Climate-Energy-Water

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The issue: C-E-W substantively linked, but linked in policy and institutions?

Sources of ideas: WoG and EPI

Possible options: to prompt discussion.

The issue

- Water, climate & energy closely linked biophysical, social and economic phenomenon and activities.
- Need to better understand the links through research, information management, assessment.
- But, need to also consider how well (or not) linked in policy and institutional systems:
  -- to be able to coordinate useful R&D and information generation and use;
  -- to be able to coordinate policy and management in synergistic rather than fragmented ways.
- General feeling C-E-W could be better integrated?

Where to seek ideas from?

- C-E-W is not the only cross-sectoral, whole-of-government R&D challenge or policy problem.
- Recent focus on W-of-G, joined-up-govt, etc in public policy and administration (eg MAC 2004).
- Especially interesting is Environmental Policy Integration theory and practice – vertical and horizontal integration.
- A range of familiar and more recent/innovative policy and institutional mechanisms – structures and processes.

Some possibilities to prompt discussion

- Traditional – IDCs, inquiries (one-off, Senate, PC brief, etc.); R&D investment; Cabinet; CoAG processes, etc.
- Mandate to a lead agencies (which one?) with authority to seek cross-portfolio engagement.
- Central agency coordination role (Offices of...).
- Strategic environmental assessment or similar, to assess cross-sectoral implications of policies and programs.
- Data protocols and information systems for shared knowledge (eg. energy and water agencies don't make the key decisions affecting consumption...)
- Statutory reform (reshaping objectives, decision processes) – eg. the utilities statutory mandates?