

Pathways to
policy impact





Australian Government
Department of Innovation
Industry, Science and Research

**FOCUSING AUSTRALIA'S PUBLICLY FUNDED
RESEARCH REVIEW**

**MAXIMISING THE INNOVATION DIVIDEND
REVIEW KEY FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

OCTOBER 2011

PRIME MINISTER'S MANUFACTURING TASKFORCE



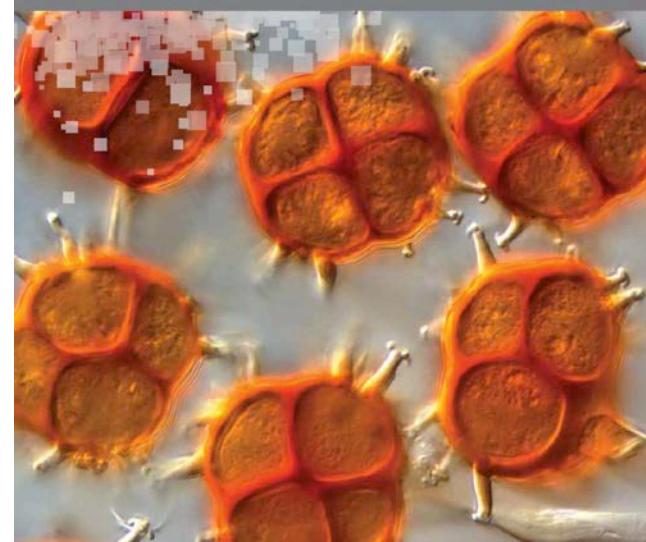
**REPORT OF THE
NON-GOVERNMENT
MEMBERS**



AUGUST 2012

Australian Government
Department of Industry
Innovation, Science, Research
and Tertiary Education

2012 NATIONAL RESEARCH INVESTMENT PLAN





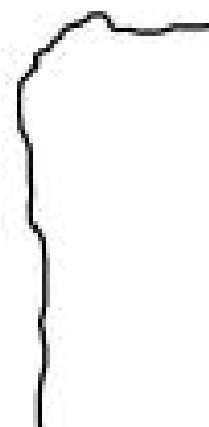
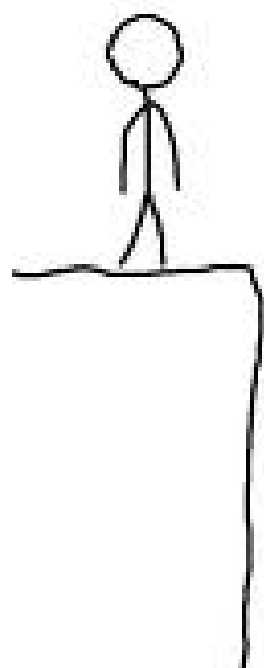
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Case Studies: Pathways to Impact

Research Councils UK (RCUK) continue to work with our research communities to develop our guidance for Pathways to Impact. We encourage researchers to be actively involved in thinking about how they will achieve excellence with impact and to explore pathways for realising the impact of their research.

The case studies provide personal accounts from RCUK funded researchers in regards to their approaches and experiences of Pathways to Impact. The case studies also provide guidance, top tips and best practice for helping researchers to realise the impact of their research.

A common top tip included in the case studies is avoiding potential pitfalls, such as focusing only on past activities instead of making sure the Pathway to Impact is forward looking and explores the potential impact of the current project. This should include milestones where appropriate (perhaps illustrating this with a GANNT time-line) and explaining the rationale behind activities. For example, if including an event, highlight who it's aimed at and why you have chosen that specific pathway towards impact.

Further information and guidance, including FAQ's and top tips, for Pathways to Impact is available [here](#).



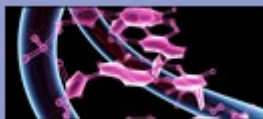
Policy: Case studies which highlight researchers' interactions with government



Business: Case studies which highlight researchers fostering partnerships with business and industry



Voluntary and Charitable: Case studies



Research Policy



Research Careers



Public Engagement



Knowledge Exchange and Impact



International



Press and Media



Publications





Taking part in the process

Formal dialogue

Route and description	Who's involved	Aims	Your participation
High level meetings – regular (usually annual) and ad hoc meetings between NERC and relevant government departments, including 1:1s.	Senior staff – eg NERC Chief Executive and directors; government Chief Scientific Advisors, ministers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To find out about government policy priorities and research requirements; To inform government about NERC science, processes, contacts and capabilities; To identify areas for potential collaboration; To update each other on respective strategies, encouraging reciprocal engagement in their development; To meet new appointees – eg Chief Scientific Advisors; To facilitate funding decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to briefing requests. (Before meetings take place, NERC's Policy and Partnerships team asks research and collaborative centre directors, Swindon Office managers, science theme leaders and research programme coordinators for agenda items. Although only high-level strategic issues tend to make it onto the agenda, we can sometimes pursue other items through working-level meetings. We provide feedback to the contributors.)
Concordat agreements and memoranda of understanding – written formal commitments (but not contractual) between organisations to work together, often focussed on specific areas of science.	Universities, NERC or its individual research centres, and government organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help ensure regular liaison and information exchange about strategies and priorities; To facilitate international collaboration in specific research areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the need for new MoUs when new opportunities for collaborations arise, especially with international organisations.
Science briefing/seminars in government departments.	Senior NERC scientists and civil servants, occasionally ministers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide relevant up-to-date information on a topic agreed between NERC and the government department; To inform policymaking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take opportunities to participate, remembering to make your science as accessible and relevant as possible to the audience.
Membership of research funding fora.	Senior members from different public sector funding bodies, who hold regular meetings, supplemented by working groups and supported by a secretariat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maximise coherence and effectiveness of research by pooling information on strategy and research and developing joint activities; To ensure effective use of government money; To facilitate multi-disciplinary research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use fora to find out where your science is relevant to other funders, and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Informal interactions, secondments and exchanges

Route and description	Who's involved	Aims	Your participation
Informal interactions between scientists and policy-makers – usually by phone or email.	Policymakers and scientists, at all levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help policymakers obtain information quickly from scientists they know and trust; To have ongoing two-way interactions at an informal level – this is arguably the most effective science-to-policy route and enhances all other mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientists often have to be proactive here - policy-makers are so short of time. Building relationships takes commitment and time – benefits are unlikely to appear immediately.
Working-level meetings.	NERC officials and key contacts in government. Also researchers on collaborative or commissioned research projects involving government departments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To find out about the latest government developments, do background research for briefings and discuss issues that don't reach the high-level agendas; To help to determine agendas for high-level meetings and to ensure that agreed actions are followed up; To build understanding and trust. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you're a researcher wanting to inform a government department of your work, it is crucial to identify those few civil servants responsible for the relevant policy area – this is usually much more effective than going straight to the top. Officials five or six grades from the top of a department often provide the first draft of analysis and advice on the relevant policy. Inform them, and you can inform those at higher levels. Contact the Policy and Partnerships team if you need help identifying relevant officials – also see page 27.
Secondments and exchanges – eg NERC policy placement scheme and Royal Society pairing scheme for MPs, Civil Servants and Scientists.	Scientists and policy-makers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve science-to-policy links and support evidence-based policy making; To improve understanding and provide training on both sides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply either for a workshadow (up to 1 month) or policy fellowship (up to 12 months) via the NERC policy placement scheme – see page 24 – or for an exchange, apply to the Royal Society scheme.
Events, workshops and exhibits – including annual community events, end-of-programme events and external exhibitions/ events.	NERC staff and NERC-funded scientists, government officials and other users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create opportunities for networking and developing contacts; To obtain policy-makers' input to NERC strategy development and implementation, eg of Theme Action Plans; To highlight policy-relevant outputs from NERC science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend those events where your science is being discussed and take opportunities to network with relevant users. Encourage relevant policy-makers to attend and arrange to meet them. Ask Swindon Office Policy and Partnerships Team for a list of possible contacts.

USABLE SCIENCE: A HANDBOOK FOR SCIENCE POLICY DECISION MAKERS

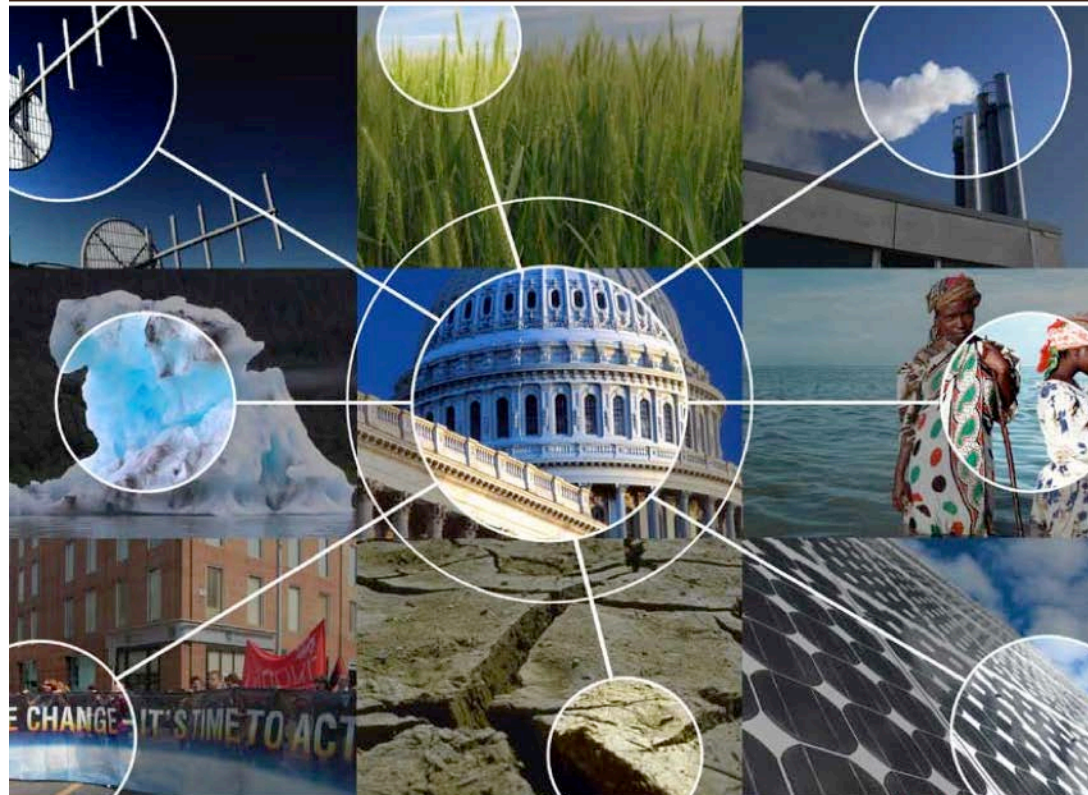
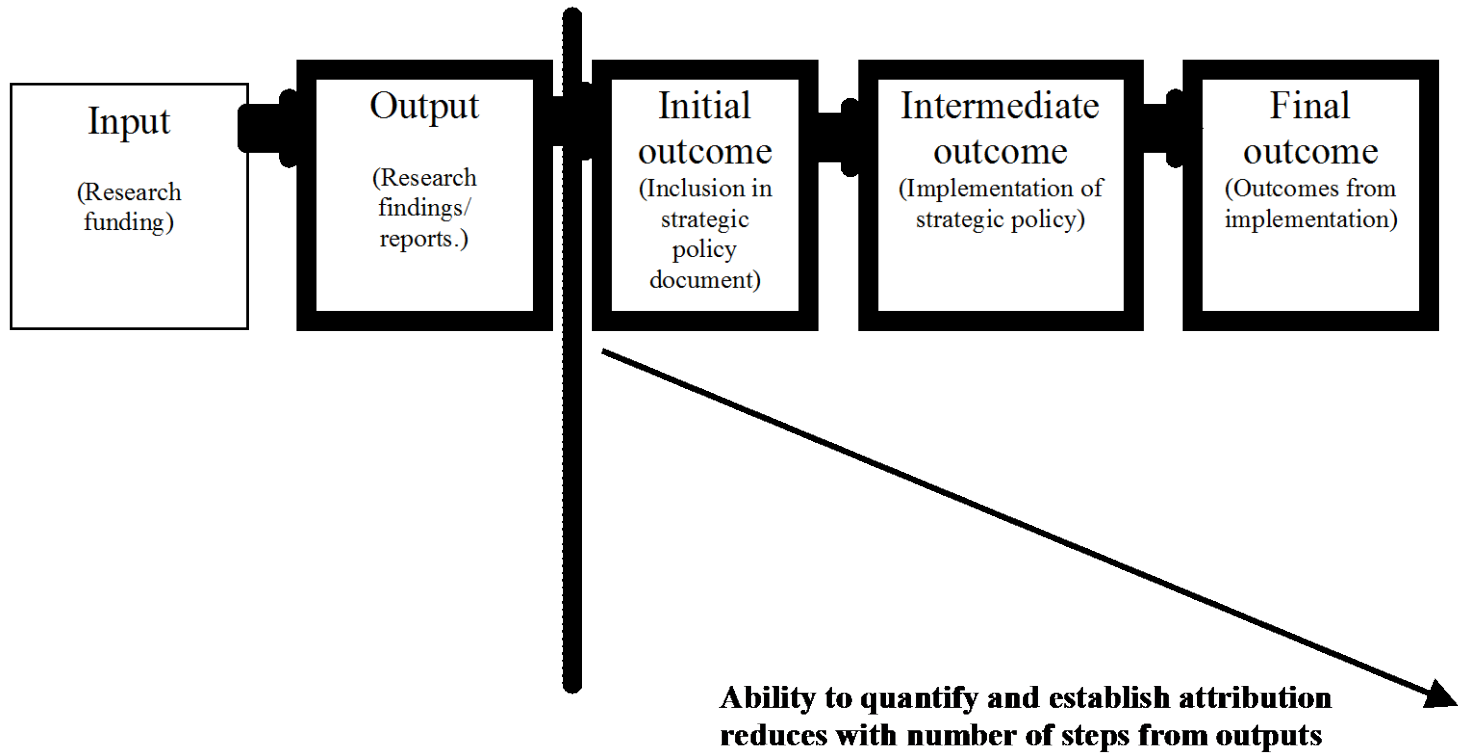
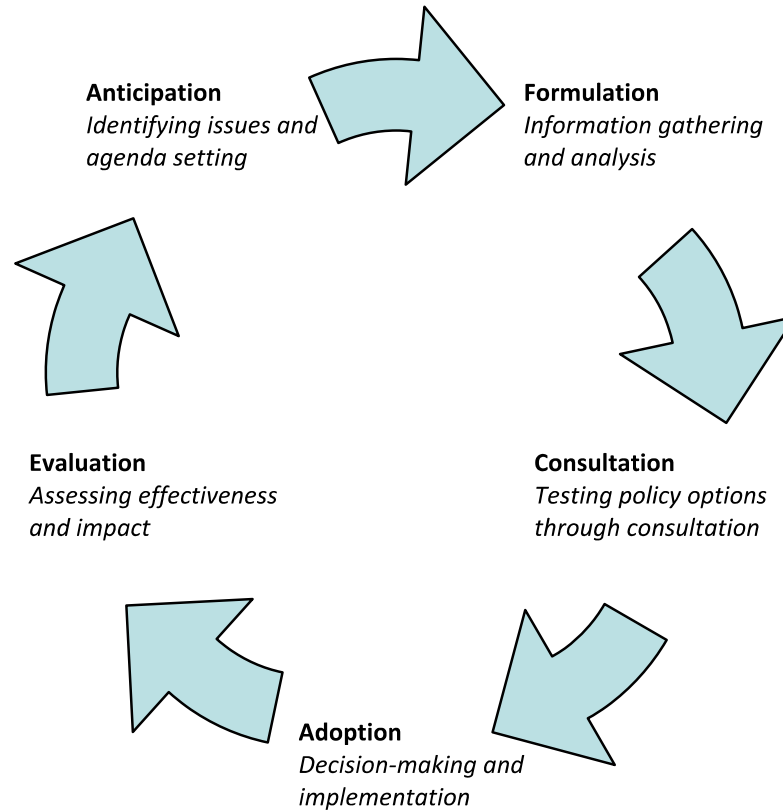


Figure 7: Looking at outcomes: losing attribution



		View of science	
		Linear model	Stakeholder model
View of democracy	Madison	Pure Scientist	Issue Advocate
	Schattschneider	Science Arbiter	Honest Broker of Policy Alternative

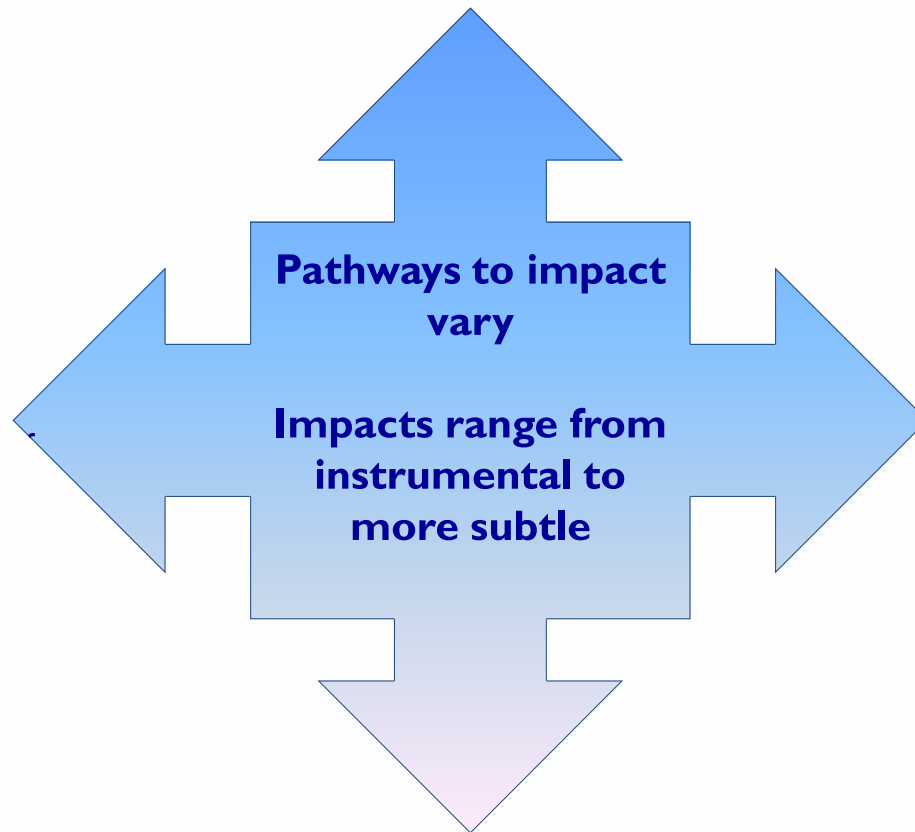
APS200 PROJECT – THE PLACE OF SCIENCE IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE



Decision Regime	Routine	Incremental	Fundamental	<i>Emergent</i>
Status of Consensus On the Policy Base	Intact	Policy base largely intact but marginal issues arise	Core principles of policy base open to scrutiny	<i>No consensus – the field is wide open and open to development of a broad vision</i>
Number of Actors Involved in Decision Processes	A few actors with responsibility to implement policy by policy-makers	A few policymakers with a stake in the marginal issue	All policymakers and actors potentially affected or concerned about a significant change	<i>Relatively small number at the outset</i>
Type of Information Sought	Data that can inform existing routines, and analysis to determine when to switch to other routines.	Analysis on selected issues – the method of successive limited comparisons for the issues at hand.	Information on fundamental variables, and that probes underlying assumptions. Will also require analysis, data of considerable scope.	<i>Inquiry at a broad level for perspective, but work proceeds on selective issues</i>

Carol Weiss – research utilisation (1979)

1. Knowledge-driven
2. Problem-solving
3. Interactive
4. Political
5. Tactical
6. Enlightenment
7. Intellectual enterprise of society



- Establishment of enduring relationships – indicator future impacts



