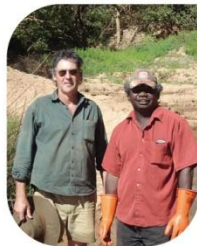
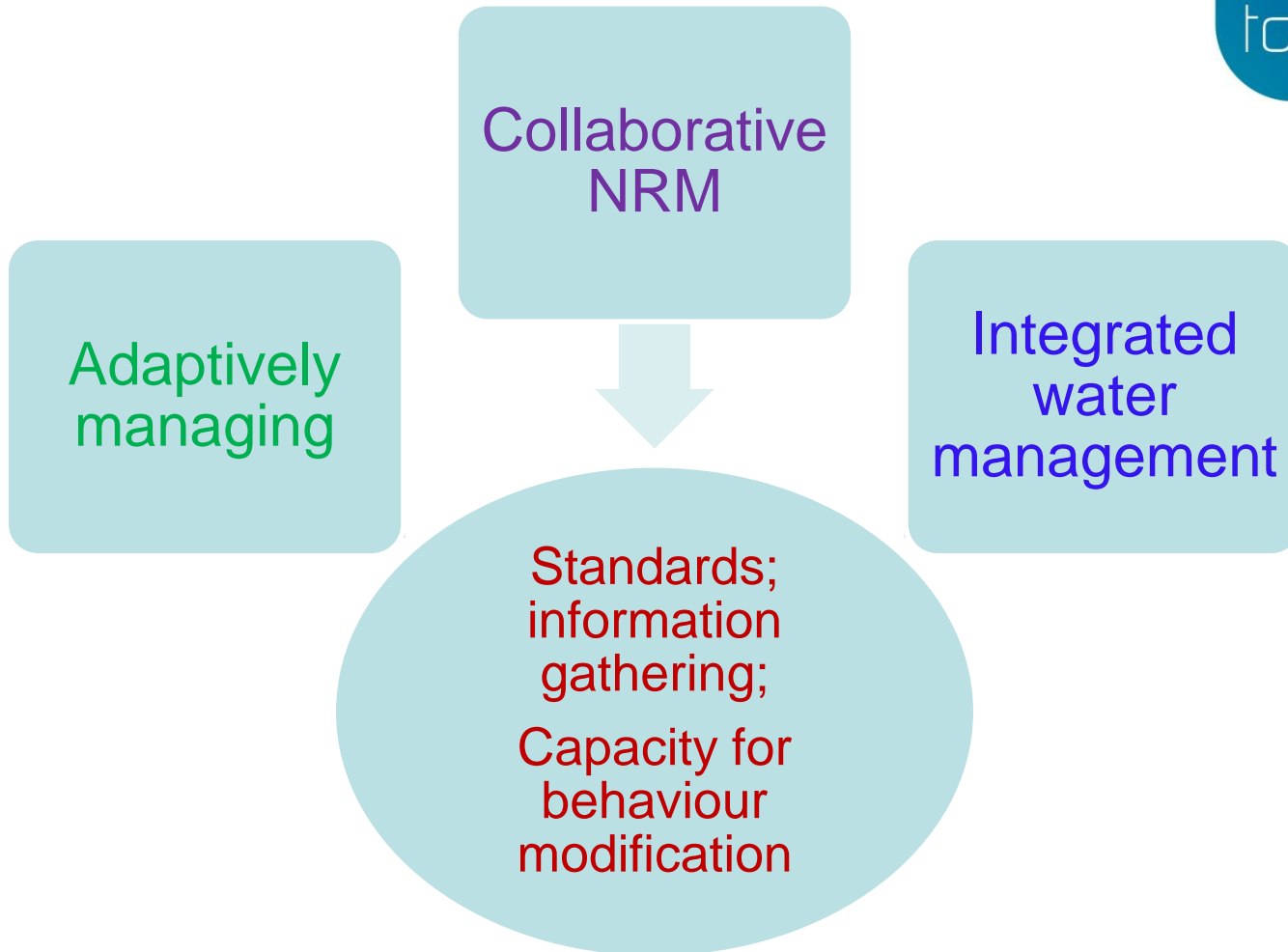


Water Governance Research Needs: A legal/regulatory perspective

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Standard setting

- Governance requires detailed performance indicators, and specification of ecological assets. Flow rules need to be understood, otherwise they fail as a standard.
- Community needs to be confident that these standards reflect their values
- Water plans, Australia's main water governance mechanism, do not as yet deliver measurable standards accepted by community.
- Water quality standards as yet not well integrated

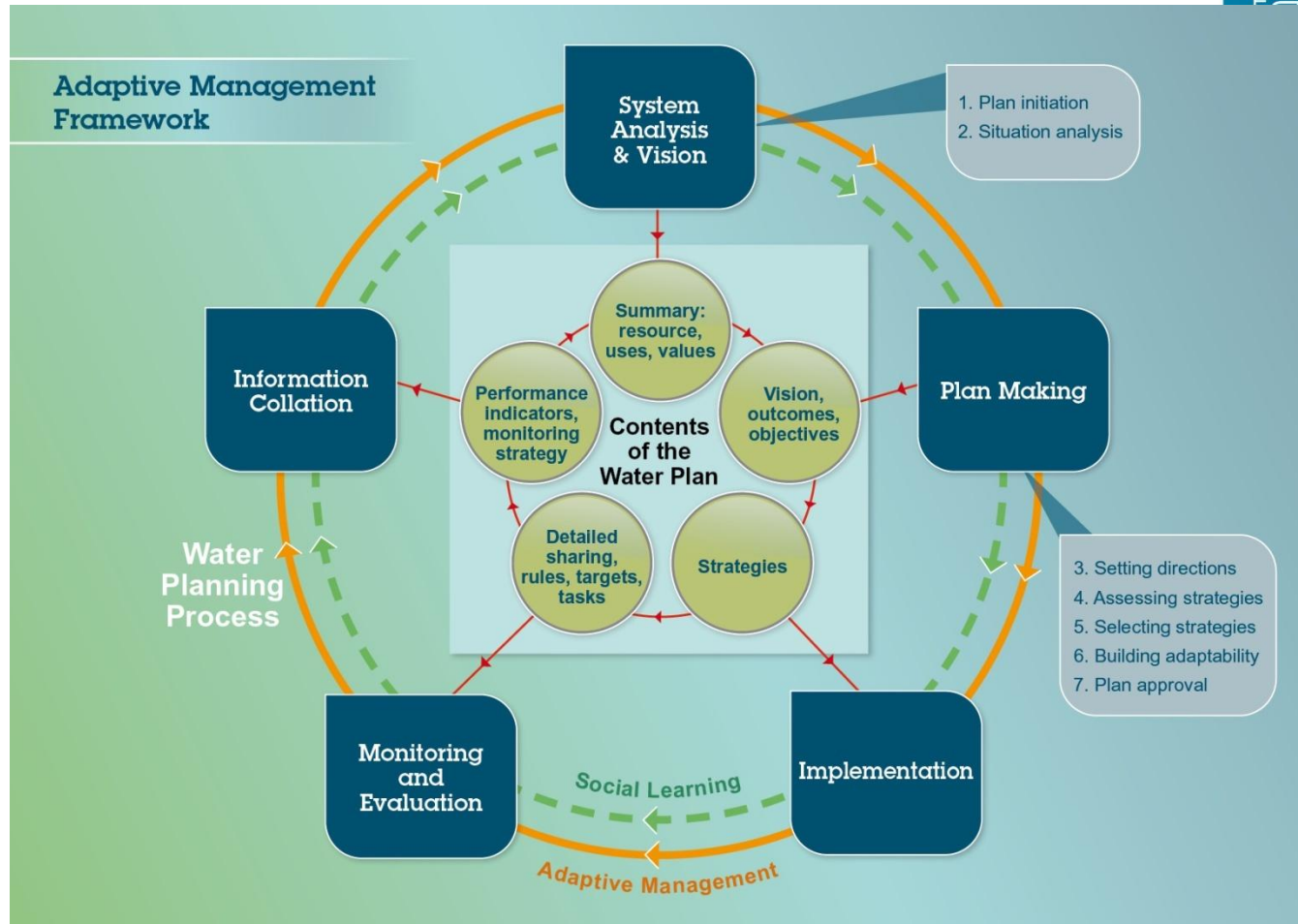
Information gathering

- Access to quality and interpreted monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data.
- Legislation does not make monitoring mandatory.
- Indigenous input especially important especially for determining environmental flows where data lacking – present governance structures lacking.



Capacity for behaviour modification

- Systemic ability to respond to change
- Involves building up social capacity/learning of planners and stakeholders
- Current processes are not yet tailored for social learning
- Governments seen as enemy/hypocrites + governance structures as inefficient, causing not solving problems



Issues for discussion

- National policy recognises data needs to be collected, catchment/regional planning, need for sustainable management
- Many gaps eg
 - challenge to the tradition of water management - new regulatory framework needs to accept that neither accurate prediction or absolute control is achievable.
 - Integration of water plans with natural resource management plans and regional development plans not institutionally coordinated or supported.
- *Law as crystal or mud?*

- For our reports see www.waterplanning.org.au

Acknowledgement

The Water Planning Tools project is funded by the National Water Commission through its Raising National Water Standards Program. The Australian Government's \$250 million Raising National Water Standards Program supports the implementation of the National Water Initiative by funding projects that are improving Australia's national capacity to measure, monitor and manage our water resources