

Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Settlements & Infrastructure

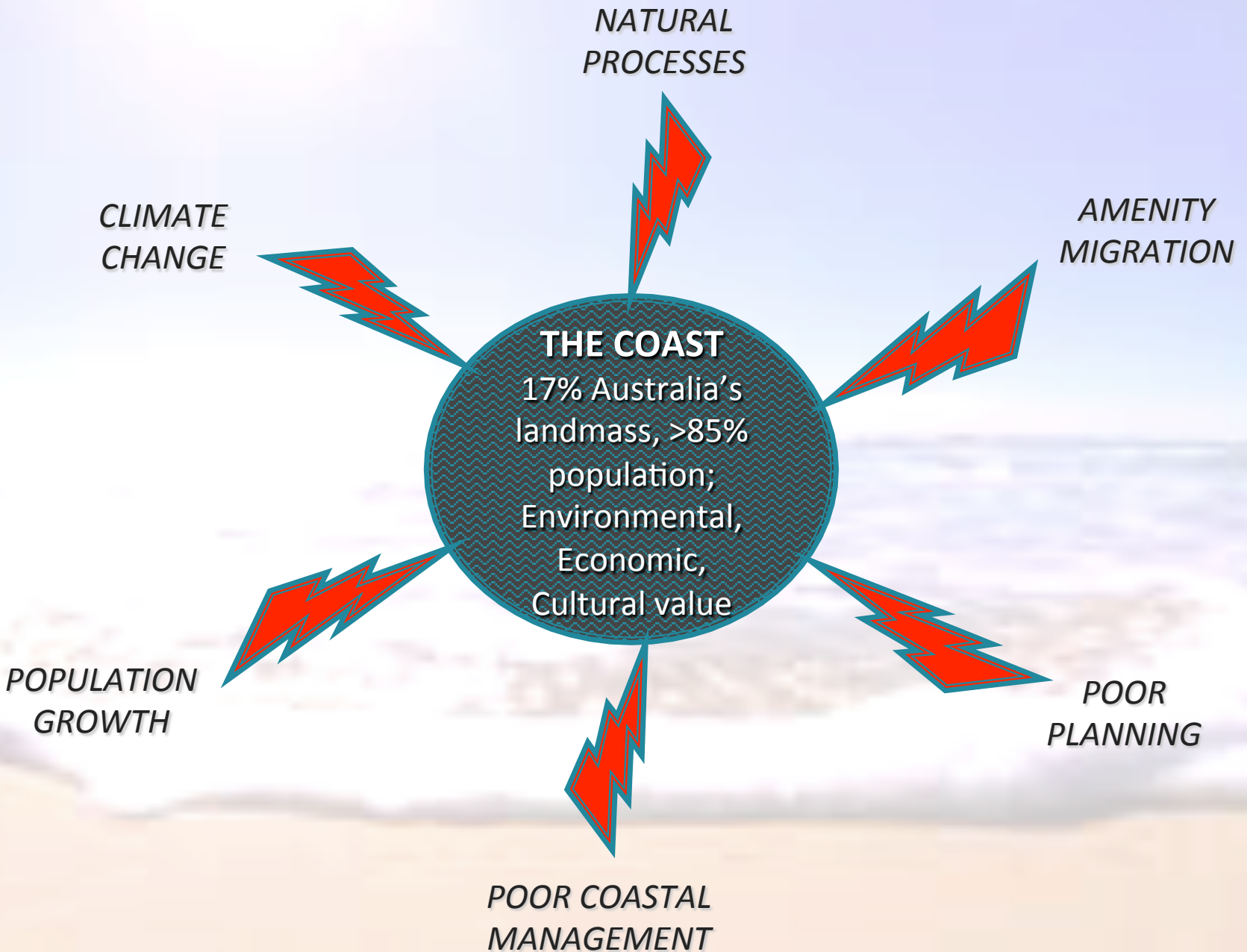
12th Early Career Researchers Forum & Workshop

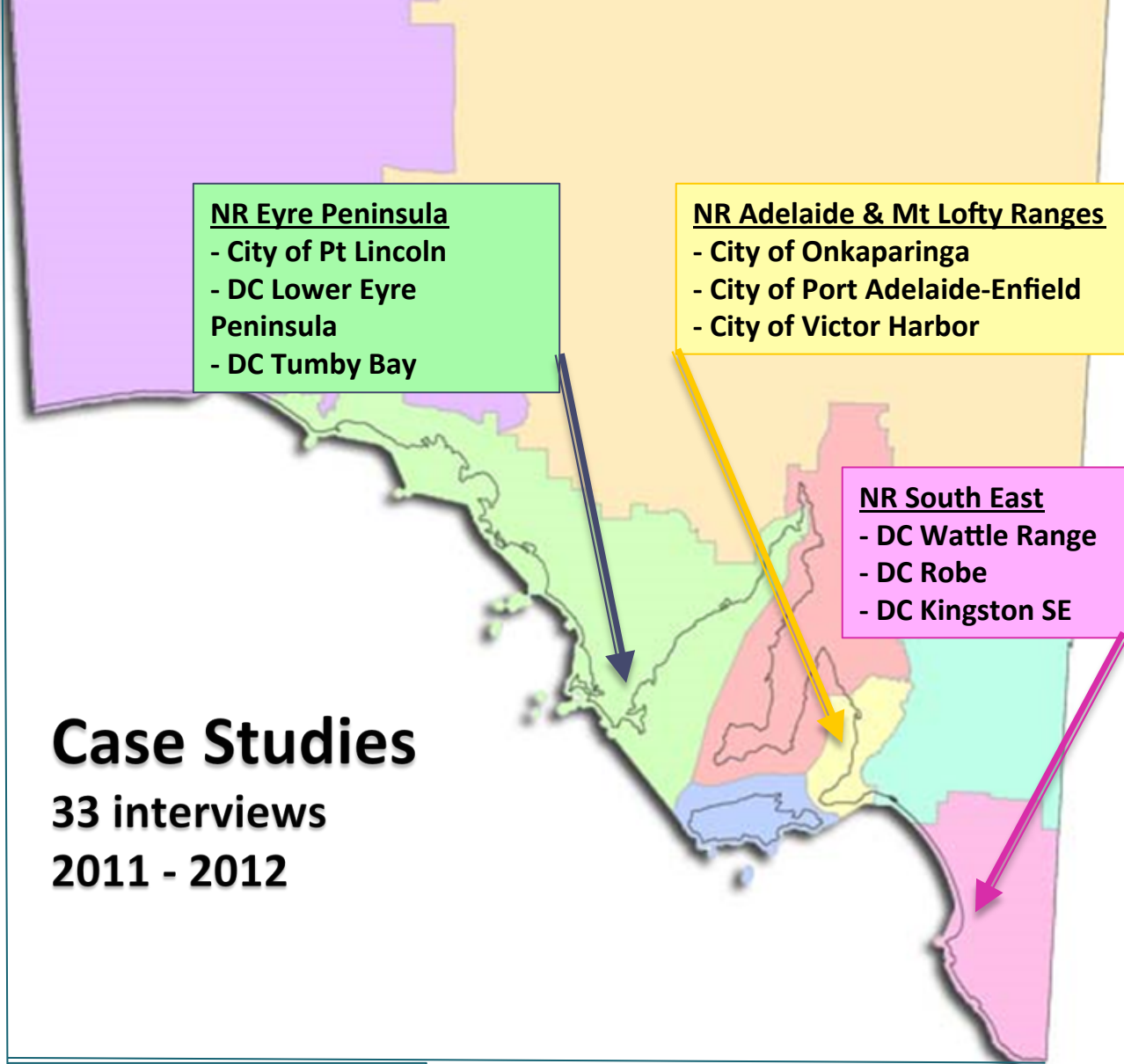
***The roles & responsibilities of local, state and federal governments in coastal planning and management for climate change adaptation:
Theory vs practice***

Nicole Pelton

PhD Student

Centre for Coastal Research, University of Adelaide





NR Eyre Peninsula
- City of Pt Lincoln
- DC Lower Eyre Peninsula
- DC Tumby Bay

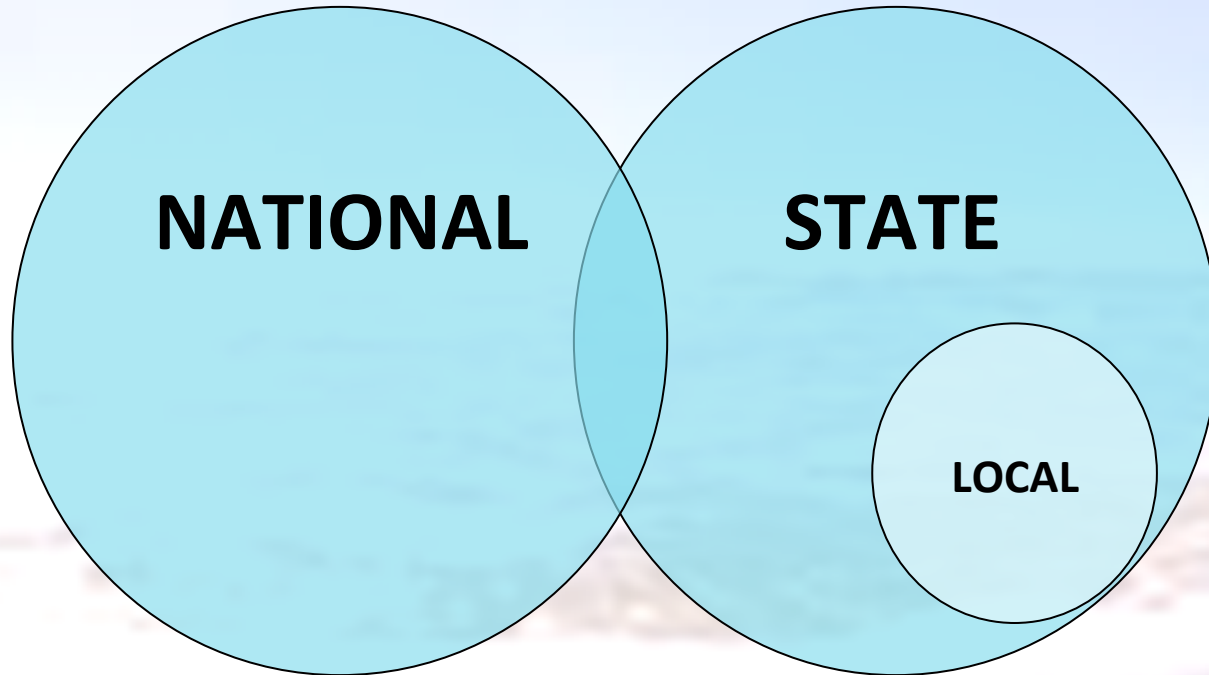
NR Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges
- City of Onkaparinga
- City of Port Adelaide-Enfield
- City of Victor Harbor

NR South East
- DC Wattle Range
- DC Robe
- DC Kingston SE

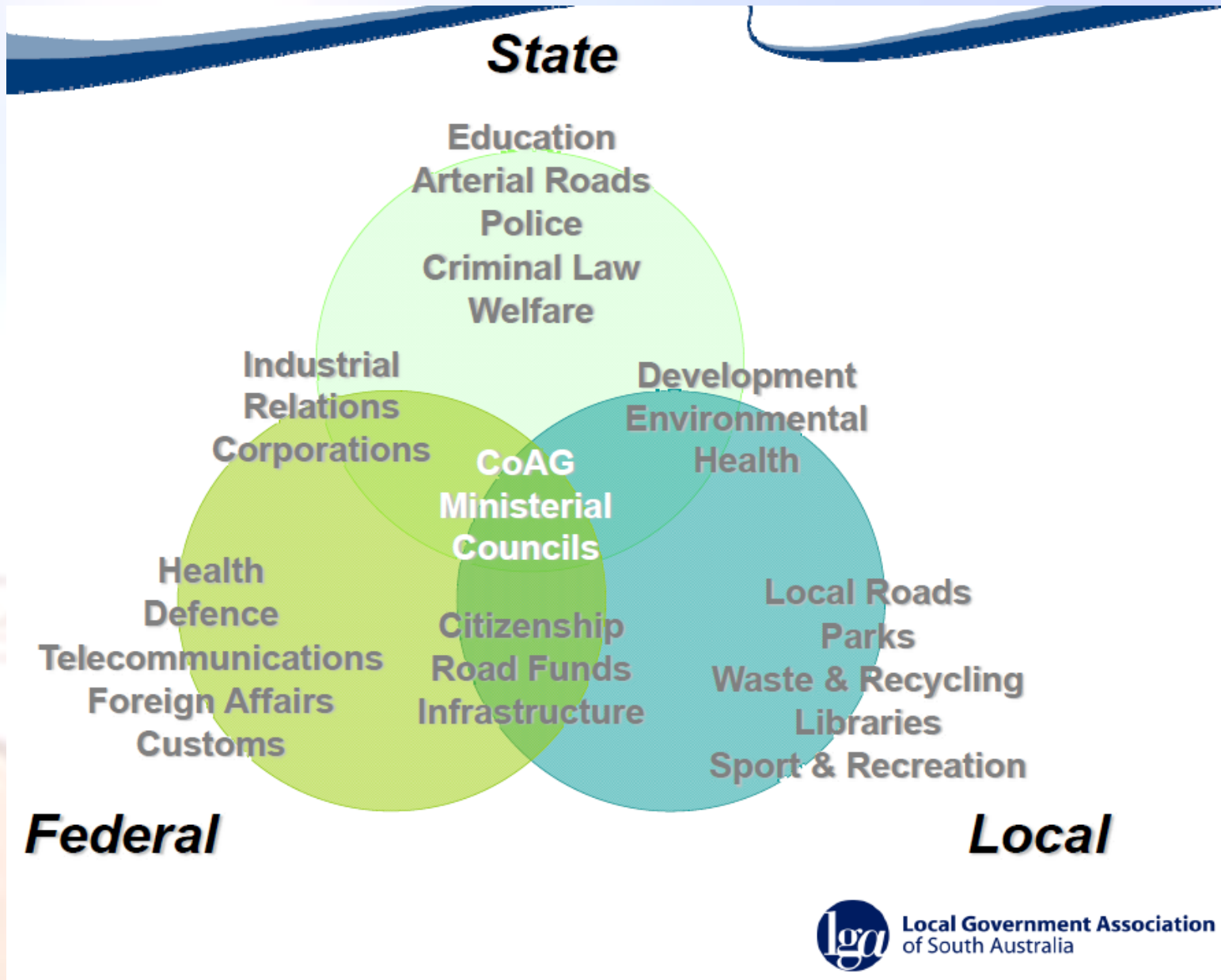
Case Studies
33 interviews
2011 - 2012

State Government
'Department of Environment'
(DEH, DENR & now DEWNR)

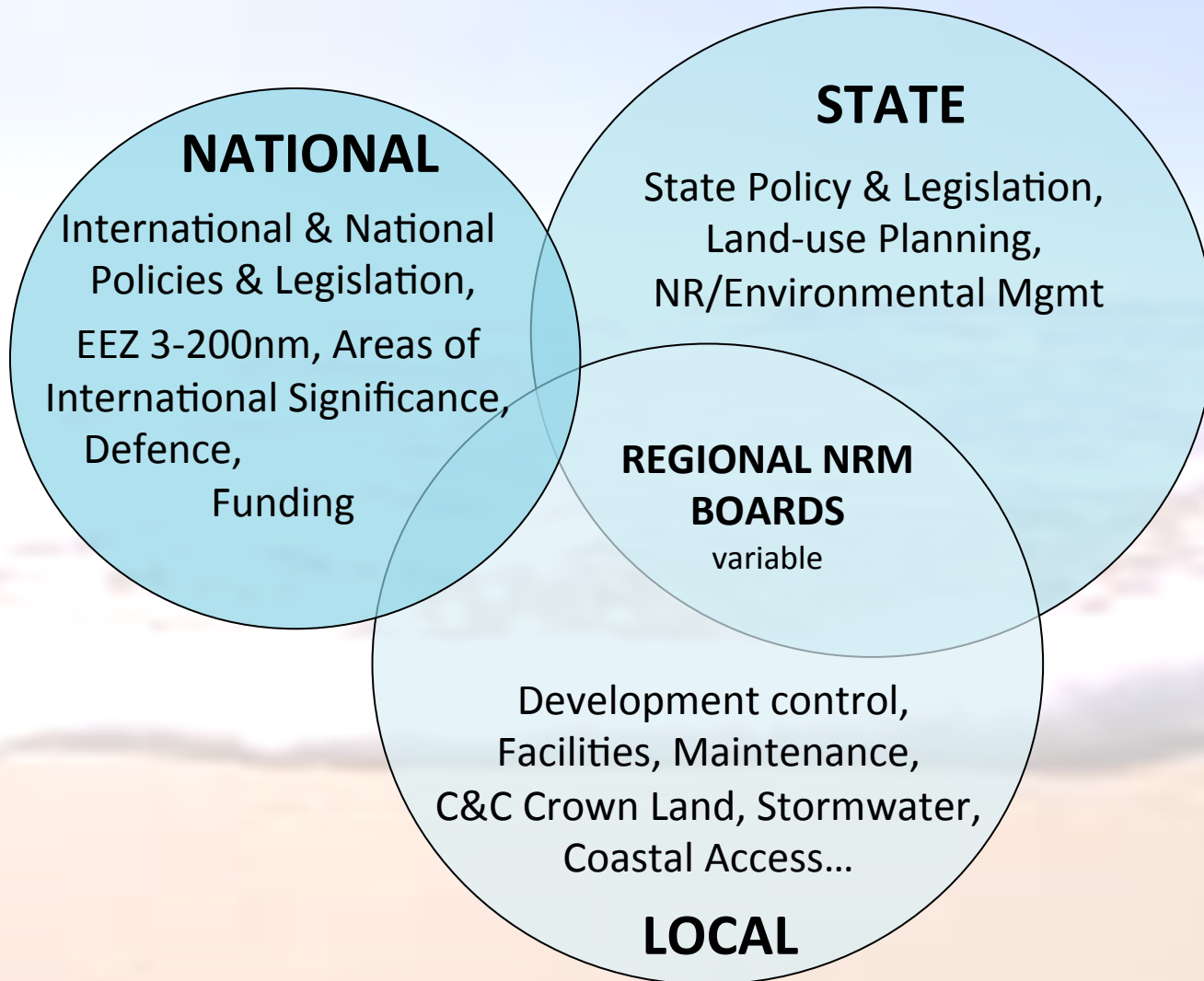
Federalism in theory...



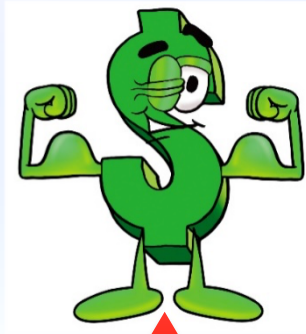
Division of responsibilities in Australia



Coastal Management in Australia: *Spheres of Governance*



Federalism, in practice...



FEDERAL

STATE

LOCAL



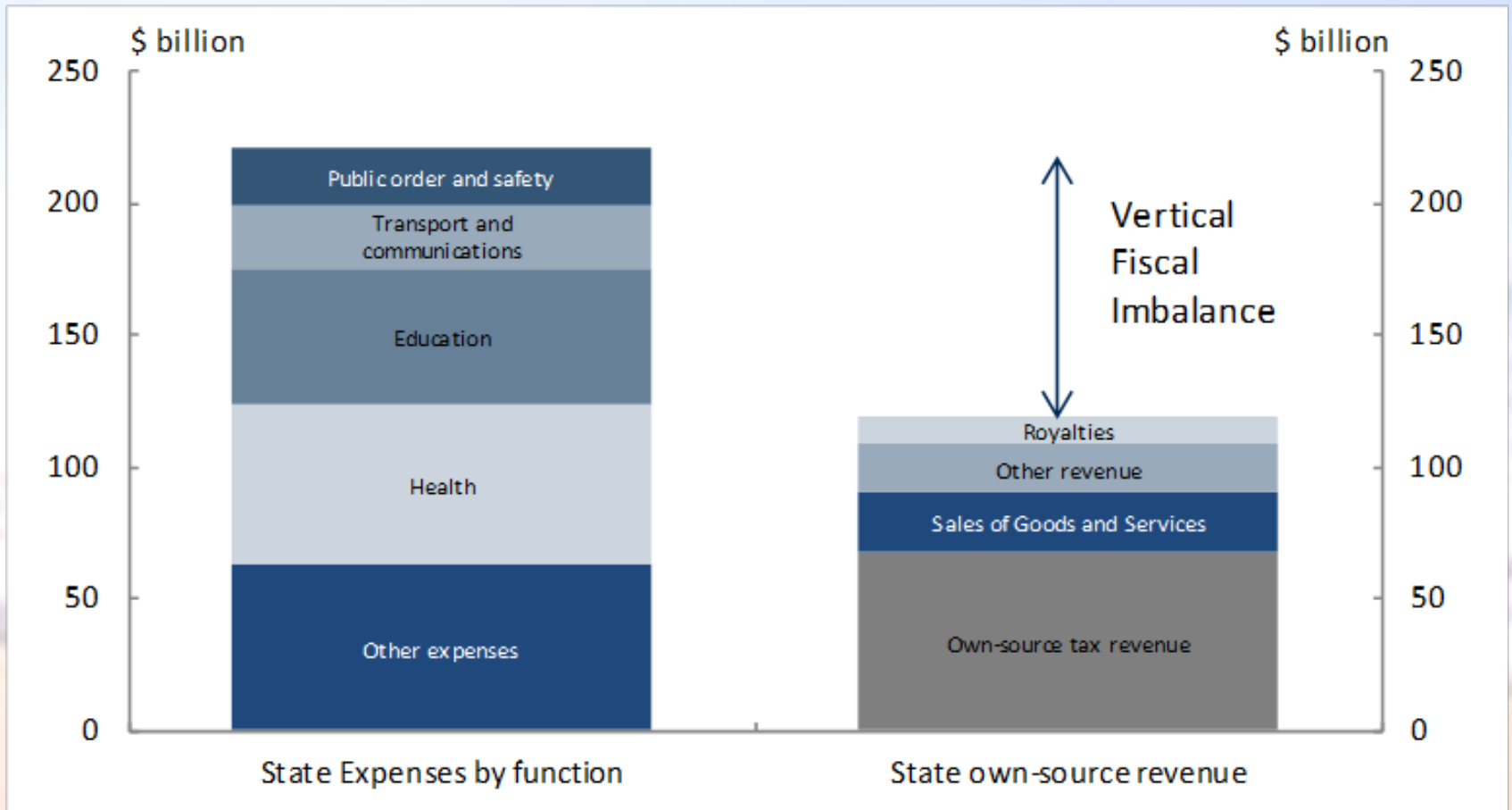
Vertical Fiscal Imbalance (VFI)

→ an inappropriate allocation of revenue powers and spending responsibilities between the two levels of government in a federation

- Commonwealth raises revenues in excess of spending responsibilities
- State governments have insufficient own-source revenue to finance spending responsibilities
 - Commonwealth funds 40% of State revenue

Vertical Fiscal Imbalance in Australia

State expenses vs State own-source revenue: 2013-14

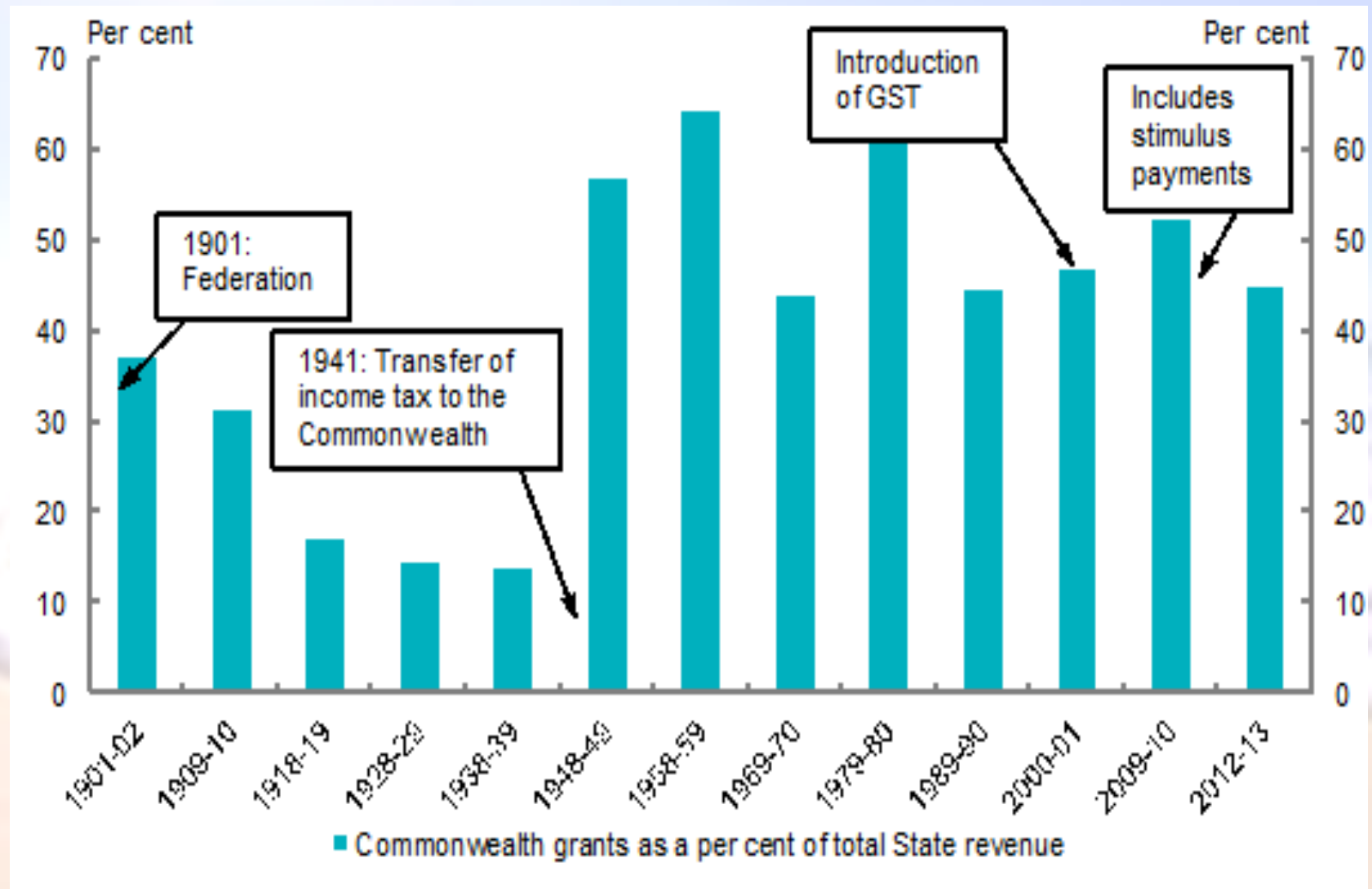


(Source: 2013-14 State Budgets; Australian Government, 2013b)

<http://www.ncoa.gov.au/report/appendix-vol-1/8-3-addressing-vertical-fiscal-imbalance.html>

accessed 8th November 2015

History of Federal fiscal dominance



Impact of Federal fiscal dominance

Disempowering the state:

→ *Tied Grants*

→ *Direct funding*

Own source
revenue

Tax base
sharing

Revenue
sharing

Untied
grants

Tied
grants



Reduction in fiscal autonomy

Australian federalism, VFI and Intergovernmental Relations

→ Lack of resources

→ Disempowerment

⇒ **Poor intergovernmental relations**

Federalism, VFI, IGR ...and the coast...

Cost shifting

*“Yeah, it’s a handball from the government, they own it and they say... ‘We own it, we want a say on what happens on it development-wise and things like that, and works, but that’s **all your responsibility**’ and they don’t like to come to the party very often with any sort of funding assistance either... We see that as a handball, a big handball because they want to keep doing that and **they don’t want to give us money**” (#13-LG-EP)*

Federalism, VFI, IGR ...and the coast...

Disempowerment of local government

*“Not forgetting that **local government is not an official tier of government**, it’s pretty clear... At the end of the day, I’d go so far as to say **local government exists as a whim of the State government** because we exist because of their Act of Parliament, **and I think we are treated accordingly**” (#26-LG-AMLR)*

Federalism, VFI, IGR ...and the coast...

Local government & Constitutional recognition

*“The primary reason for seeking that constitutional recognition is so that we can establish **a direct link, a legally recognised direct link to Federal government funding.** Um, so that in itself is perhaps an obstacle to us at the present time, in that the **State government are not wanting to lose any control or decision-making to the Federal level**” (#24-LG-AMLR)*

Federalism, VFI, IGR ...and the coast...

Disempowerment of State government

“Over recent years we have probably seen the propensity of Federal governments wanting to fund that at the local and regional level, rather than through the States... We see some distribution of monies that are, as far as the State priority list, perhaps don't make perfect sense. Those regions that are better prepared and better resourced to make bids for funds might be more successful, but it might not be the best priorities, I think” (#3-SG)

Federalism, VFI, IGR ...and the coast...

Coastal Development

*“Now local government, um, you know, the, they’re interested in rates, development, and they don’t see ecology as being important. **Develop at any cost...** The development of the coast is done under the control of the council development plan. And that has to be **approved by the Minister**. And the Minister knows that if they approve that plan in such a way that it allows for development, he or she is going to get money to Treasury so it’s, it’s developed. You know, **development means money**” (#22-NRM-SE)*

The Tyranny of Small Decisions

Every year, 7-18% of Development Authority (DA) decisions are inconsistent with CPB advice (DENR 2010)

- Cumulative impacts
 - Incremental creep
 - Vulnerability
 - Liability
 - Financial losses
 - Insurance premiums?

Implications for the coast of centralisation of power at Federal level

- obstacle to intergovernmental integration
- 'fuzzy' governance
- lack of accountability
- lack of leadership



Acknowledgements

Interview participants

*South Australian Government Department of
Environment, Water & Natural Resources*

*Natural Resources Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges,
South East, and Eyre Peninsula*

City of Onkaparinga, City of Port Adelaide-Enfield and City of Victor Harbor

District Councils of Robe, Wattle Range and Kingston SE

*District Councils of Lower Eyre Peninsula & Tumby Bay and City of Port
Lincoln*



This research project was made possible thanks to funding from
Department of Geography, Environment & Population, University of Adelaide
Coastal Collaboration Cluster, CSIRO Flagship Collaboration Fund

QUESTIONS?

