



Planning as performance: the Murray-Darling basin plan

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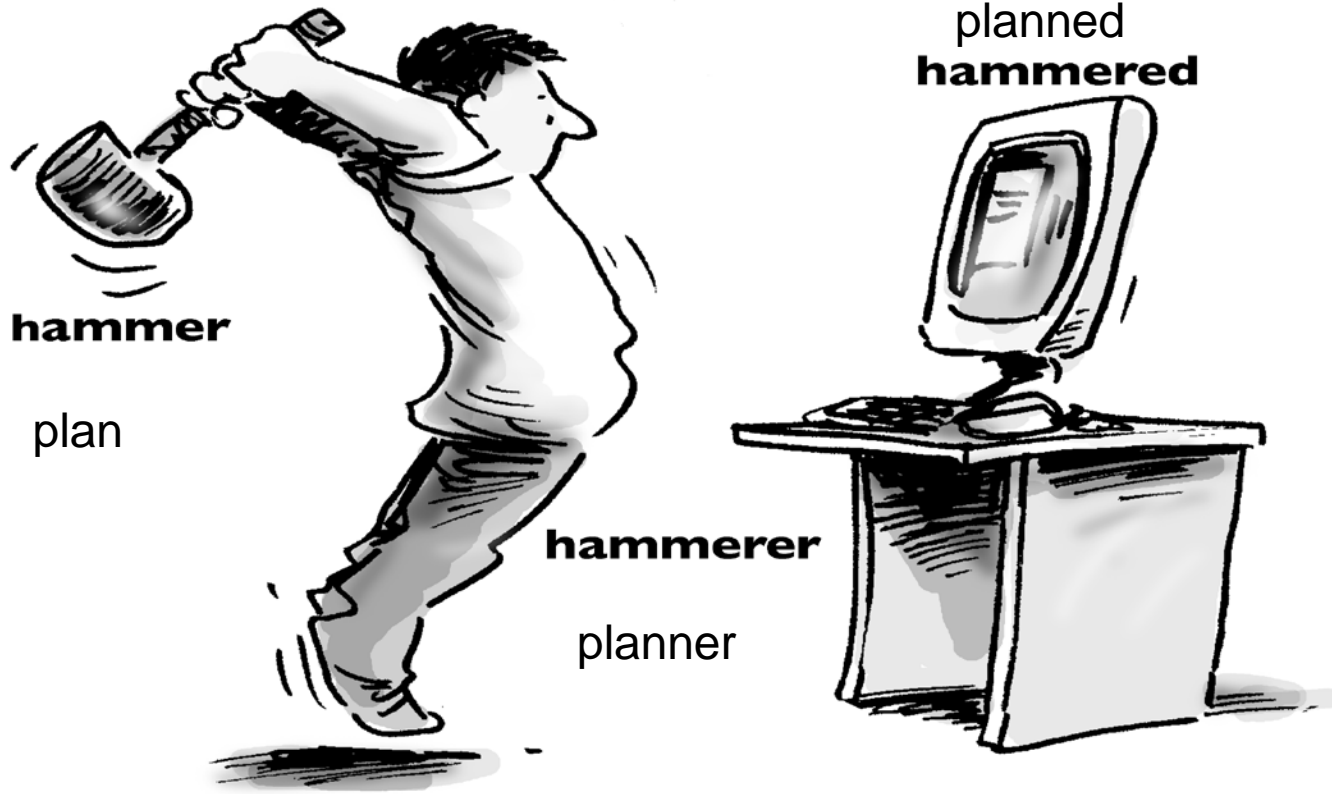


Planning – what constitutes a ‘good performance’



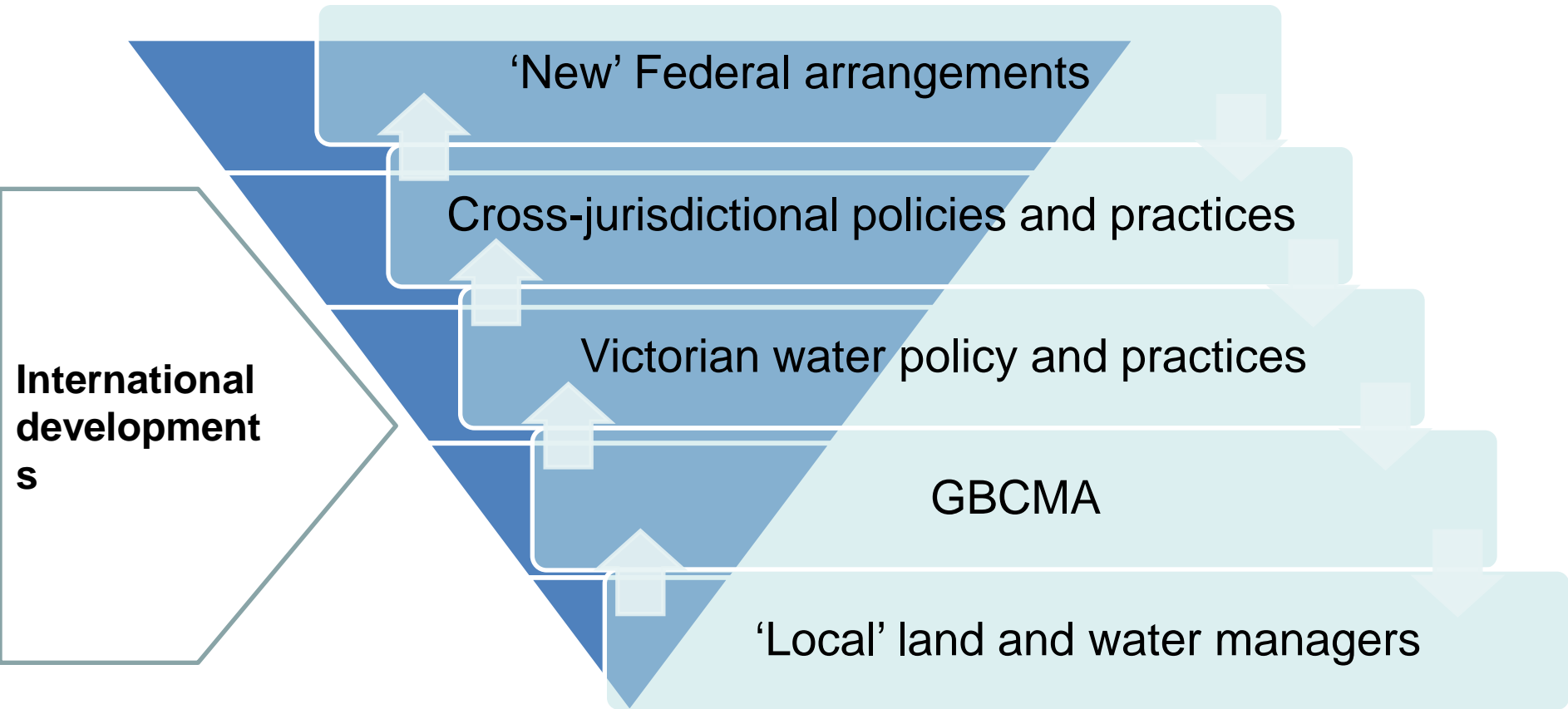


A policy/plan? A social technology that mediates practice?



Policies/plans reify understandings at particular historical moments

Policy/planning rarely considered as a form of praxis – theory informed practical action



GBCMA = Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority

A 'model' of the 'performance space'



Why is a concern with ‘performance’ important?

- Stein Ringen (2009) studied UK New Labour’s flagship policies of child poverty, education, social justice and health
 - **found that they had achieved ‘absolutely nothing’.**
- provides strong evidence for the systemic failure of UK governance
 - > by highlighting the problems that emerge when governments adopt a command and control approach
 - > and fail to mobilise citizens or stakeholders in policy development and implementation.
- His sobering conclusion was that no UK government, of any political persuasion, can currently get done what it is elected to do.



Starting from here – what next?

- **Create a cabinet level interdepartmental ‘water committee’ - make water everyone’s business?**
- **A national, on-going, *systemic inquiry* into water and energy governance in a climate change world (variation on UK Climate Committee or Royal Commission on Pollution Control)?**
- **Use refocus on regional Australia to address systemic opportunities for rural futures – a rural livelihoods strategy?**
- **Reform, on a coherent national basis, CMAs, as institutions able to manage a coupled ‘socio-ecological system’?**