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# Making MERI

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement for  
natural resource management in Australia

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Australian Government  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



# Presentation

Introduction

Background

The research questions and Making MERI

The research methodology

The findings

Conclusion



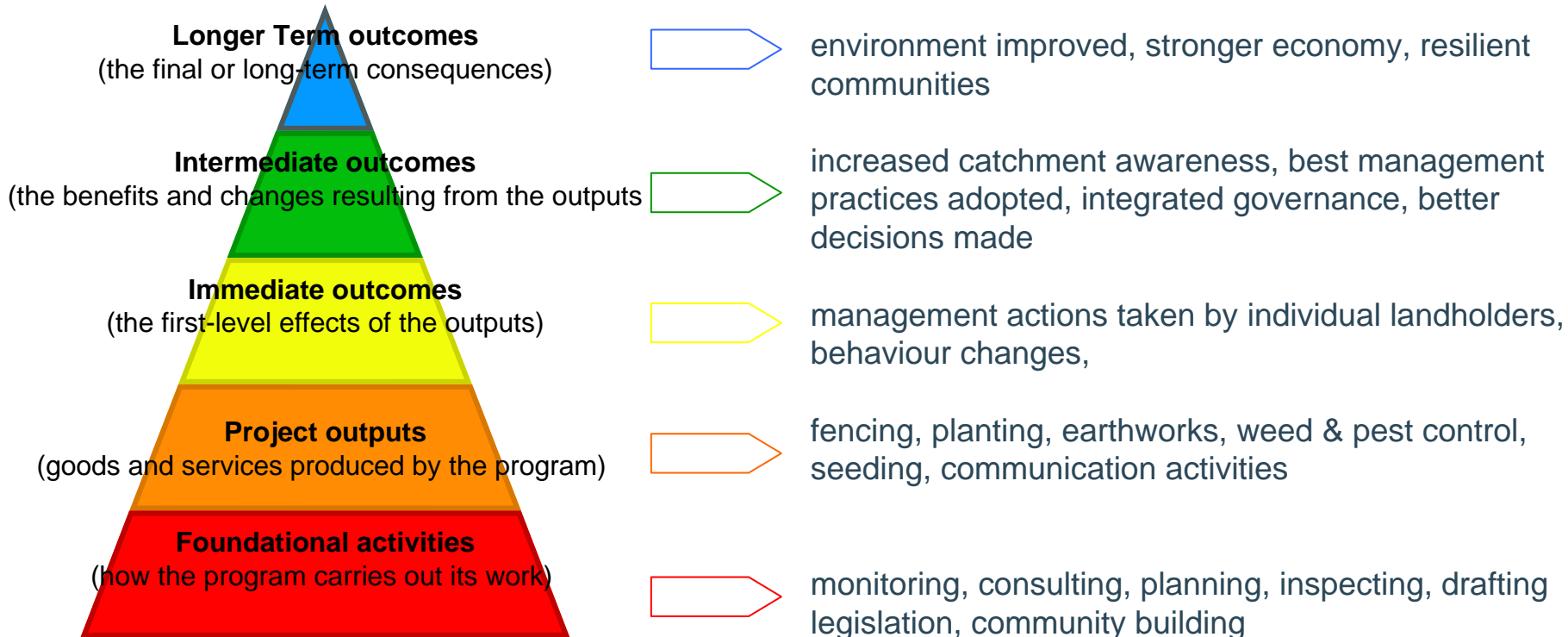
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# Introduction

## Reporting by Outcomes

### Examples



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# Background

## Natural resource management regions and the performance story report trial

Australian  
Government  
PSR trial sites  
indicated in  
yellow

Making MERI  
case studies in 4  
states



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# The Research Questions

Are qualitative approaches such as Most Significant Change a) useful and b) appropriate as evidence of intermediate outcomes?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of reporting by outcomes using Performance Story Reporting?

Could modified MSC and PSR be used by natural resource management project proponents in Australia as a form of participatory evaluation for producing program performance reports by outcomes



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# The Research Method

Role of researcher

Case-study approach – 4

Anonymity and confidentiality

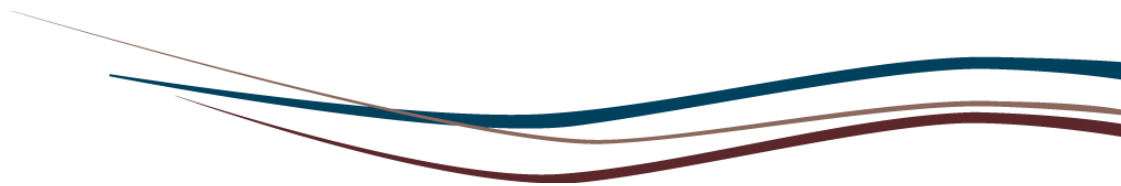
Qualitative research

NVivo analysis

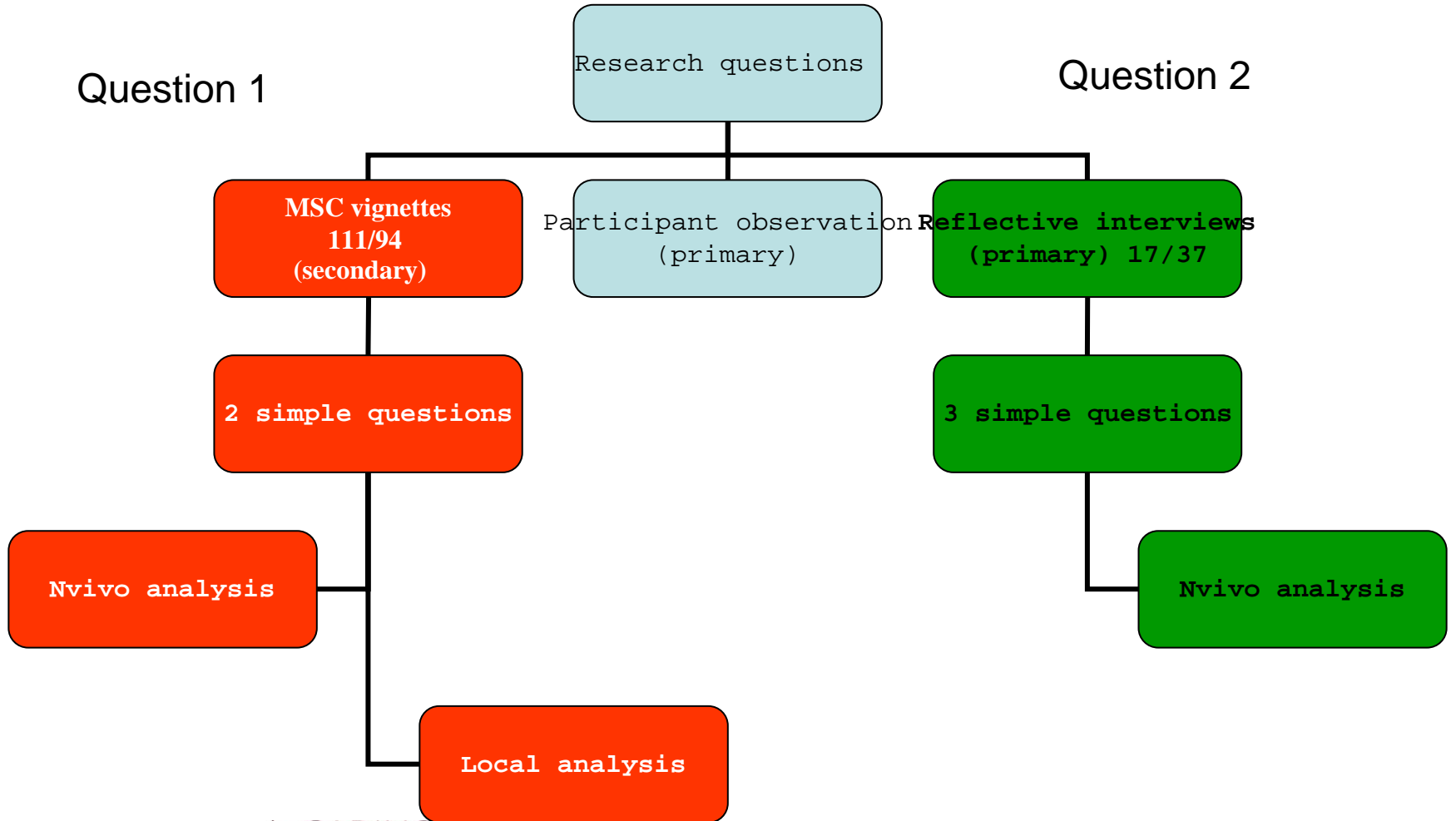
Reflective interviews, participant observation



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# The Research Method



# Case study overview

<b>Case/ Criteria</b>	<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>South Australia</b>
<b>Resource use</b>	Dairy	Grazing, cropping	Mixed, peri-urban	Fishing, grazing
<b>Long-term outcome</b>	Local and regional improvements to water and estuary quality, soil health and sustainable industries	Resilient communities proactively working for environmentally healthy, sustainable, attractive and profitable regions through the effective management of our natural resources	Improved water quality for a healthy river system	Natural resources managed sustainably for economic, environmental and social benefit
<b>Evaluand</b>	Dairy Effluent Management Project	Sub-catchment planning	Ellen Brook & Brockman River	Oceans of Blue, Rivers of Life, Building Sustainable Futures

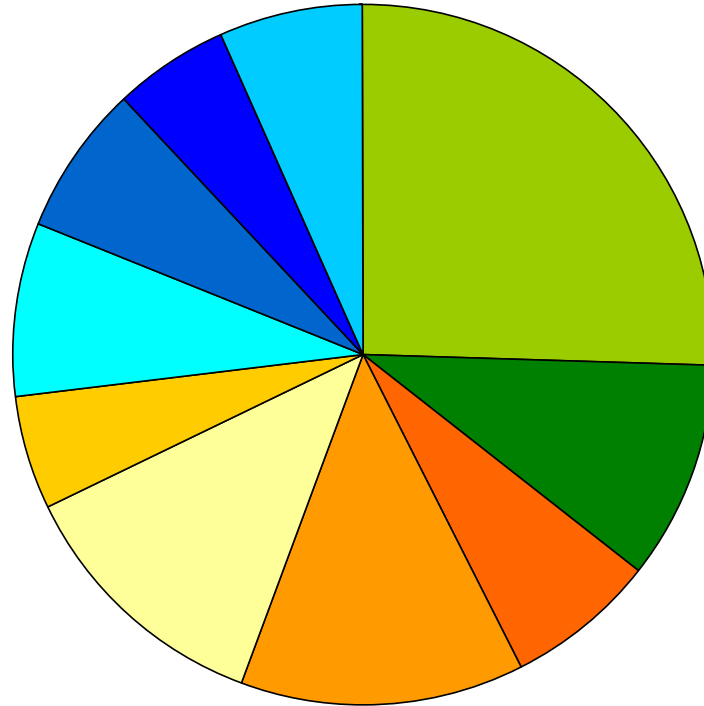


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# The findings - Research question 1

## Evidence of outcomes



■ Management practices  
■ Soils  
■ Water  
■ Group processes  
■ Project process

■ Productivity  
■ Flora  
■ Fauna  
■ Knowledge spectrum  
■ Social processes

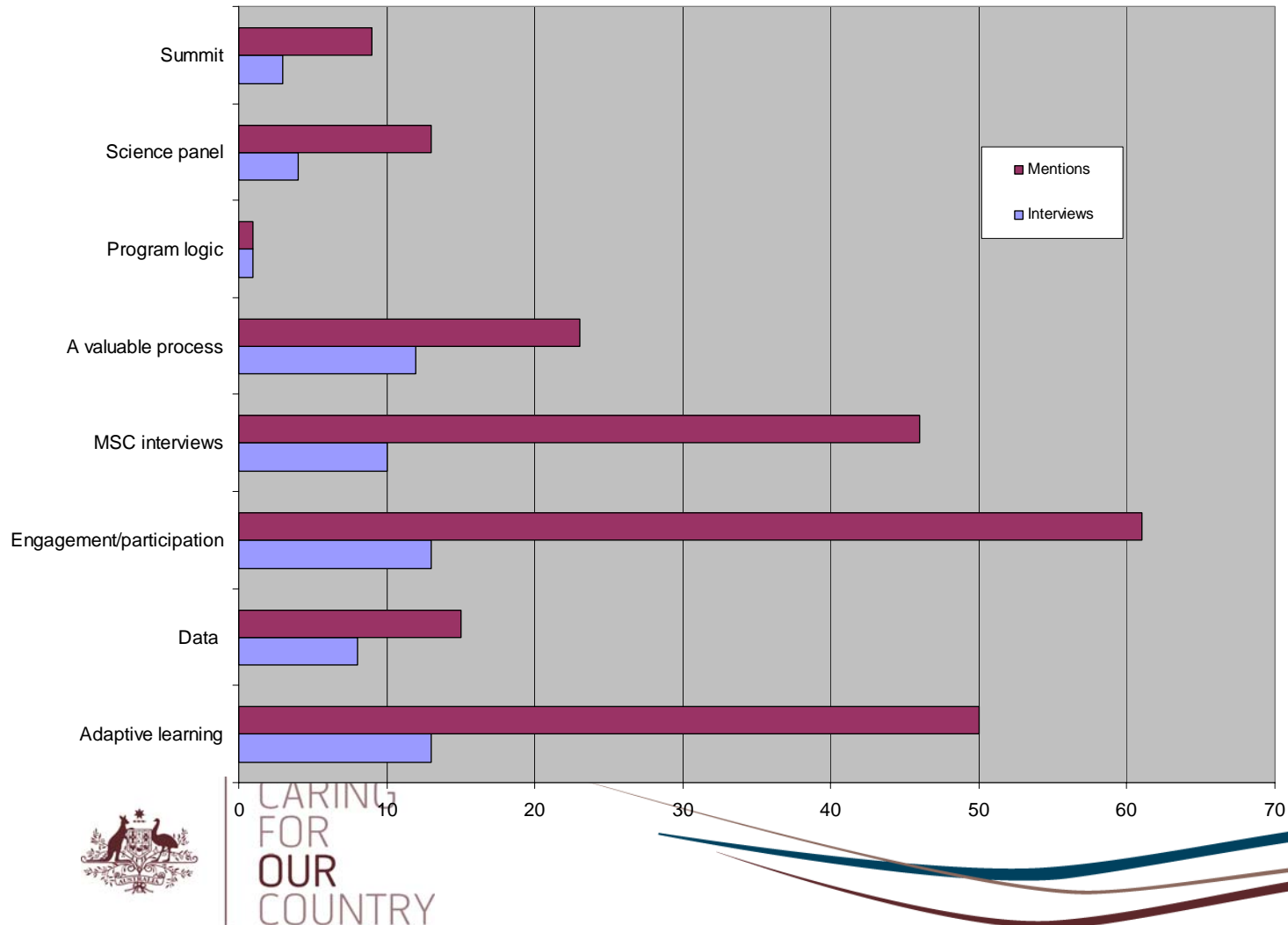


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# The findings - Research question 2

## Reflections on PSR- Strengths

Strengths of Performance Story Reporting from reflective interviews

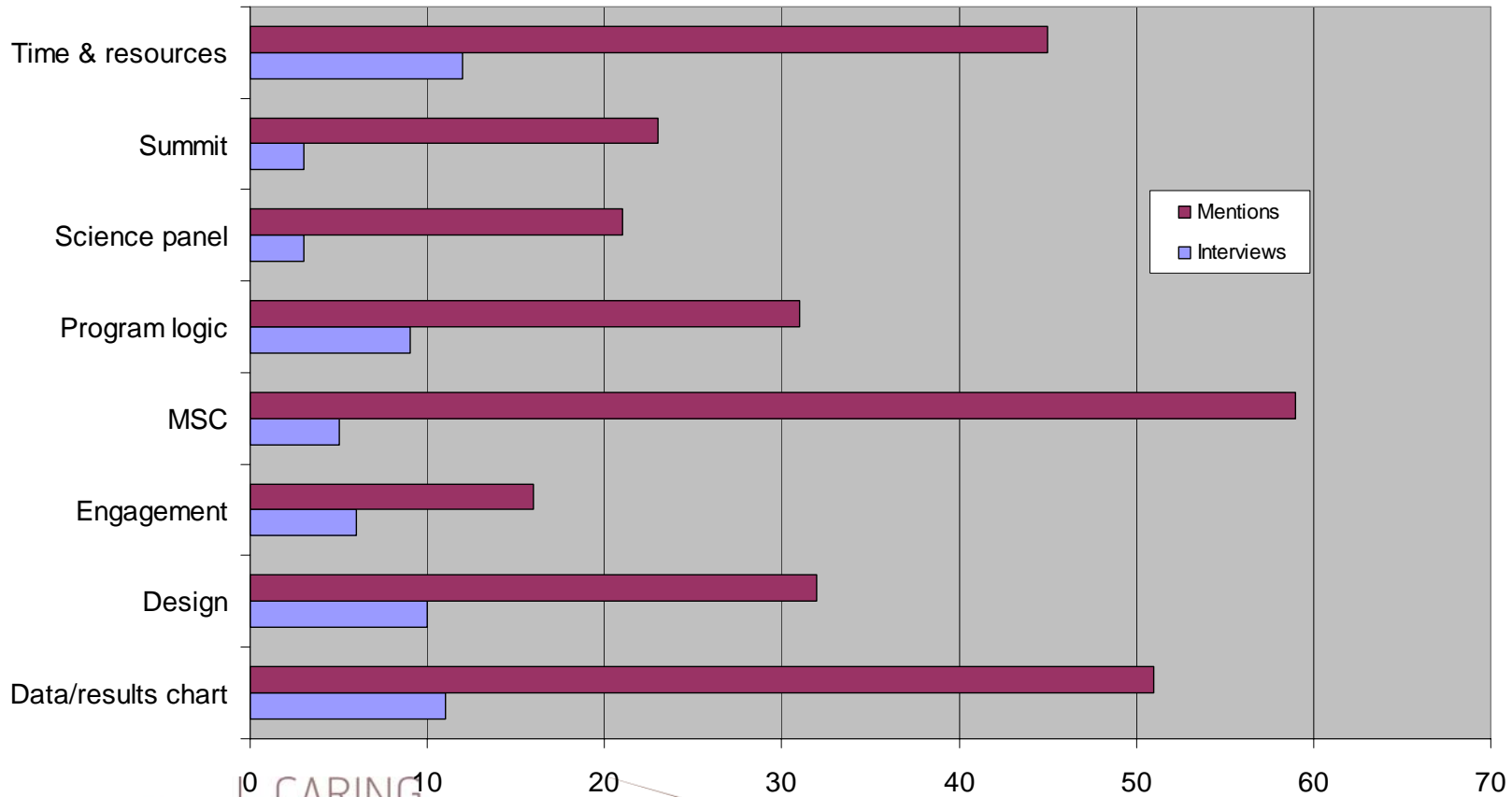


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# The findings - Research question 2

## Reflections on PSR-Challenges

Challenges of Performance Story Reporting from reflective interviews



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# The findings

## Research Question 3

Do the regions have capacity?

Continued commitment to PSR

Right tool for the job



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# Conclusion & Acknowledgements

[www.brs.gov.au](http://www.brs.gov.au)

[www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

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