

# The benefits of independence to the use of findings: evaluation of a long-term biodiversity monitoring program



Helen Watts



Emmo Willinck



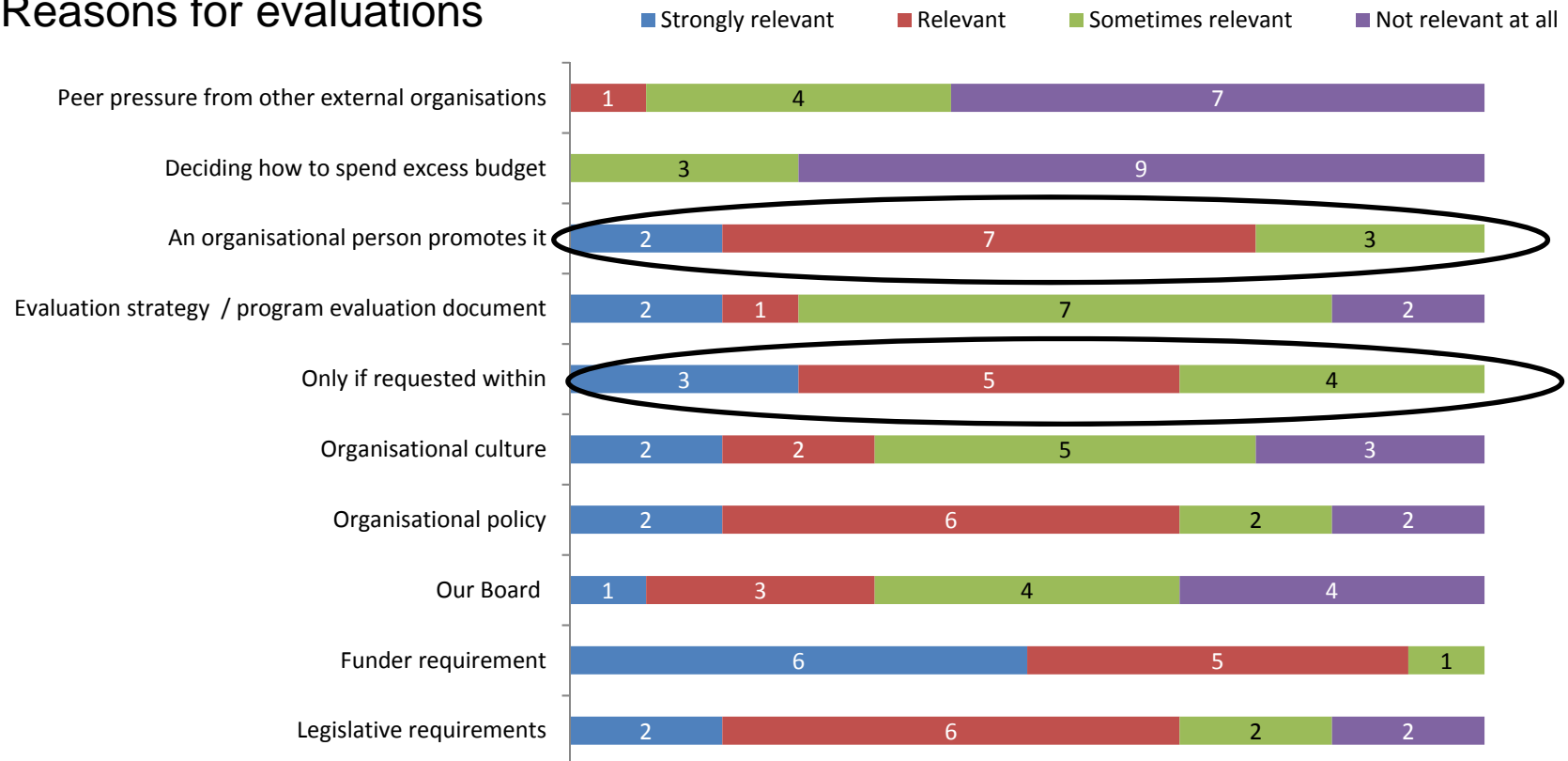
## How the journey to AES 2017 started.....

*Are evaluation findings being used in our sector?*

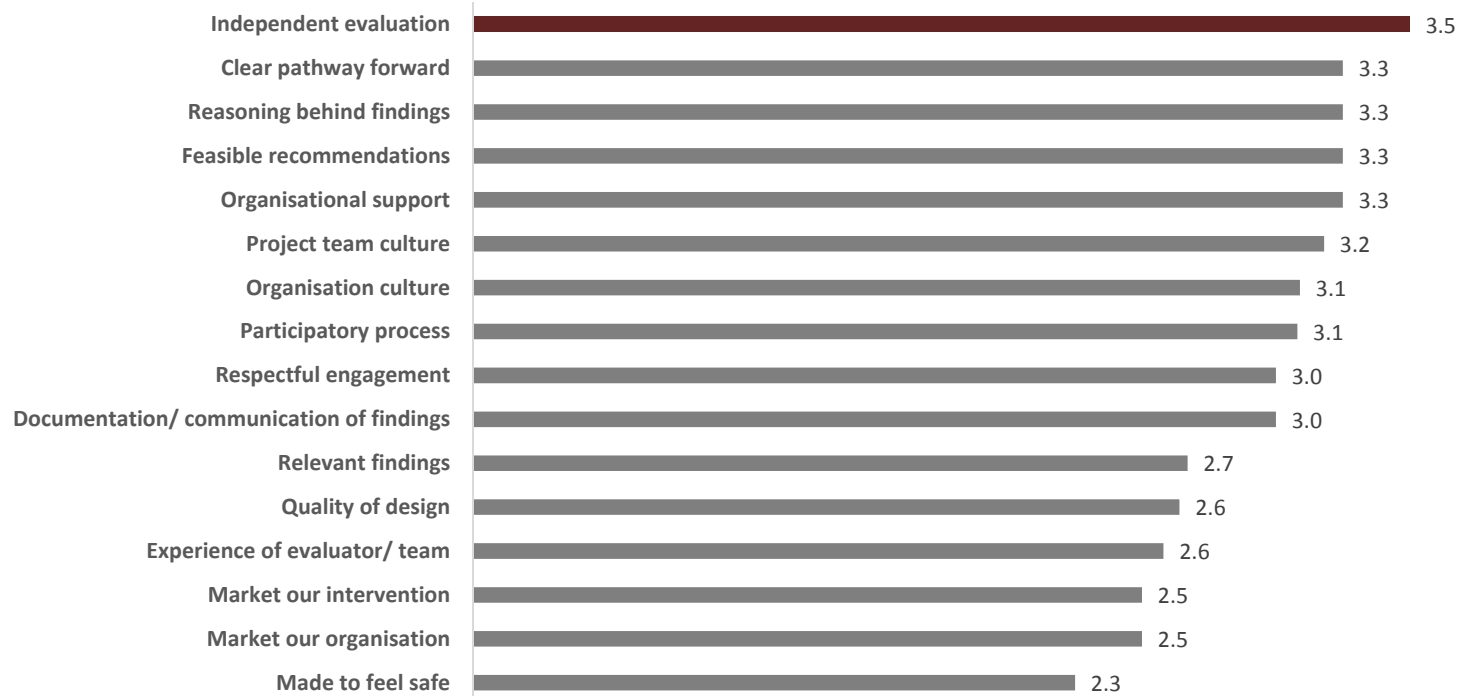
*Does an independent evaluation support use?*



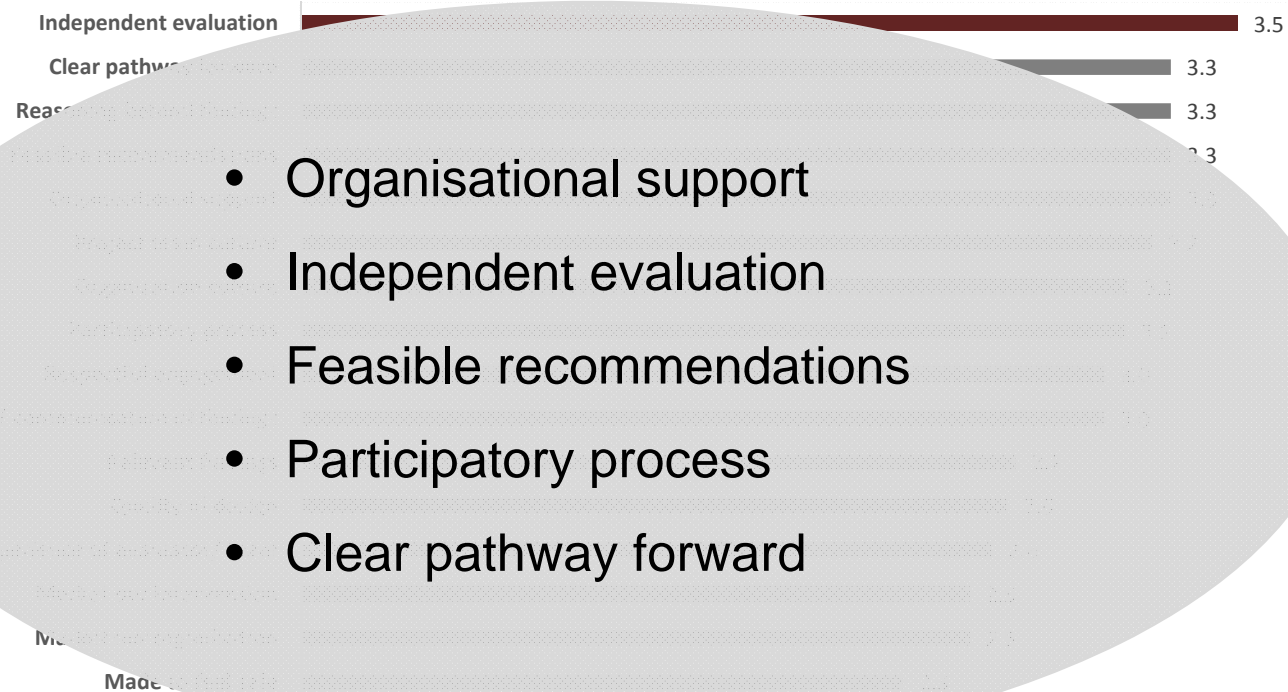
## Reasons for evaluations



## Influences on use



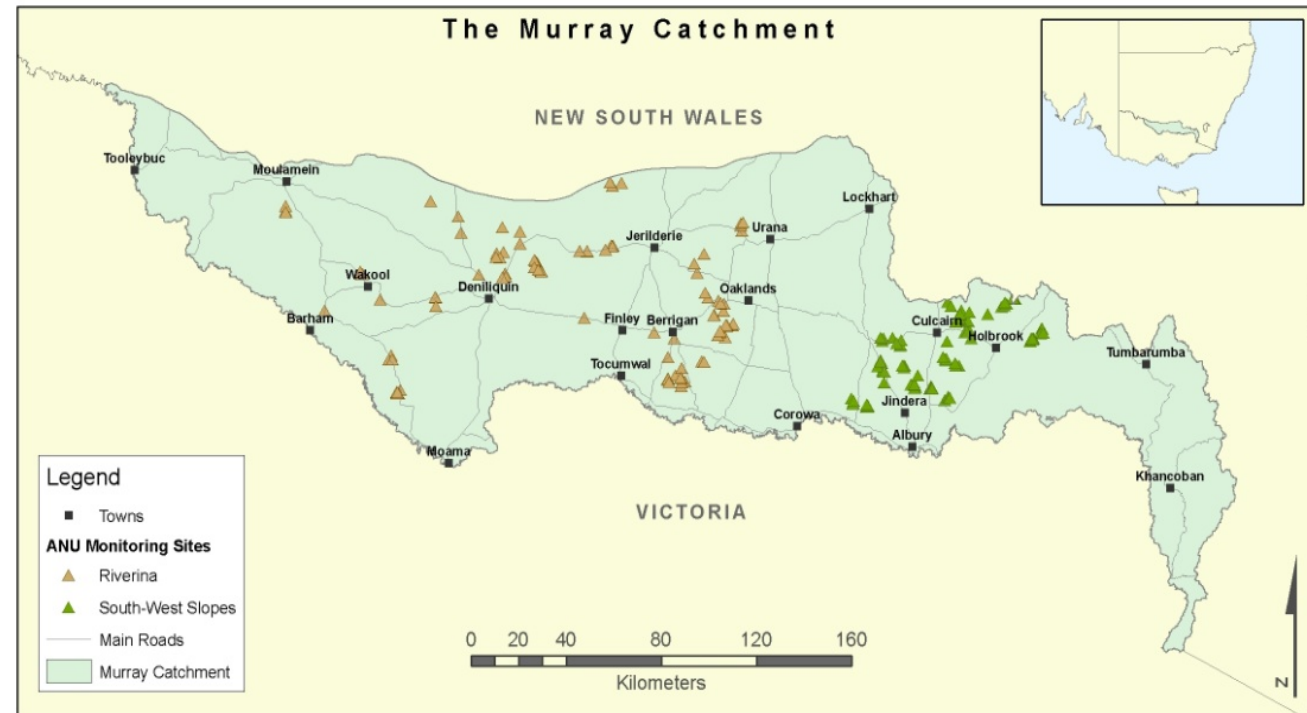
## Influences on use



- Organisational support
- Independent evaluation
- Feasible recommendations
- Participatory process
- Clear pathway forward

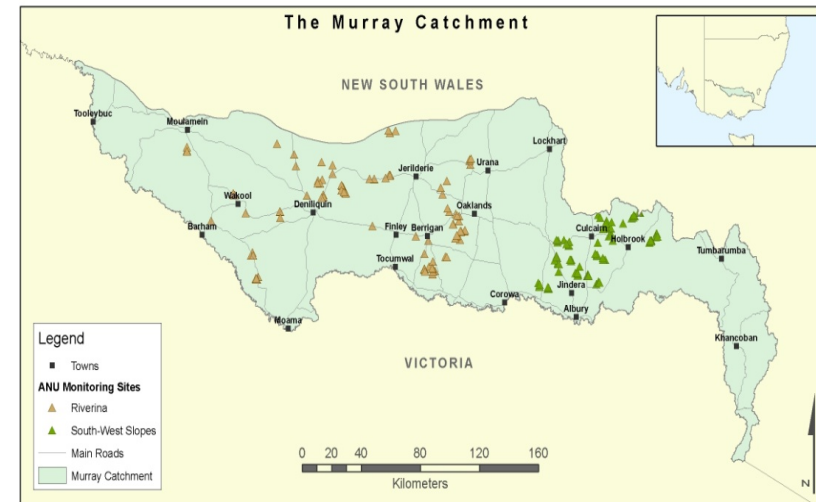
## Murray LLS case for undertaking an independent evaluation

- Initially monitoring of 110 sites since 2002
- Additional 106 sites since 2007



## Murray LLS case for undertaking an independent evaluation

- Project cost in a shrinking funding environment
- Outside of core responsibilities of on-ground delivery and capacity
- Major institutional changes occurring
- Question whether it was effective and appropriate
- Maintain, change or stop support for the monitoring project



## How the evaluation was used

- Provided Boards with confidence in their decision on project
- Help to leverage philanthropic funding
- 1 of 10 case studies for federal ministers to account for government funding
- Helped to guide project reinforcement, refinement and improvement





## Where do we think we are

*Are evaluation findings being used in our sector?*

- Mixed

*Does an independent evaluation support use?*

- Independence is only 1 element but significantly relevant
- Internal support and processes



## Thank-you

- Questions
- What are your experiences with evaluation use?
- What factors have you found aid the use of evaluation findings?