



Our Story.  
Our Future.

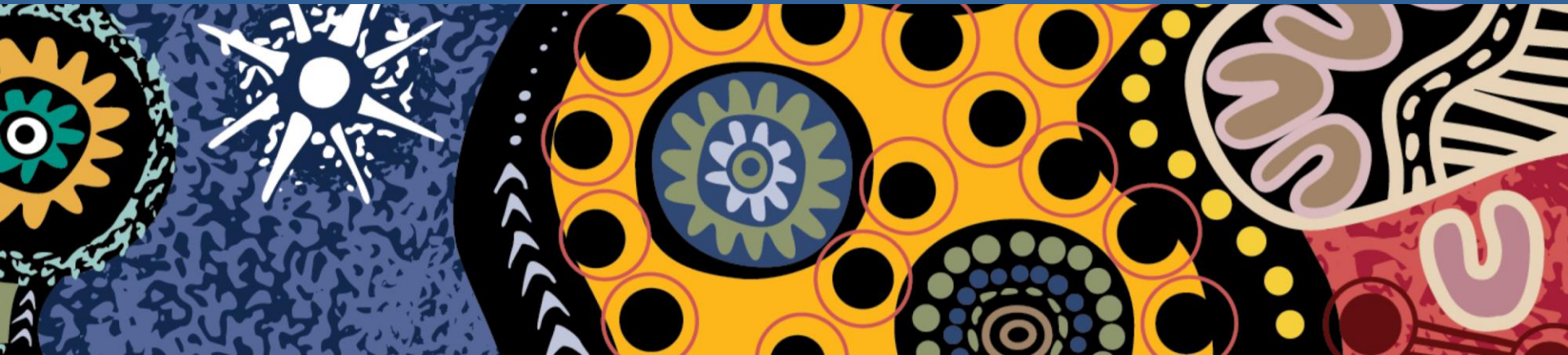
The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their cultures and Elders, past and present.



# UNCEEA Biodiversity Webinar – Australian Position

Peter Meadows – Director, Centre of Environmental  
and Satellite Accounts, ABS

'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri, Wotjobaluk, Yuin and Gumbaynggirr artist **Luke Penrith** and Maluiligal people, Badu Island artist **Naseli Tamwoy**.



- *How has inter-institutional collaboration been important for the compilation of SEEA accounts in your country, and how do you see this collaboration contributing to monitoring and reporting under the GBF for indicators such as A2 and B1?*
- *What are the advantages of using an accounting framework as the basis for the compilation of indicators for the GBF?*



# Short history of SEEA in Australia



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- Late 1990's, early 2000's – development of the EEA standards
  - Close collaboration with Environmental Ministry, Industry Ministry.
    - Advocacy, use cases, exploring the potential for accounts in policy (EPE, Energy, Water).
- Mid 2000's, early 2010's
  - Heightened awareness of need to measure environment (Ecosystem Accounts, Energy, Water, Land).
    - Resources based economy, indicators of ecosystem stress.
  - Limited collaboration to sign off SEEA CF, closer relationships with water monitoring and geospatial agencies.
- Late 2010's early 2020's
  - Training course developed with ANU, seeking broader collaboration with academia.
  - National approach to environmental economic accounting.
    - Strong support from Environment ministry and ministers (land, waste, oceans).
    - Next steps towards embedding SEEA



- ABS, Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, CSIRO work towards national ecosystems accounts
  - Will have indicator A.2, some progress towards B.1 by February 2025.
  - Establishing common data inputs for ecosystem account, biodiversity and condition monitoring.
  - Based on a collaborative process with researchers on coastal ecosystems, pilots of regional ecosystem accounts, work on carbon, forests and condition modelling.
- For 2024/2025 – consolidation, national cross realm ecosystems approach.
- Lesson:
  - Need to work hard to balance scientific and economic needs for accounts.

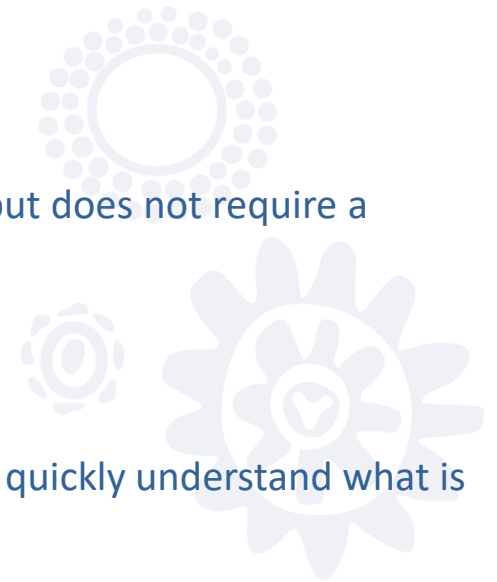


# Why SEEA?



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- Supports International (GBF) and Domestic policy.
- Ecosystem accounts are transparent
  - Allows visibility from indicators through to data inputs.
  - Allows concordance from a wide range of monitoring information but does not require a fundamental change to their methods.
  - Fully integrated format, links to economic and social data
  - Scalable if designed well
- One of the key features of ecosystem accounts (SEEA) is the ability to quickly understand what is missing from existing data.





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Thanks!