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Concepts, criteria and challenges in evaluating a mix of policy instruments to achieve environmental targets

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An unresolved challenge in natural resource management is how to best select an appropriate **mix** of policy instruments (such as regulation, incentives, information and empowerment) to achieve environmental policy (such as catchment targets).

Selecting or evaluating a mix of policy instruments is made difficult for several reasons. Firstly, typically there is a lack of data that attributes comparable outcomes, and sometimes even outputs to particular interventions or policy instruments. Secondly a large range of stakeholders manage different instruments for achieving behaviour change including government, industry, catchment authorities and not for profit organisations. Thirdly, some interventions have been used for long periods of time such as recognition schemes, extension and fixed-rate incentives, while some instruments are still at the developmental stage (such as market-based incentives). And fourthly, there is often contention over the accuracy and appropriateness of the policy (or targets) themselves.

This presentation reviews the results of an exploratory qualitative study in the Goulburn Broken Catchment using a **Policy Instrument Decision Framework** developed by DPI Victoria. The framework was used to review and recommend changes to a mix of policy instruments to accelerate progress towards the biodiversity targets. The presentation will discuss the types of criteria that can be used to evaluate a mix of instruments, consider data that can be used in the absence of outcome and output data, and how to incorporate a triple bottom line approach.

This is work in progress, and the presenters will welcome input and thoughts from the audience.