

# SEA INTEGRATION IN SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

OR

(THE UNEXPECTED VIRTUE OF SEA IGNORANCE)

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#IAIA16



# Houston, we have an SEA problem

Is SEA *really* facilitating sustainable planning?

SEA can “*make the world a greener and more liveable place*” (Thérivel, 2010, p.2)...

... but “appears to fail on its inherent promise” (Bidstrup and Hansen, 2014, p.34)...

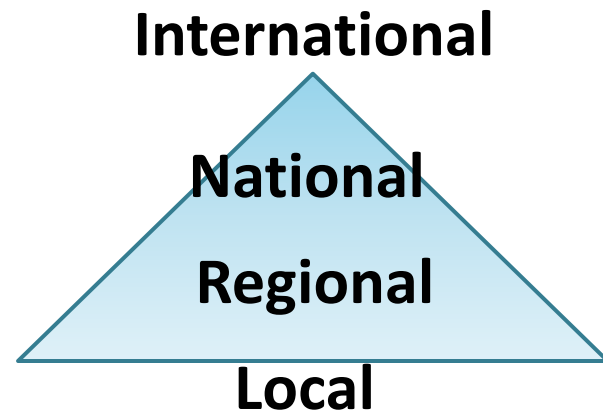
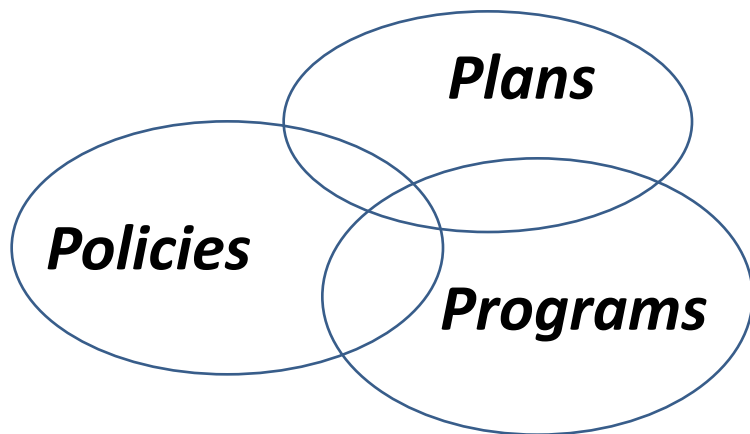
...because of the existing gap between theory and practice (Lobos and Partidário, 2014)...

...so that (SA) “*faces marginalisation and or even extinction, plainly reflected by talks of streamlining in the name of efficiency*” (Morrison-Saunders et al., 2014, p.7).

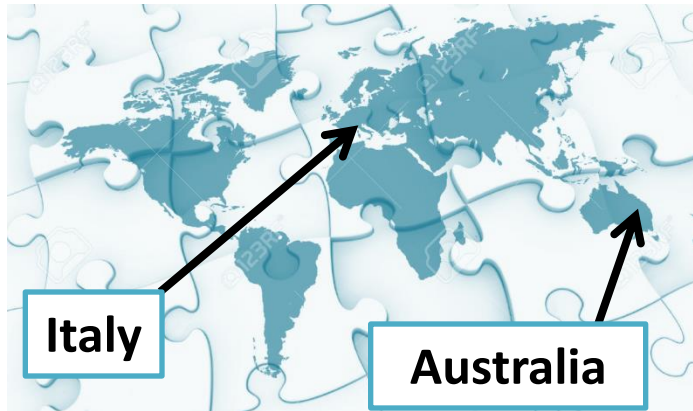
# One SEA does not fit all contexts

*“no one SEA methodology will apply to all strategic actions and in all socio-political contexts”*  
(Brown and Thérivel, 2000, p.186)

SEA is a ‘family of tools per se’ (Partidário, 2000, p. 655)



# Australia, Italy: no countries for SEA?



Source: [www.123rf.com](http://www.123rf.com)

Comparative study:

- planning system
- use of SEA
- governance

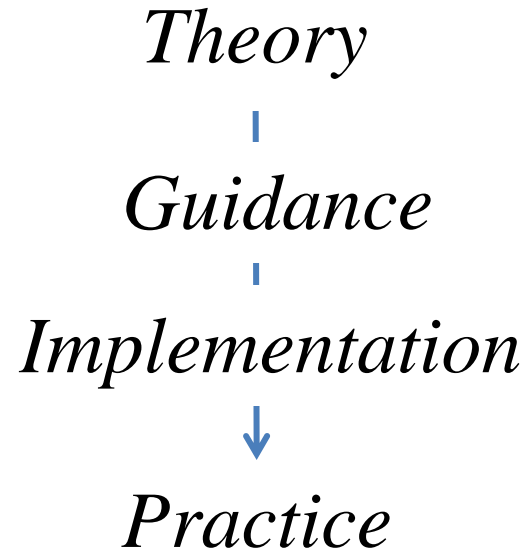


SEA framework:

- External to PPP, compulsory (Italy)
- Integrated in PPP; external for ecological purposes (Queensland, Australia)

# All the SEA's men

- Legislators
- Administrators
- Practitioners



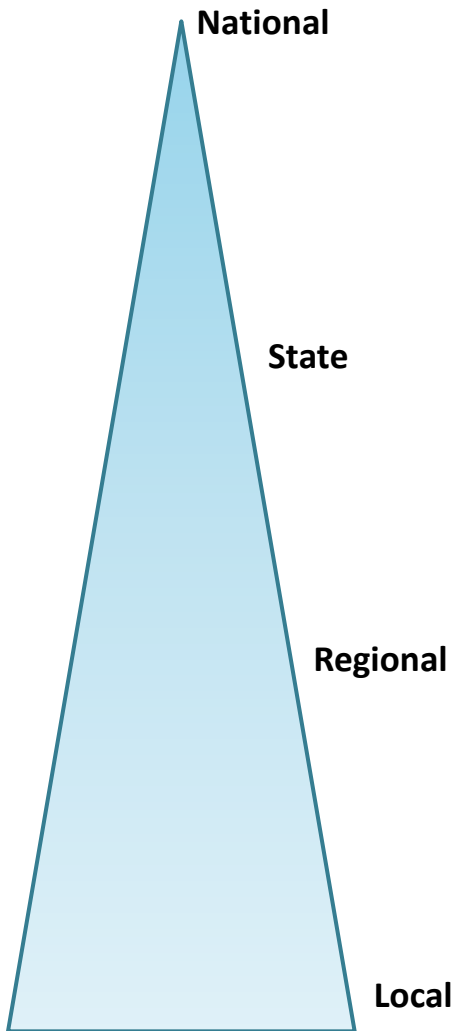
What we asked:

- tasks
- relationships
- suggestions

# The SEA Matrix

- legislation, guidelines
- integration between PPP and SEA
- sustainability goals and indicators
- technical aspects
- participatory aspects
- monitoring phase

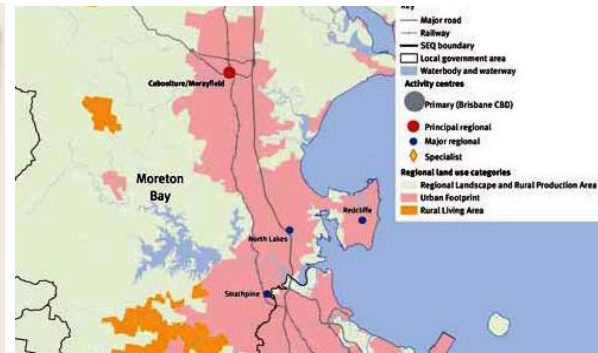
# Queensland



Source: [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)



Source: [www.seqcatchments.com.au](http://www.seqcatchments.com.au)



Source: [www.skyscrapercity.com](http://www.skyscrapercity.com)

Source: [www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au)



# Issues in Queensland

- Perceived as not useful, not applied

## Reasons:

- Elective (with exceptions)
- Costs (higher than benefits)
- Mainly ecological purposes
- Integrated assessment of PPP through State Interest Review
- Monitoring phase not structured



# Stakeholders' suggestions (QLD)

## Priority 1:

- Improve monitoring to assist local councils

## How:

- Link in cyclical way policies, actions, outputs, outcomes
- Lobbying activity by QLD organizations
- Update regional plans
- Strengthen Natural Resource Management plans

# Stakeholders' suggestions (QLD)

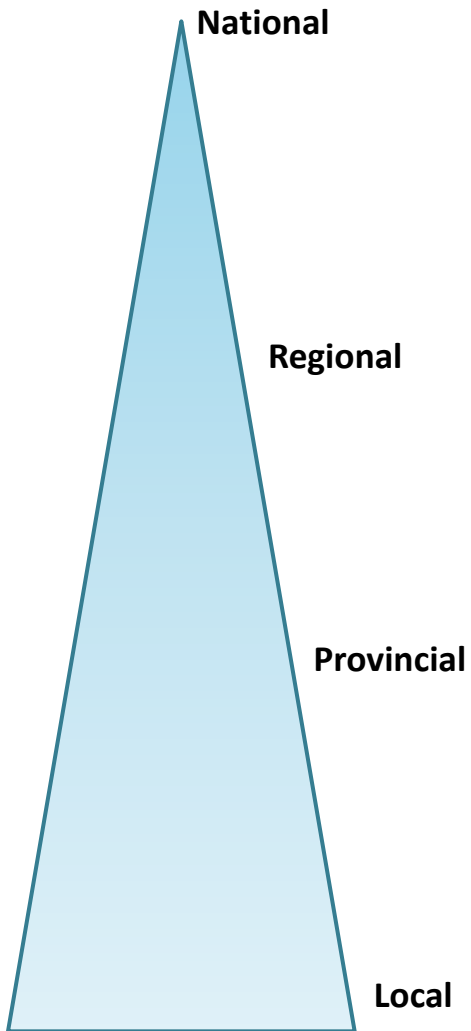
## Priority 2:

- Define sustainability indicators (SI)

## How:

- Bring SI in statutory plans
- Guidelines for SI & database organizations
- Learn from previous experiences in QLD

# Region Lombardia



Source: <http://www.isprambiente.gov.it>



Source: [www.prolocoPontedilegno.it](http://www.prolocoPontedilegno.it)



Source: <http://docplayer.it>



Source: [www.ersaf.lombardia.it](http://www.ersaf.lombardia.it)

Source: [trmengineering.it](http://trmengineering.it)



Source: [trmengineering.it](http://trmengineering.it)

# Issues in Region Lombardia (R.L.)

SEA perceived as ‘bureaucratic impediment’

Reasons:

- Confused division of competences
- Regional authority is passive assessor of SEA
- SEA unfit for local level (scale, finance)
- Poor involvement of stakeholders
- Ineffective estimation of PPP impacts

# Stakeholders' suggestions (R.L.)

## Priorities:

- Coordinate database management
- Harmonize diverging sets of indicators
- Organize monitoring activities

## How:

- Shared indicators
- Revise regional planning law and regional plan
- Regional support to local monitoring

# Synthesis

Common themes

Differences

To where from here? The role of stakeholders

# Common themes

Sustainability indicators & monitoring:

- Too aspirational indicators
- Operative guidelines
- Responsibilities for implementation

SEA not a facilitator:

- Weak, confused procedure
- Local councillors exposed to developers' interests
- Stakeholders' disengagement

# Differences

## Legislative power

- Italy: regions define their own SEA model
- Queensland: state/national SEA framework

## Planning schemes

- Italy: regional plan with SEA, local plans either (redundant, complex mechanisms)
- Queensland: SEA not mandatory (lack of practice)



# Save private SEA: Where to from here?

- QLD: from “developers’ friendly” to “sustainability driven”
- QLD: less nebulous
- ITA: less bureaucratic and time consuming

How:

- Stakeholders’ engagement (learning cycles)
- Regional level of planning

Thank you all very much

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