

Environmental Regulatory Networks: The importance of effective collaboration

IMPACT 2023 Conference
The Auditor of the Future

Dr Grant Pink – Canberra 20 April 2023





Today's session

Part 1 – A story about collaboration:

- When I realised its importance!
- What I then did with it.

Part 2 – ‘Working together’:

- What do you call it?
- How do you describe it?

Part 3 – Reflections:

- Breakout Session 1: International
- Breakout Session 1: National

Part 4 – Connections:

- Networks & Communities of Practice
- What are you going to do?





Part 1 – the catalyst!

... the story begins in 2004;

... the study begins in 2008;

... the sub-national, national, regional, and international connections commence in 2004; and

... the flow on benefits and efficiencies continue to this day



When I realised the importance of working together



Source: Australian Customs Service





From this story and experience we understand ...

... that (sometimes) we cannot do everything ourselves:

- administratively;
- legally;
- operationally;
- scientifically;
- technically; and
- etc., etc., etc.





From this I begin ...

... a search for (environmental) regulatory and enforcement:

- capability;
- capacity;
- competence; and
- confidence





What I did with it ...

'Why' – I looked for answers?

- Because it just didn't make sense!

'Where' – I collected information?

- Nationally, regionally, globally
- Directly from practitioners, managers, executives, and experts

'What' purpose – did I analyse information for?

- To improve 'regulatory practice' and 'regulatory delivery', within and across environmental agencies





Part 2 – ‘Working Together’





So what is – 'Working Together'?

- What do you call it?
- How would you describe it?





Some options to choose from:

Listed alphabetically:

- Collaborating
- Cooperating
- Coordinating
- Networking

Let's vote!
Let's discuss.





Let's now consider and discuss

The definitions:

- By considering some words and their working definitions
 - Networking (exchange of information for mutual benefit)
 - Coordinating (exchanging information and altering activities for a common purpose)
 - Cooperating (exchanging information, altering activities and sharing resources)
 - Collaborating (all of the above, and enhancing the capacity of the other partner[s] for mutual benefit and a common purpose).

Source: adapted from Pink and White (2016, p. 7). *Environmental Crime and Collaborative State Intervention*, Palgrave.





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On reflection, who would change their vote for how they describe working together?



Part 3 – Reflections





Reflections

- Breakout Session 1: International dimensions;
- Breakout Session 1: National dimensions; and
- The conference thus far





Part 4 – Connections





Connections

- Networks and Communities of Practice
- What are you going to do?





(Effective) Collaboration

Networks and Communities of Practice:

- *can be highly effective;*
- *are not free; and*
- *require work, effort, and trust*

How might we make these 'working together' partnerships more effective?



Revisiting the catalysts story – some final thoughts ...

Practical Tips:

- Work through the 5Ws and 1H of 'Working Together':

identify who	you might need to, want to, benefit from working with
determine what	the main or sub-focus of working together might be
decide where	working together might occur or be coordinated from
agree when	to start, pause, and stop working together
establish why	working together is appropriate and beneficial
discuss how	i.e. networking, coordination, cooperating, collaborating



Keep connected with colleagues and connections from this conference – try to lock something tangible in over the final networking session.

THANK YOU

Please keep in touch

You can contact us at:

- ▶ (e) admin@recapconsultants.com.au
- ▶ (e) grant@recapconsultants.com.au

