



Australian Government
Department of Finance

EVALUATORS AND THE ENHANCED COMMONWEALTH PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

aes17

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How can evaluators help influence and shape what emerges from the enhanced Commonwealth performance framework



The Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2014 (the PGPA Act)

Paragraph 5(b) requires the Commonwealth to:

- establish a **performance framework** across Commonwealth entities

Paragraph 5(c) requires Commonwealth entities to:

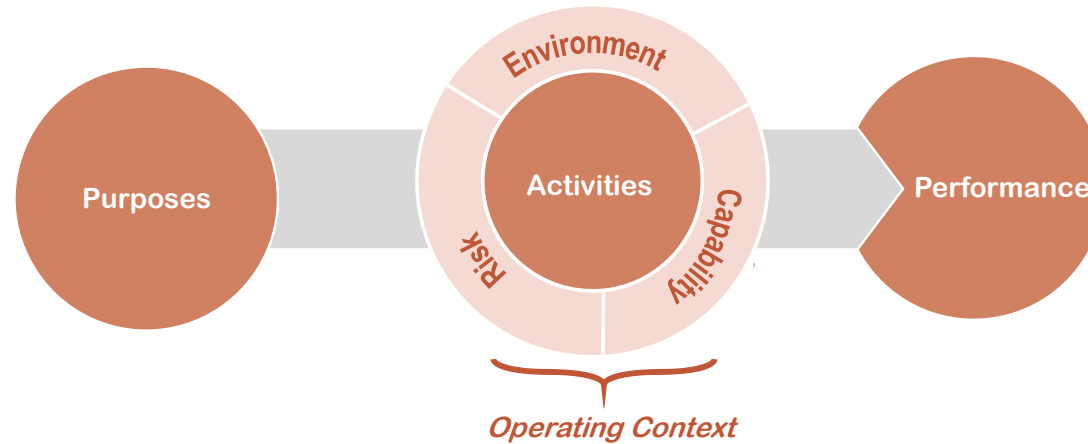
- meet high standards of governance, **performance** and accountability
- provide **meaningful information** to the Parliament and public

Subsection 15(1) requires:

- accountable authorities to promote the proper use of public resources to **achieve purposes**



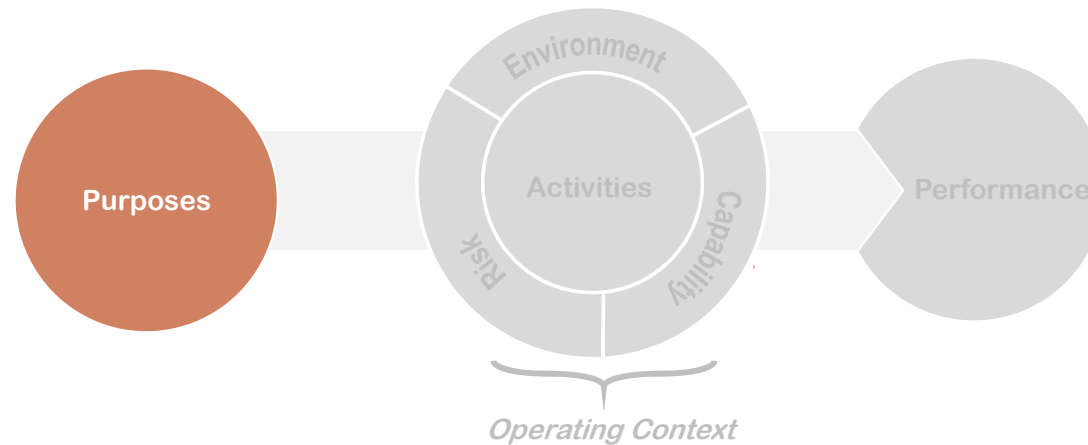
The enhanced Commonwealth performance framework



- The framework is built around three **key elements**:
 - purposes
 - operating context
 - performance
- A simple concept that can lead to **sophisticated** performance information
- The sophistication results from the **'fleshing out'** of each element



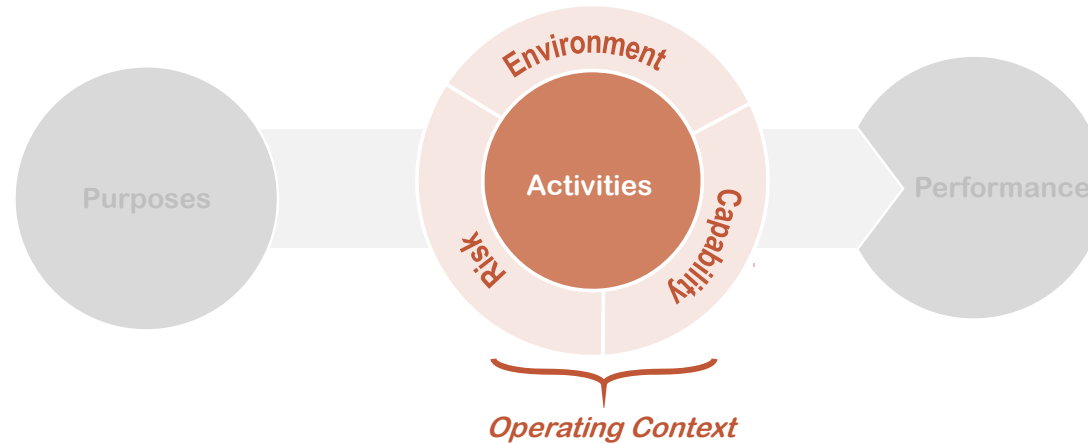
Purposes



- Objectives, functions and roles of an entity or company
- Purposes express what **needs** are being met for what **target groups**
- Informed by:
 - enabling legislation
 - administrative orders
 - national partnership agreements



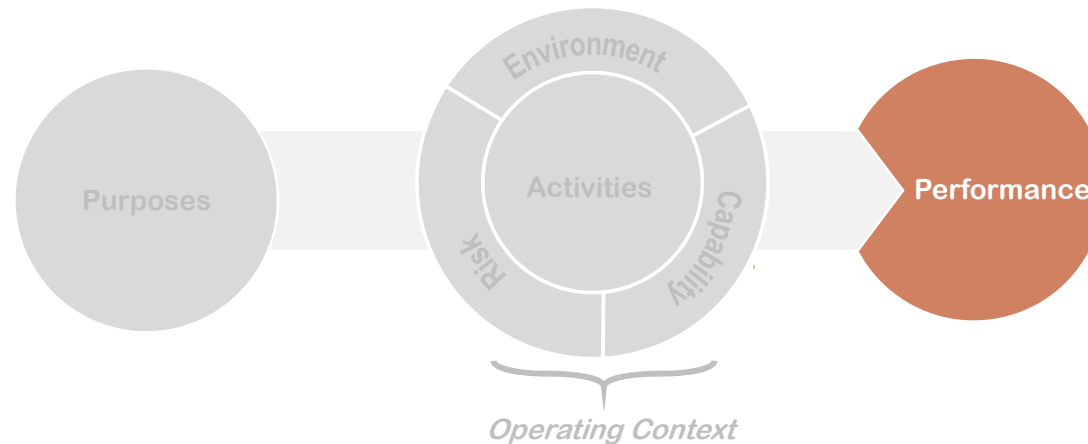
Operating Context



- **Activities**, environment, capability and risk interact in a complex way
- One element **cannot be understood in isolation** from the others.
- Activities are **shaped** by environment, capability and risk
- And the **reverse is true**



Performance



- Activities make a **contributions** to achieving purposes.
- These contributions are demonstrated using **performance information**
- Performance information will need to demonstrate **outcomes** over **appropriate timeframes** (e.g. the short, medium and long term)



Appropriate performance information

Appropriate performance information is:

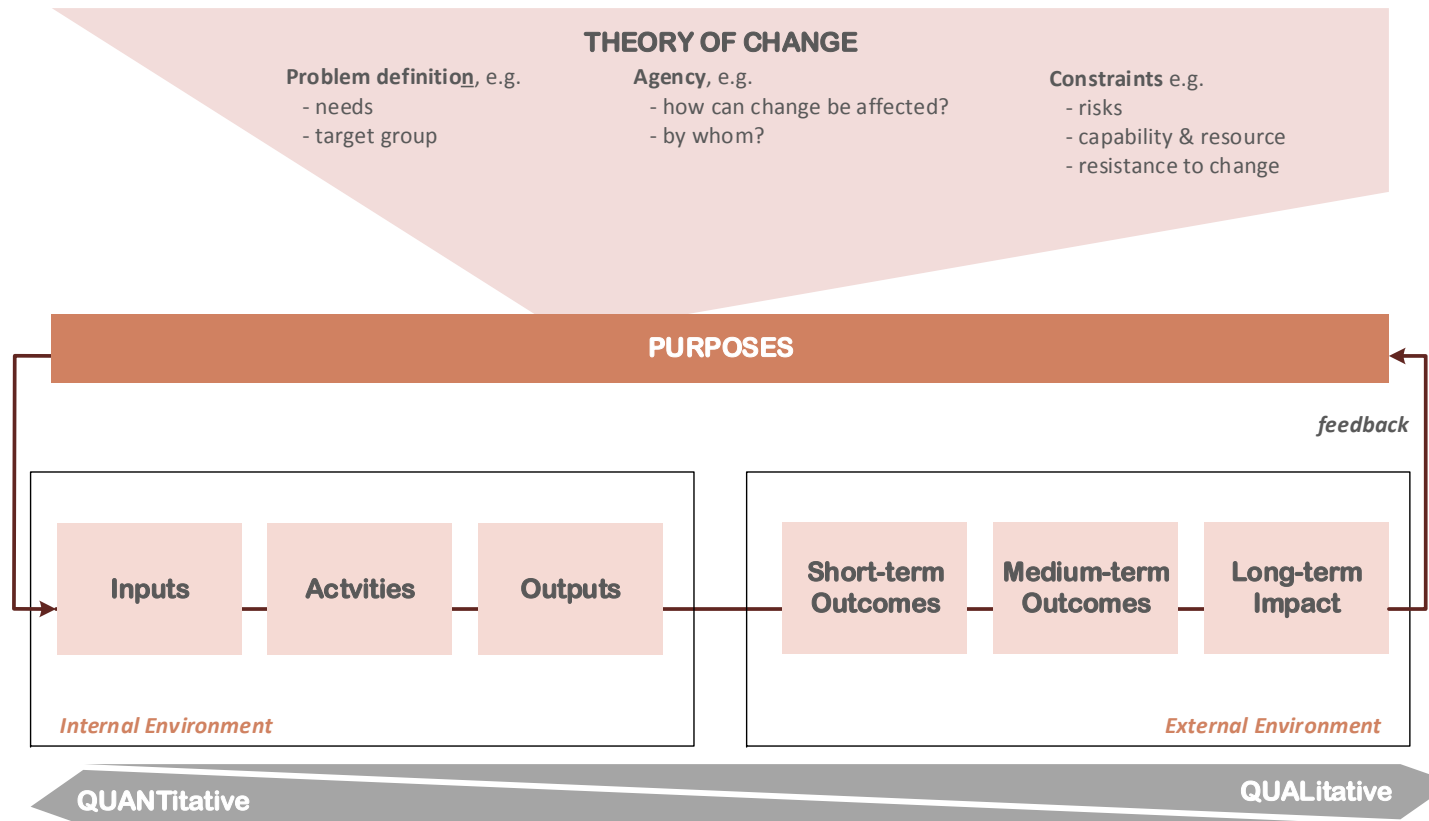
- **Relevant** – demonstrates who benefits and how they benefit from the entity's activities.
- **Reliable** – based on fit for purpose data sources and methodologies that are verifiable.
- **Complete** – help stakeholders judge whether the purposes of an entity are being achieved



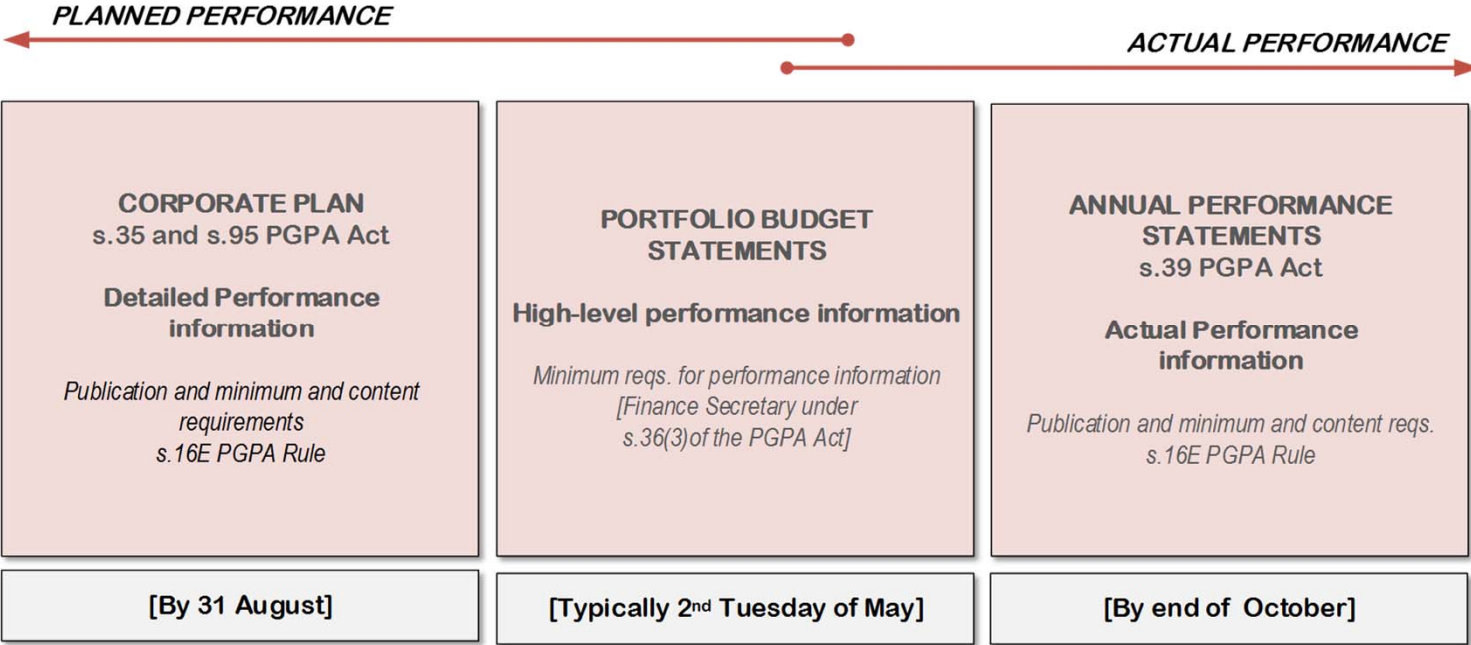
Agree with the ANAO and are being used to assess performance information in audits



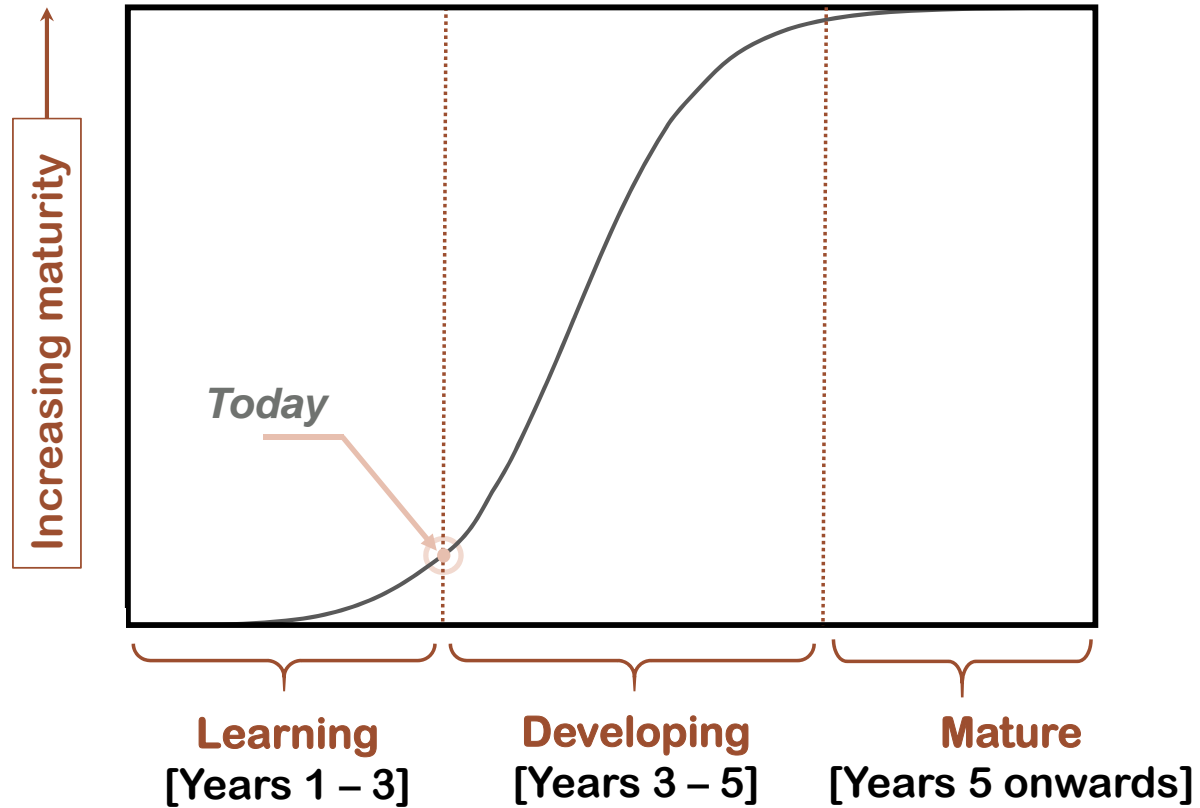
A conceptual tool



Performance reporting mechanism



Trajectory to maturity





We return to the question:

How can evaluators help influence and shape what emerges from the enhanced Commonwealth performance framework



Discussion point 1

The evaluation community's contribution to the enhanced Commonwealth performance framework is likely to be through:

Appropriately adapting its skills and way of thinking to help entities demonstrate achievement against purposes

This does not necessarily mean more evaluations, larger evaluation or more sophisticated evaluations.



Discussion point 2

Making a contribution is about demonstrating value – helping others learn what counts as achieving purposes.

It is not as simple as making the right ‘sales pitch’.

What might a demonstration of value look like? How evaluators help other learn?



Discussion point 3

Evaluations tend to be about particular programs, delivered in specific contexts over specific time frames.

An entity's purposes likely imply a larger scale, have diverse contexts and apply over a much longer timeframe.

Is scale a problem?

