“An ACT perspective: fat, lazy fish don’t jump”
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- Wealthy
- Well educated
- Largely catchment-based administration
- Only two tiers of government
- Regional scale of government
The five behemoths?

- Snowy Hydro
- NSW Government
- ACTEW
- ACT Government
- Federal Government
23. Full implementation of this Agreement will result in
   • ii) transparent, statutory-based water planning;
   • iii) statutory provision for environmental and other public benefit outcomes, and improved environmental management practices;
   • iv) complete the return of all currently overallocated or overused systems to environmentally-sustainable levels of extraction

26. The Parties agree that the general approach to implementing the entitlements and allocation framework will be to:
   • i) substantially complete plans to address any existing overallocation for all river systems and groundwater resources in accordance with commitments under the 1994 COAG water reform framework by 2005

36. Recognising that settling the trade-offs between competing outcomes for water systems will involve judgements informed by best available science, socio-economic analysis and community input, statutory water plans will be prepared for surface water and groundwater management units in which entitlements are issued
Snowy River restoration

- Snowy River flows: 2002 Implementation Deed - 2% to 21% or 28%
- Upper Murrumbidgee River? 1-2% to what?
- 2002 Implementation Deed: “Snowy Montane Rivers Increased Flows up to the following maximum volumes … during the period from the first anniversary of the Corporatisation Date until the Water Year with respect to which the Snowy River Apportioned Entitlement first totals or exceeds 142 GL” (years 1-7)
- Have any environmental flows been released from Tantangara Dam?
- Transparency and accountability?

Jindabyne Dam: $90 M works + $375 M water
Inflows into ACTEW storages
Response: increase supply

New Cotter Dam plus Murrumbidgee transfer = ~$600 M.
Murrumbidgee – Googong transfer

Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer – project diagram

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Fat, lazy fish don’t jump …

Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*)

Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*)
Angle Crossing causeway: an obstruction to fish passage 96% of the time
The Federal Government

- Directly manages Scrivener Dam & Lake Burley Griffin
- Approved ACT water security projects despite questionable NWI compliance
- Quiescent on the Snowy Implementation Deed
Climate change and new water uses

- Energy generation and storage, eg. pumped storage hydropower
- Carbon sequestration, eg. afforestation
- Adaptation, eg. on farm dams

> Is the region really prepared?

Tumut 3 1500 MW pumped hydro storage system in the Snowy Mountains © A Blakers
Governance conclusions

All is not well in paradise:
- Big corporates in small ponds
- Competing corporate styles: silence vs spin
- Gaps between jurisdictions
- Governments failing to work as unitary actors
- ACT & Federal Government inaction
- Few sticks and carrots, eg. NWI, eg. third party enforcement
- Supply side approach - little preparation for future changes