common national approach and what will it look like?
- Action plan – how will we achieve a national approach?



Key elements of the national approach

- Agreeing on national standards and methods for implementing the SEEA in Australia.
 - Ensuring accounts are driven by policy and decision making needs
 - Developing core accounts to address national priorities
 - Developing nationally relevant account ready data
 - Collaborating and information sharing; building capacity to produce, analyse and apply accounts
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Application to government process

- To be guided by a user needs assessment next year.
 - Possible applications being considered:
 - State of the Environment reporting
 - Strategic regulatory assessments
 - Intergenerational reports
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Next steps

- Consideration of strategy by Environment Ministers December 2017.
 - Foundational activities in 2018:
 - Consultation on action plan.
 - Assess policy and decision making needs.
 - Stocktake of activities in data collection, account development and application.
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