



# Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts, 2016

Integrated environmental accounts for Australia

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

## Presentation outline

- Environmental accounting in Australia, now and then
- The Australian Environmental-Economic Account (AEEA) idea
- AEEA 2016
- What to from here?



# Environmental accounting in the ABS, now and then

- A range of products have been released...

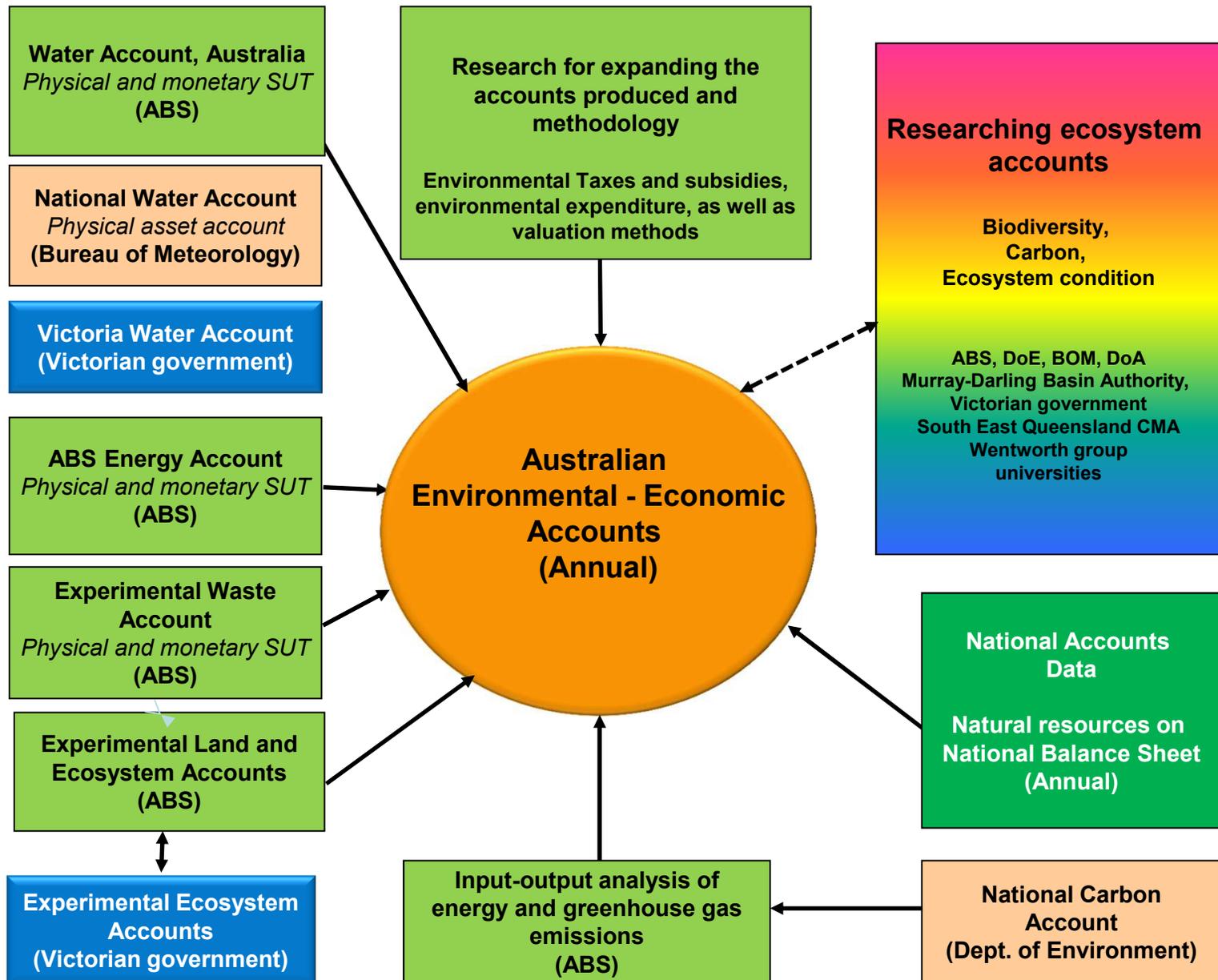




# Timeline of environmental accounting milestones for Australia

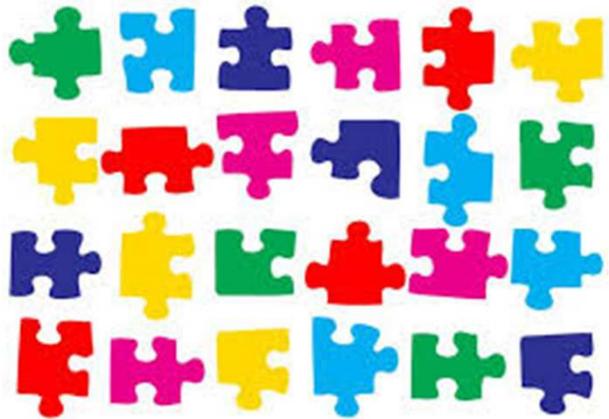
1991	Greenhouse Gas emissions (Department of Environment)
1993	SNA revision and 1st edition of SEEA (EC, IMF, OECD, UN, WB)
1995	Natural resources on balance sheet (ABS)
1996	Energy account (ABS)
1998	Mineral account (ABS)
1999	Environmental expenditure, local government (ABS)
2000	Water account – Physical and Monetary Supply and Use (ABS) Greenhouse gas emission accounts (ABS)
2011	Land account – Great Barrier Reef (ABS) Water account – Asset (BoM)
2012	SEEA Central Framework (EC, FAO, IMF, OECD, UN, WB) Completing the Picture (ABS) Environmental Taxes (ABS)
2013	SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (UNSD) Waste accounts (ABS) Ecosystem accounts (Victorian Environment and Primary Industry) Environmental Accounting Landscape (BOM) Accounting for Nature (Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists)
2014	Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts (AEEA) (ABS) Experimental Environmental Expenditure Accounts (EEA) (ABS)
2015	Experimental Ecosystem Account for Great Barrier Reef

# ABS Environmental accounting

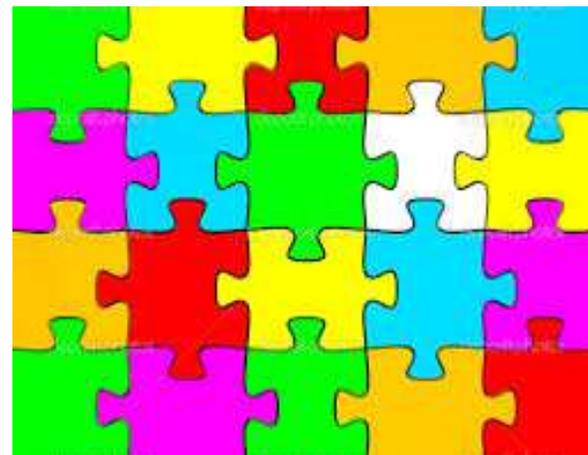
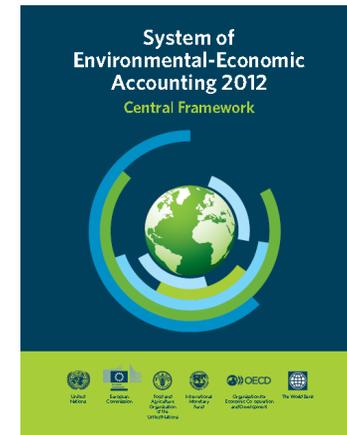


# Development of the SEEA in Australia

- Information siloes



- Integrated Accounts





# A more data-driven approach



By 2014 tendency for ABS Environmental Accounts to become dialogue-driven:

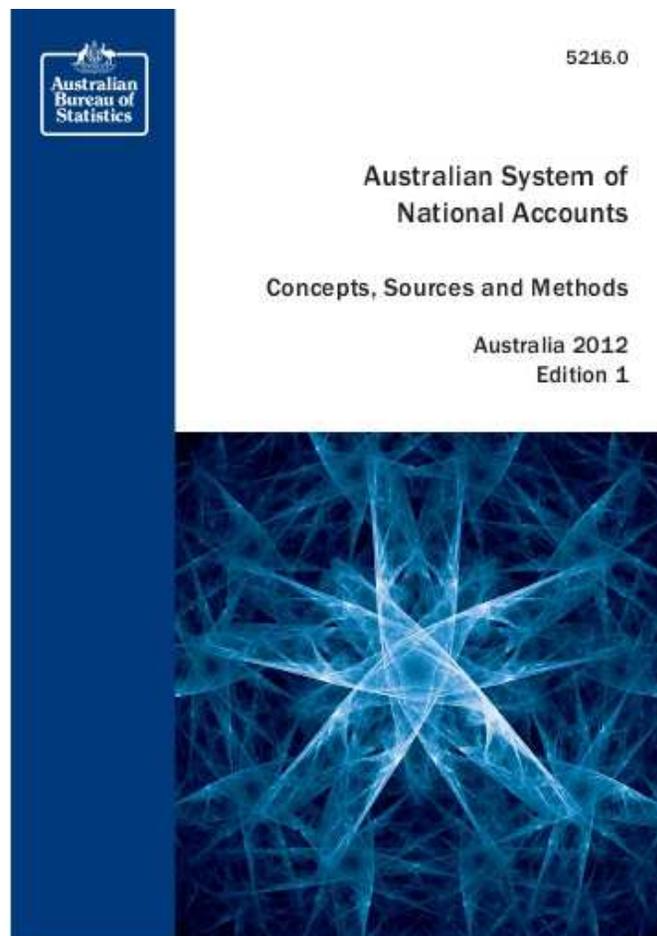
e.g. the *Completing the Picture* release in 2012

A change in focus towards data-driven products containing decision grade information...





# Genesis of the AEEA idea...





# Genesis of the AEEA idea...

- **In implementing 1993 SNA, the ABS transformed:**
  - Australian National Accounts: National Income and expenditure
  - Australian National Accounts: Capital Stock
  - Australian National Accounts: Multifactor Productivity
  - Australian National Accounts: Balance Sheet

Into:

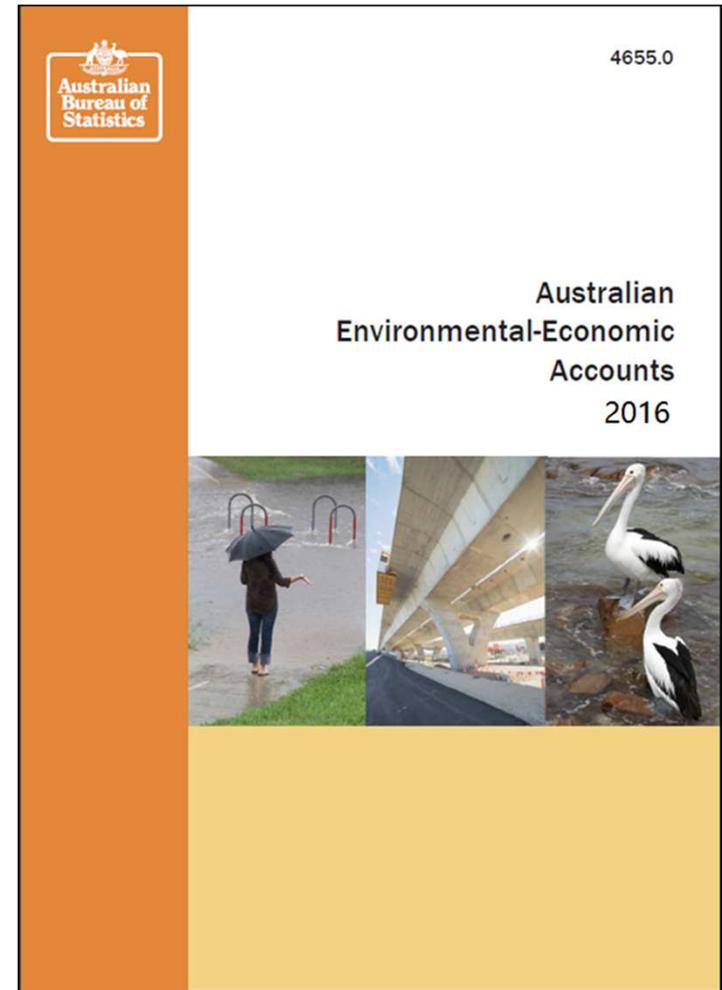
- **Australian System of National Accounts (cat no 5204.0)**



# Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts (AEEA) 2016

existing accounts are brought together within a single annual publication:

- Water, energy, waste, environmental assets, CO2 emissions, taxes, and land cover
- Three issues (2014, 2015 and 2016)
- Time series
- Tables and indicators
- Presents accounts with minimal analysis and interpretation
- Includes special articles on developments, issues of interest





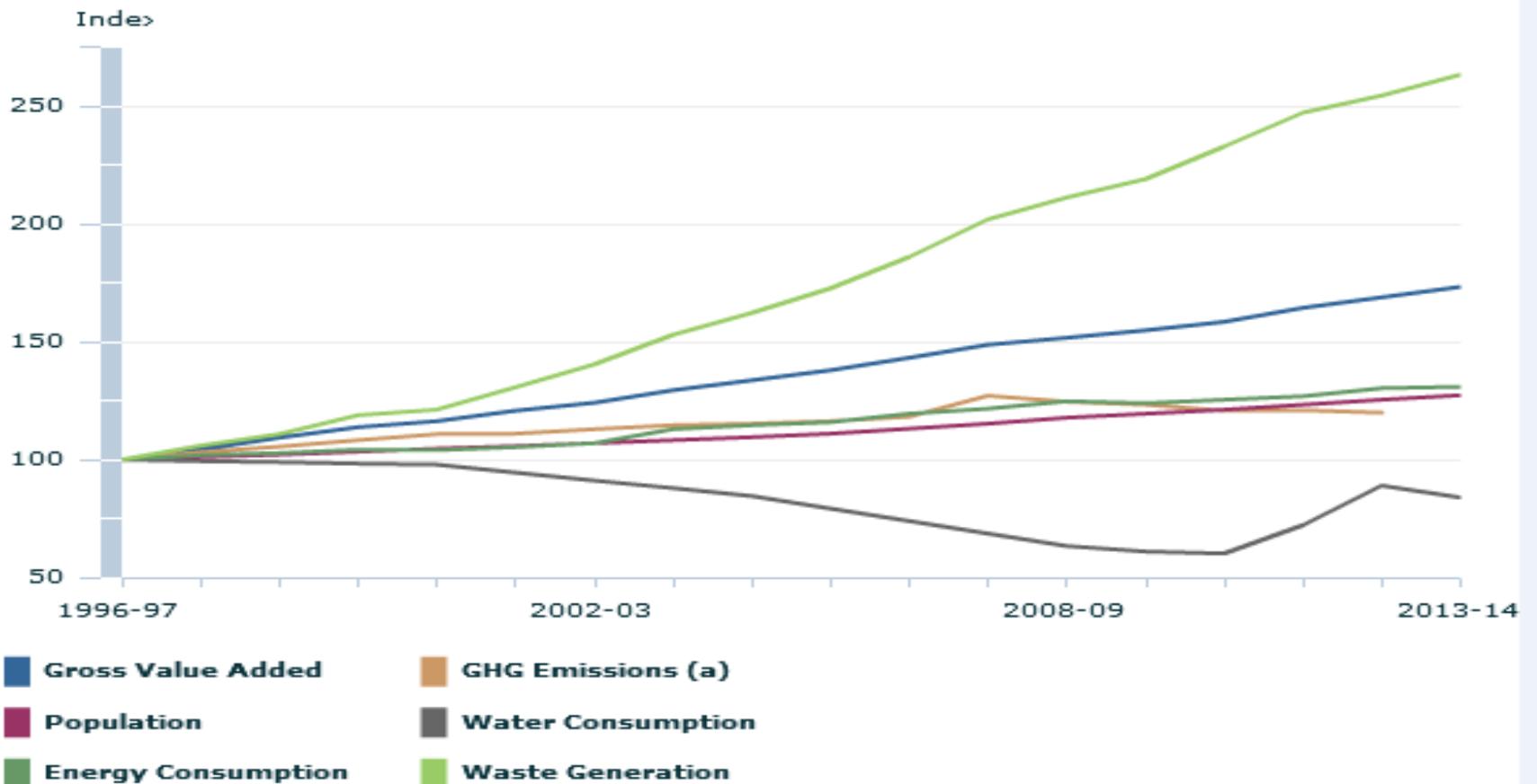
# Structure of AEEA

The layout of the AEEA follows that of standard ABS publications and comprises:

- Main findings
- Feature article(s)
- Standardised tables categorised by environmental theme (e.g. land, water, energy)
- Explanatory notes
- Related information

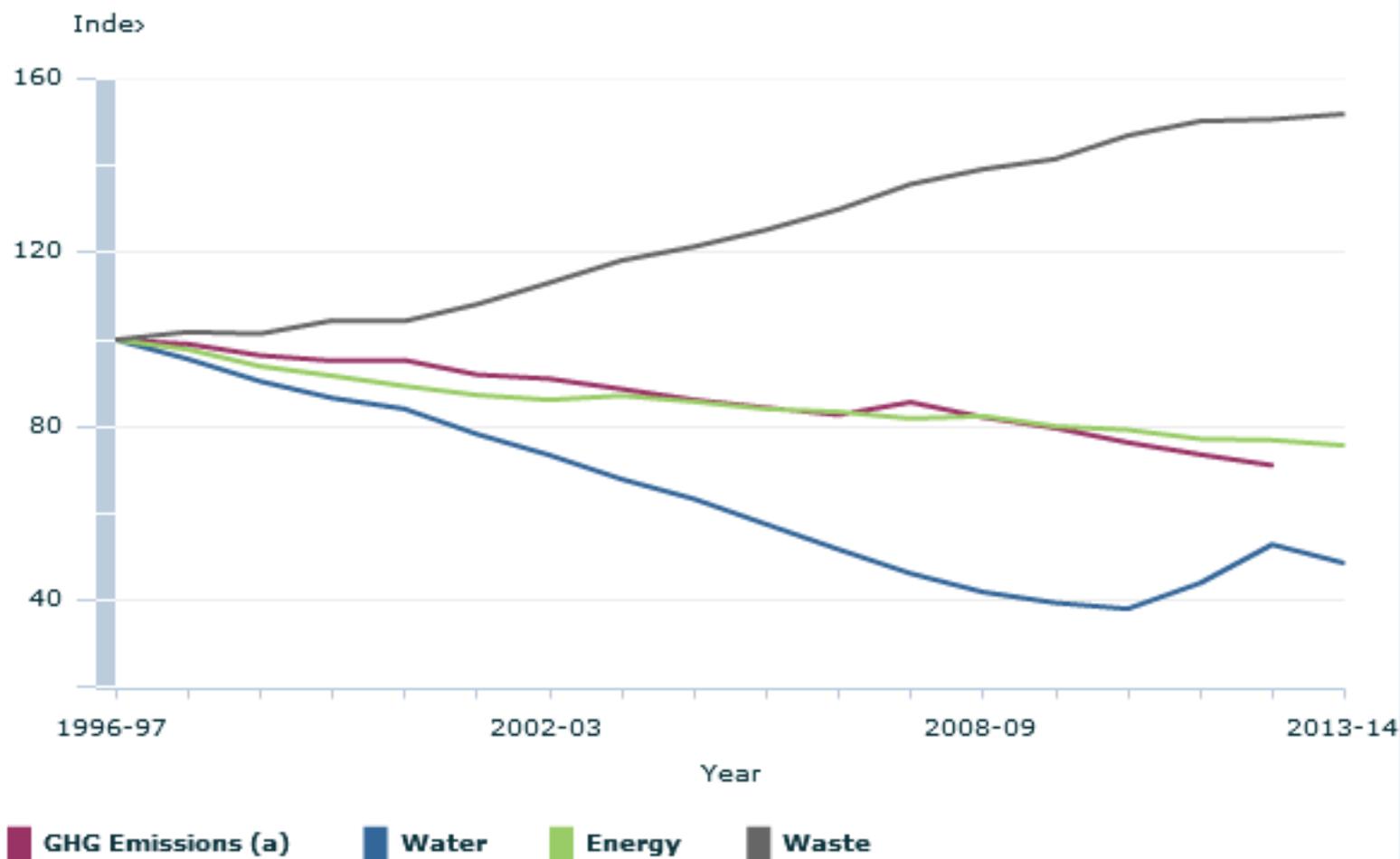
# Integrated indicators, Australia I

SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES, Australia, 1996-97 to 2013-14



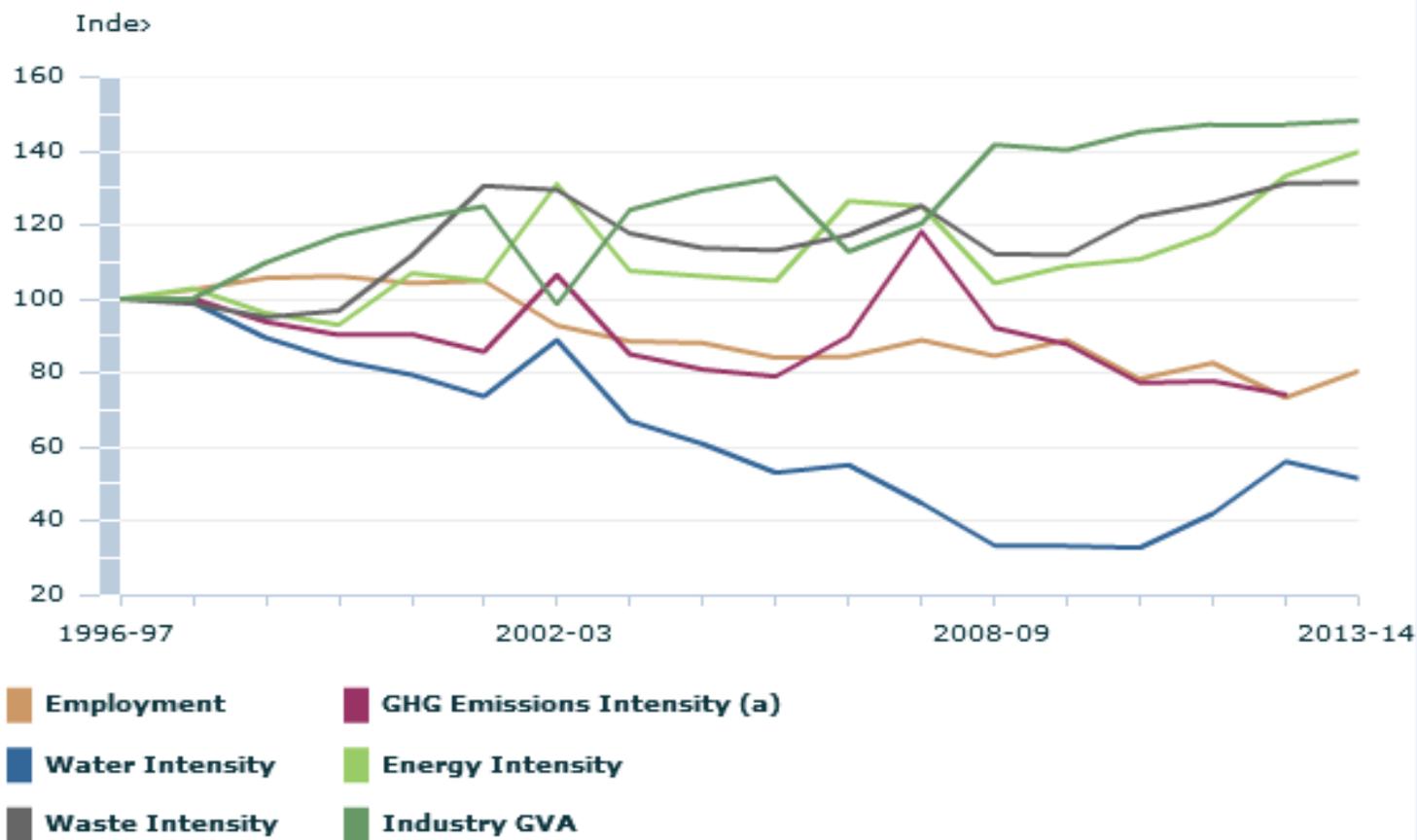
# Integrated indicators, Australia II

SELECTED INTENSITY MEASURES, Australia, 1996-97 to 2013-14



# Integrated indicators by industry, Agriculture

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, Integrated measures, 1996-97 to 2013-14





# AEEA and the Media

## Value of Australia's natural wealth doubles over 10 years to \$6 trillion: ABS data

By environment reporter [Sara Phillips](#)

Updated 15 Apr 2016, 10:46am

**The value of Australia's natural wealth nearly doubled in the decade to 2015, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), rising from \$3 trillion in 2006 to \$5.8 trillion in 2015.**

The figure represents natural assets that fuel the economy, such as minerals, forests, farmland and clean water.

It is the first time the ABS has compiled the environmental and economic indicators in this way, painting a picture of how much of the nation's natural assets are eroded — or improved — by economic activity.

University of Adelaide professor of water and environmental policy Mike Young hailed the new release.

"Really since the start of time in Australia we have never properly looked at our environmental assets — the ones which are the natural ones that sustain us," he said.

"In the past there's been complex, long, qualitative assessments of where we're up, and moving, to.

"Hopefully in the future we'll be able to look at this in the same way as we look at our GDP data and employment data and say, 'Look, we're doing really well on the environment'."



**PHOTO:** Australia's natural assets are translated to economic indicators for the first time. (Twitter: [@Cmdr\\_Hadfield](#))

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**MAP:** [Australia](#)

### Key points:

- Minerals, forests, farmland and clean water worth trillions to economy
- First time ABS paints a picture of environmental assets
- For each dollar of economic activity, waste production increases 50 pc
- Professor says current efforts to address climate change not enough

# What to from here?

- AEEA - 2017
  - Release late March/early April 2017
  - 4<sup>th</sup> release of the AEEA
- Slow process of building a mature dataset...
- AEEA currently focused on SEEA CF material, how to work in Ecosystems information?

