

The role of the media and politician and the use of evidence in the public debate about the need to streamline EIA in Australia

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Methodology

- Global - Search of Proquest database
 - Newspapers, magazines, podcasts, websites and blogs
 - i.e. no academic sources
- Australia
 - Curtin University library search of newspaper articles
 - Google search using “green tape”
- News sources should reflect contemporary concerns and political debate

Context – EIA in Australia

- Federal system
- Two layers of EIA
- National
 - Focus of matters of national environmental significance, including international treaties
- State
 - Broader environmental issues, but regional focus

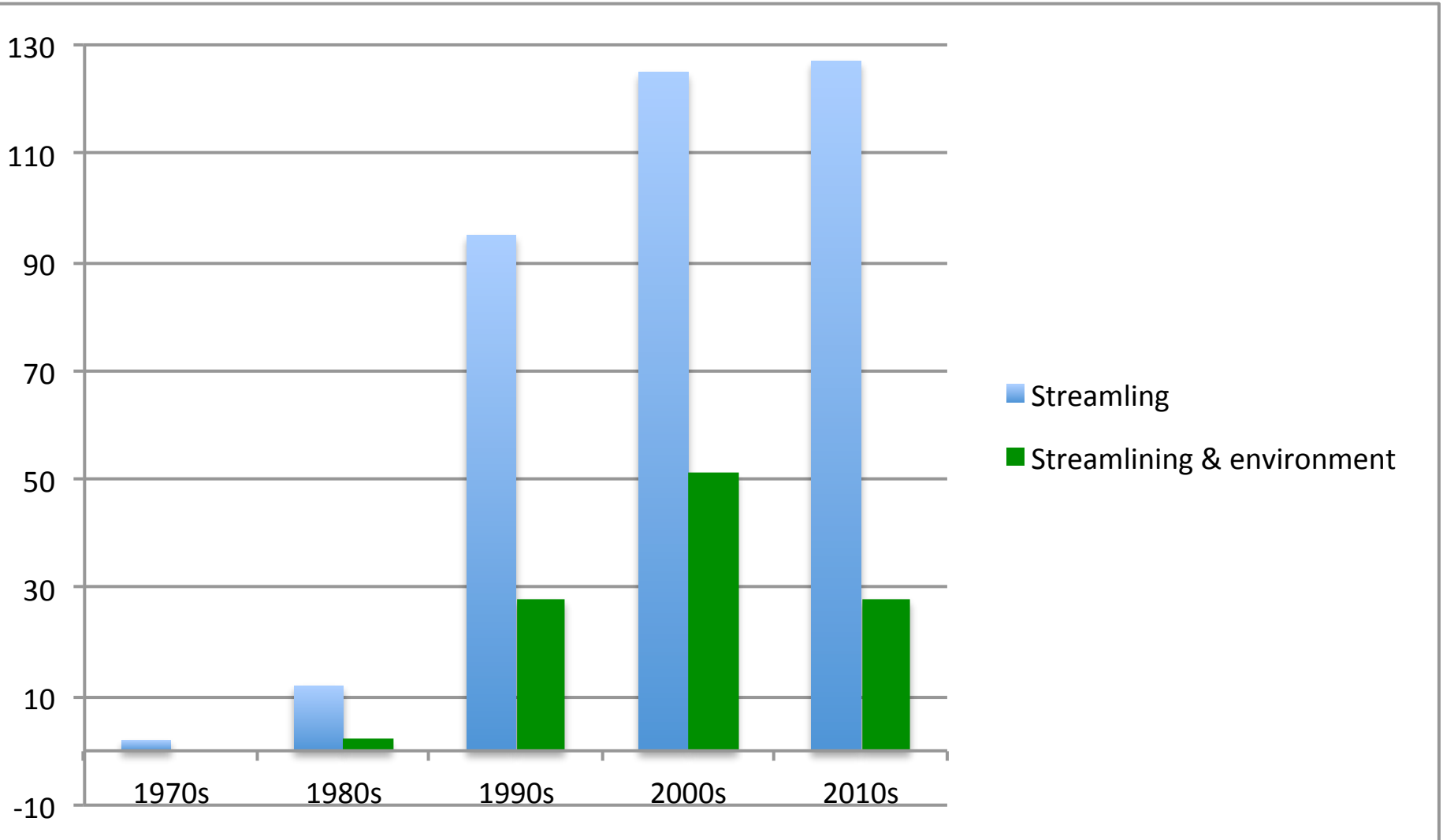
Context

- Cutting green tape
 - One EIA process
 - National process carried out through State EIA process

1. Global

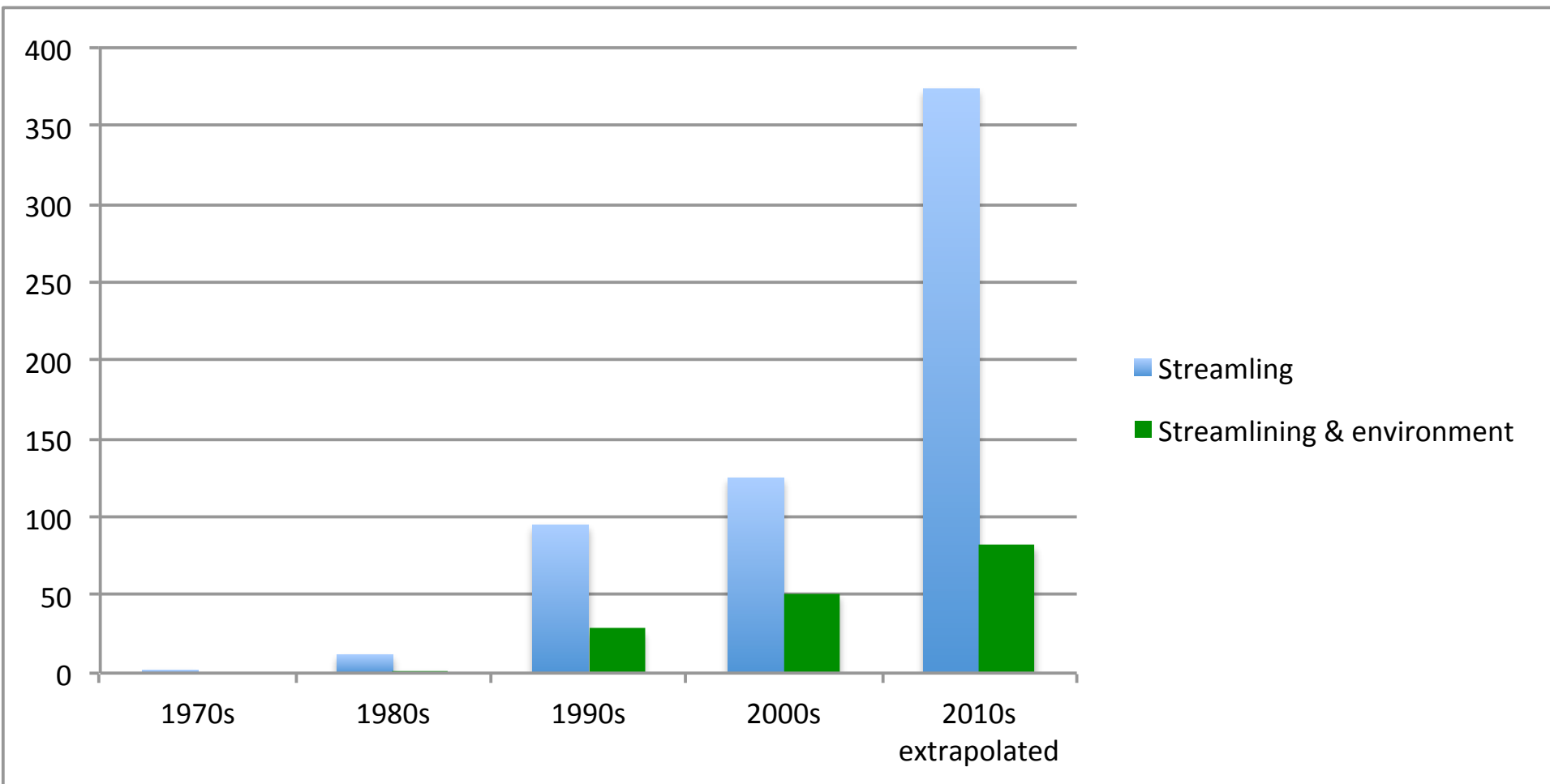
1960s-present

Streamlining in title and environment a topic



1960s-present

Streamlining in title and environment a topic extrapolated



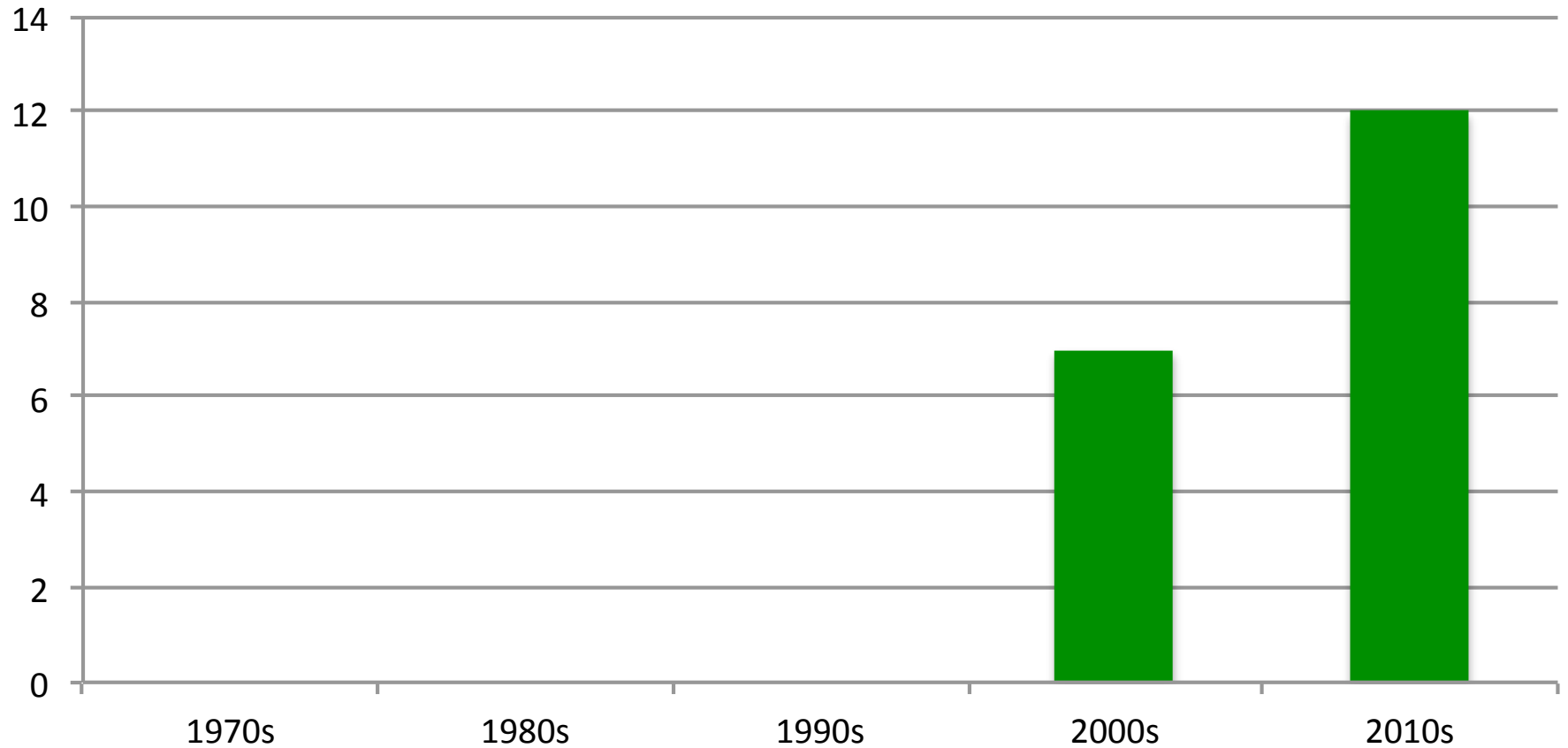
“Cutting green tape”

- August 2006
- the Diggers and Dealers conference in Kalgoorlie
- Michael Kiernan, Consolidated Minerals Chief introduced the term “green tape”

1960s-present

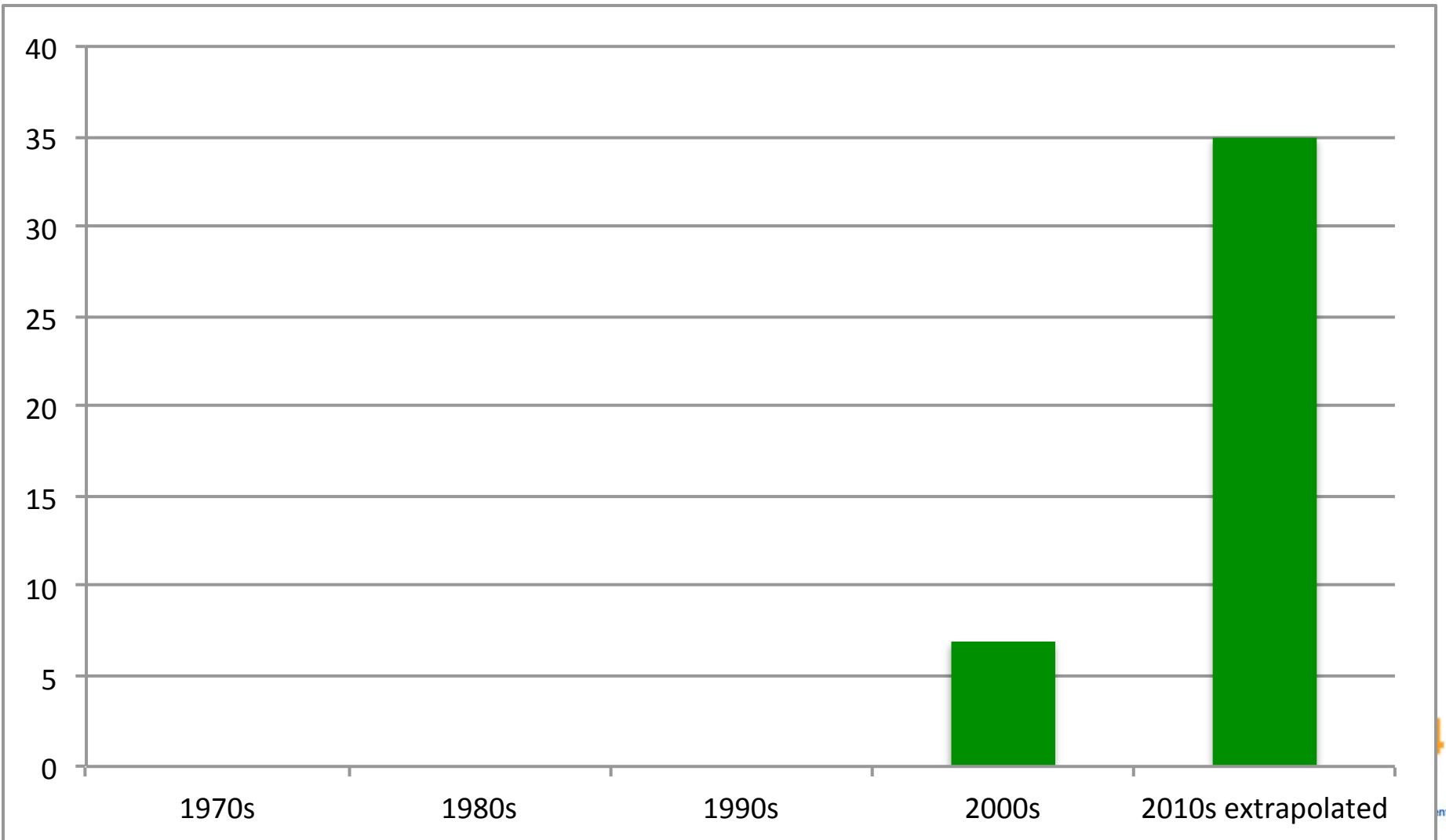
Cutting Green Tape in title (Global)

Cutting Green Tape



1960s-present

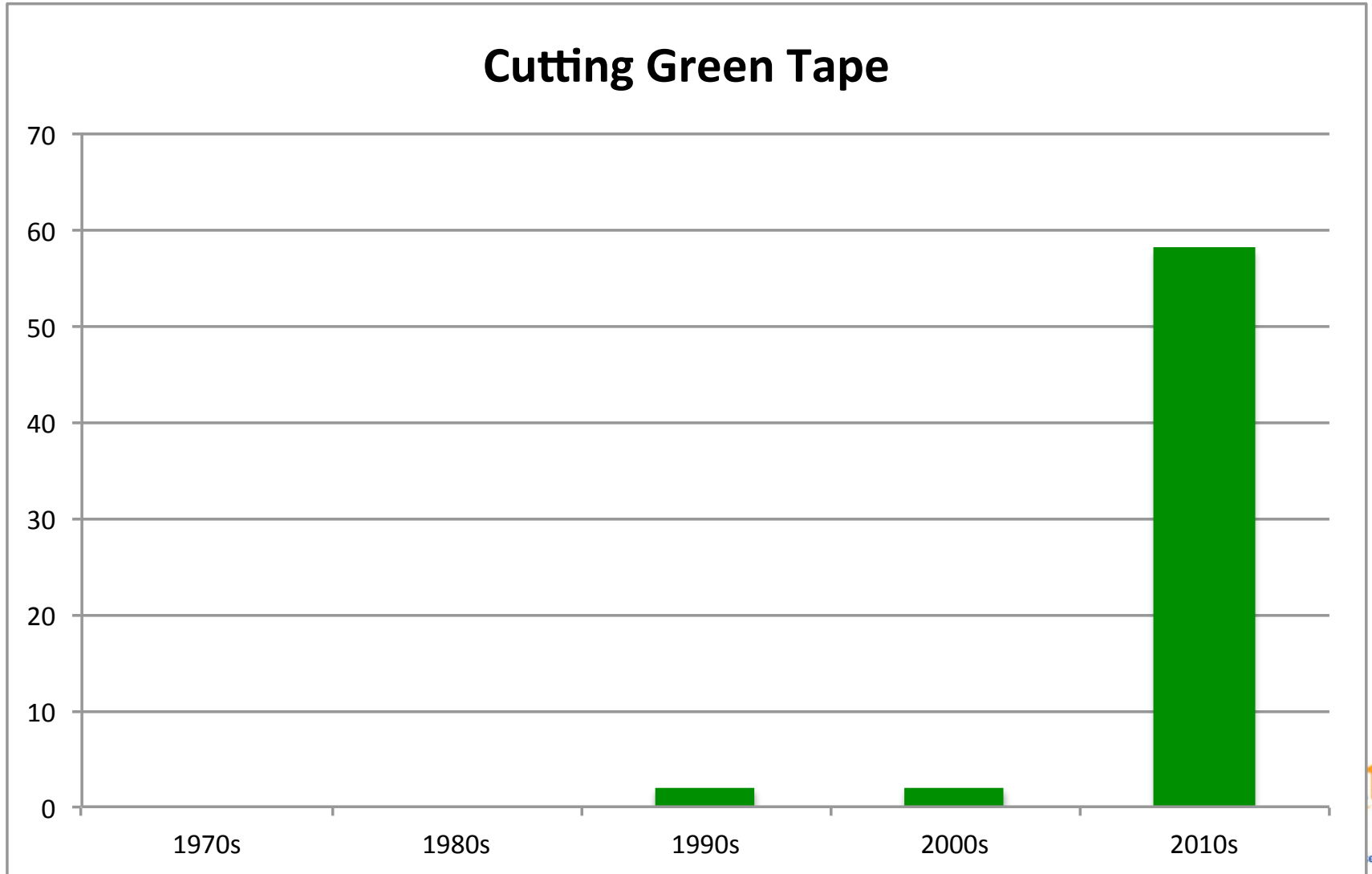
Cutting Green Tape in title - extrapolated



2. Australia newspapers

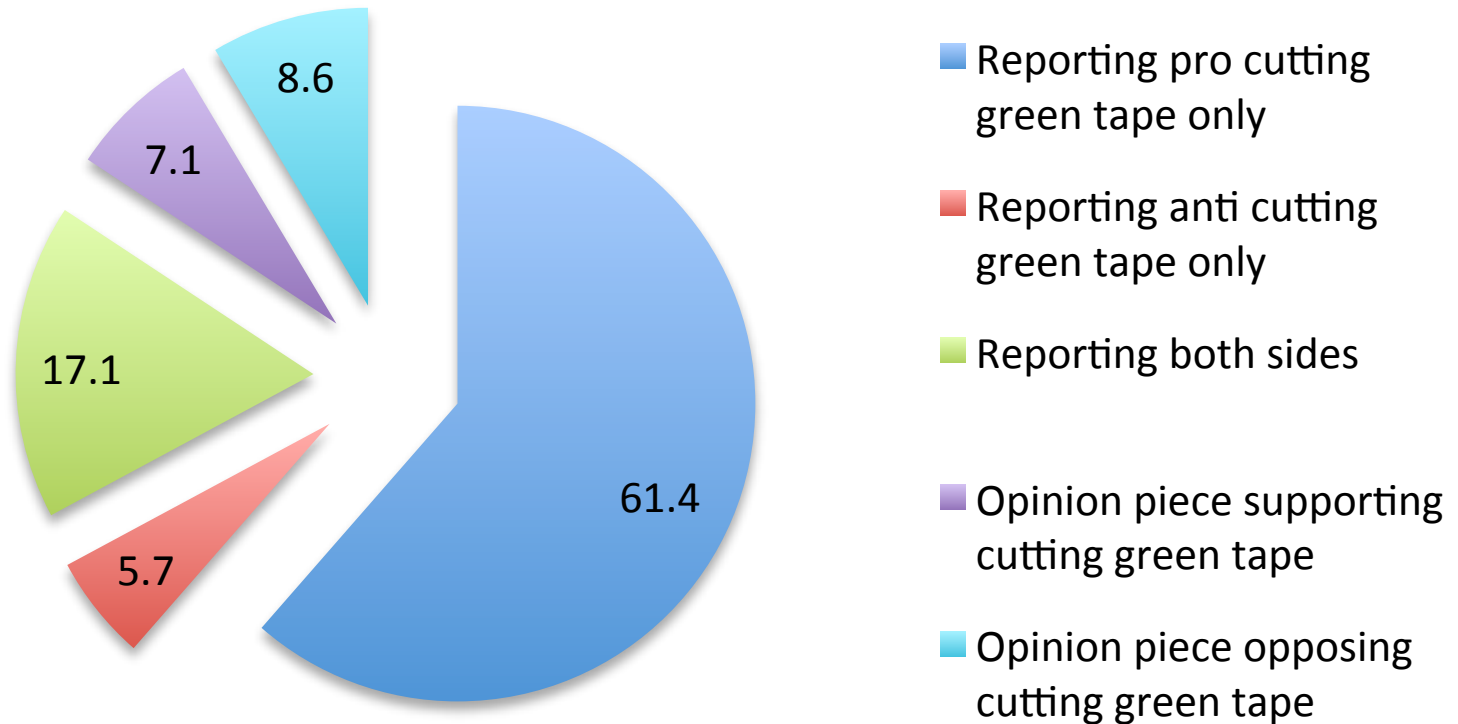
1960s-present

Cutting Green Tape in title (not Google)

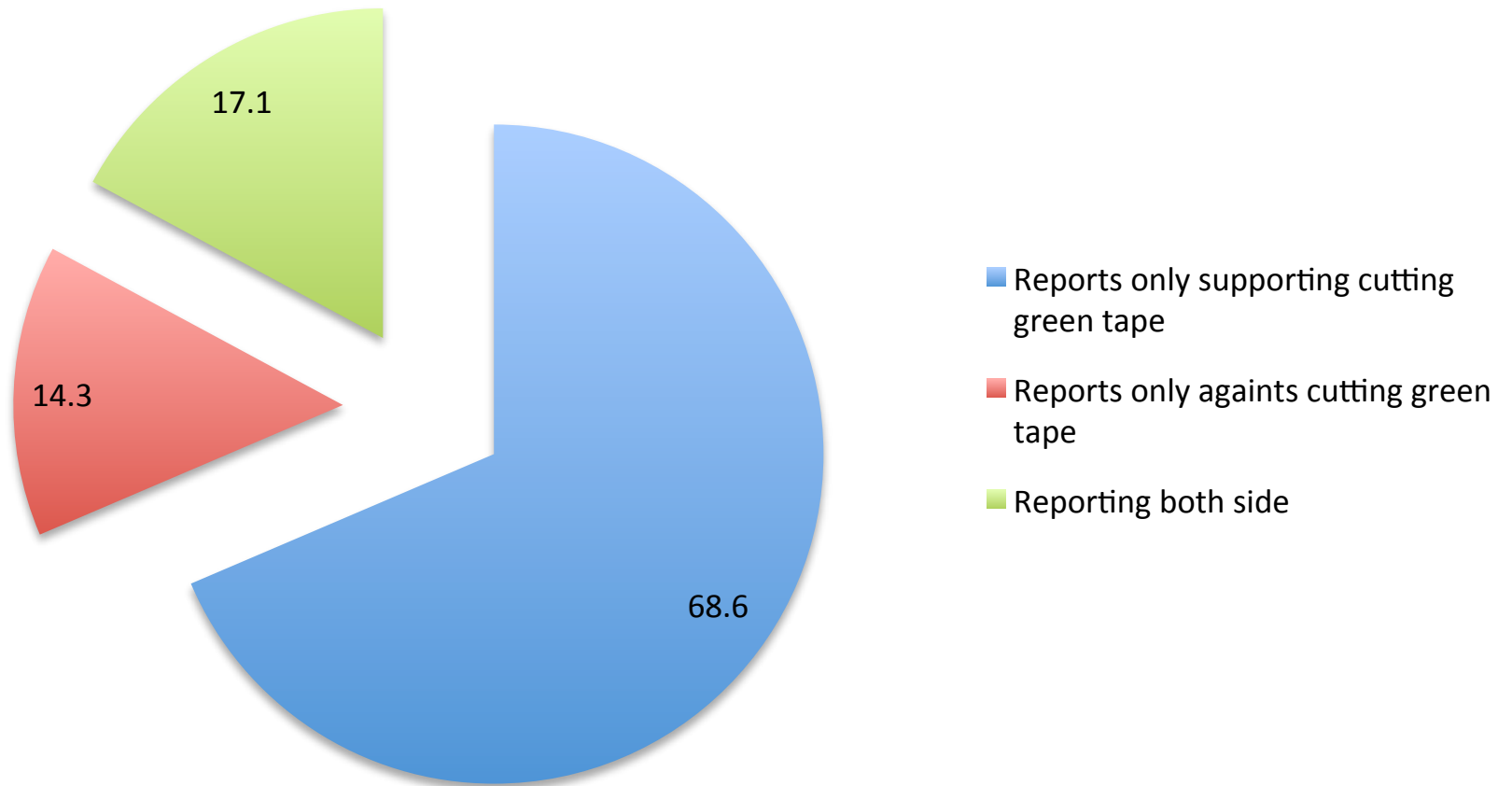


Some initial analysis

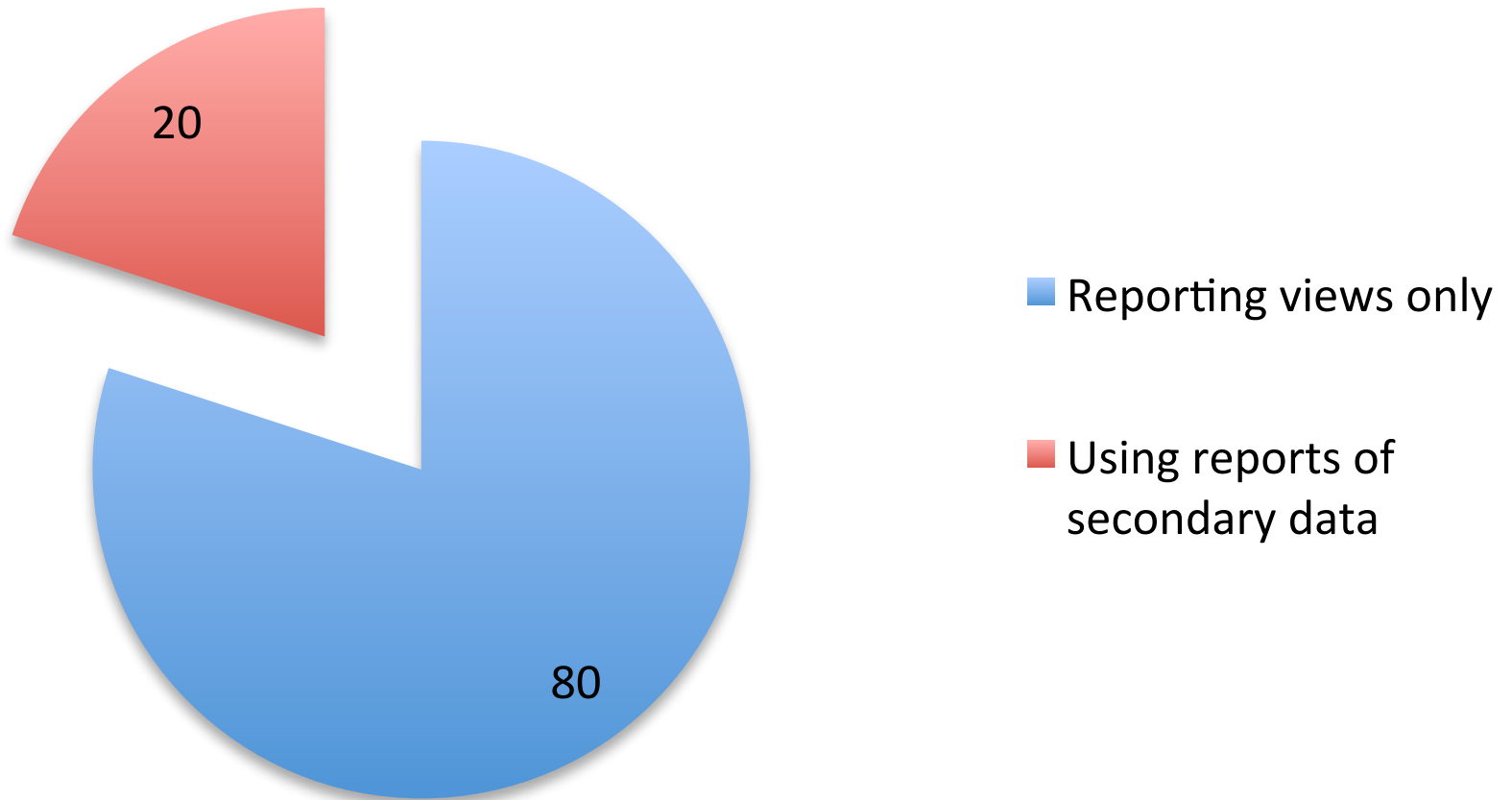
- Reporting type



“Flavour”



Use of supporting data/information



The data

- 2 – using indirect data of environmental decline (-);
- 2 – using a Productivity Commission Report (+);
- 2 – a case study of pollution linked to de-regulation (-);
- 1 – survey of business leaders (+);
- 1 – a University report (+);
- 1 – un named report (+)
- 2 – money saved by not having to get an approval (+)

Implications

- Relevant data and information not central to debate
- All + reporting focused on cost of assessments (upfront costs) not cost getting it wrong (post approval)
- The political debate (both sides) supports cutting green tape
- Those against are academics and the political 'Left'
- Reporting
 - Primarily pro cutting green tape
 - Not a balanced public debate
- This is the political reality

Responses

- Enter the debate
- Find ways to work with the political reality