



Is a Quality Mark a Mark of **Quality**?

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Outline

- EIA Quality Mark Scheme
- A systems approach to quality EIA practice
- **4 years of trends in quality of UK EIA practice**
- Summary





EIA Quality Mark Scheme



Background:

The State of EIA Practice in the UK August 2011

Download:
www.iema.net/eiareport



SPECIAL REPORT –
THE STATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PRACTICE IN THE UK





Qmark Commitments

1. EIA Management
2. EIA Team Capabilities
3. EIA Regulatory Compliance
4. EIA Context
5. EIA Content
6. EIA Communication
7. Improving EIA Practice



51 Registrants

April 2015

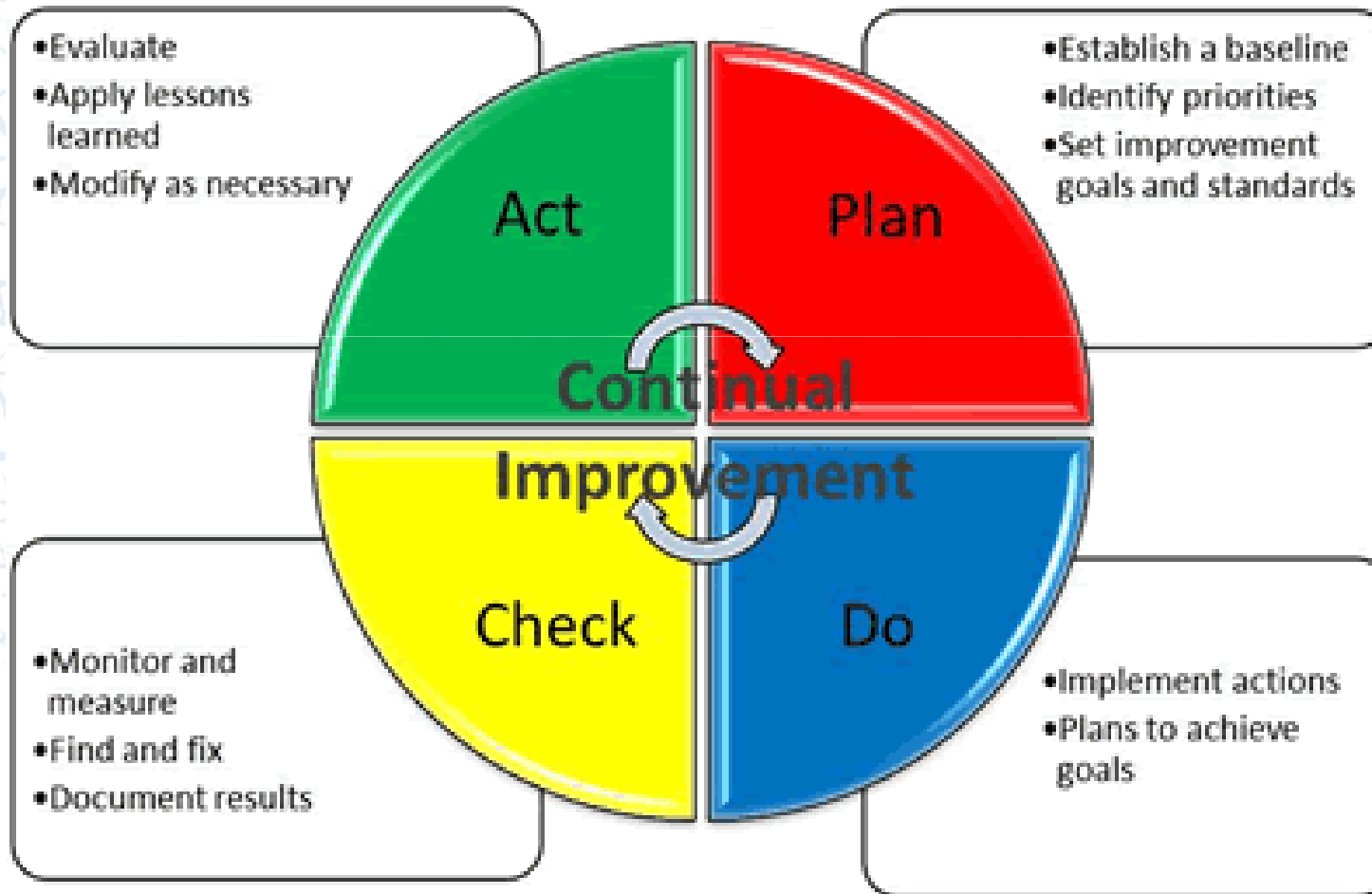




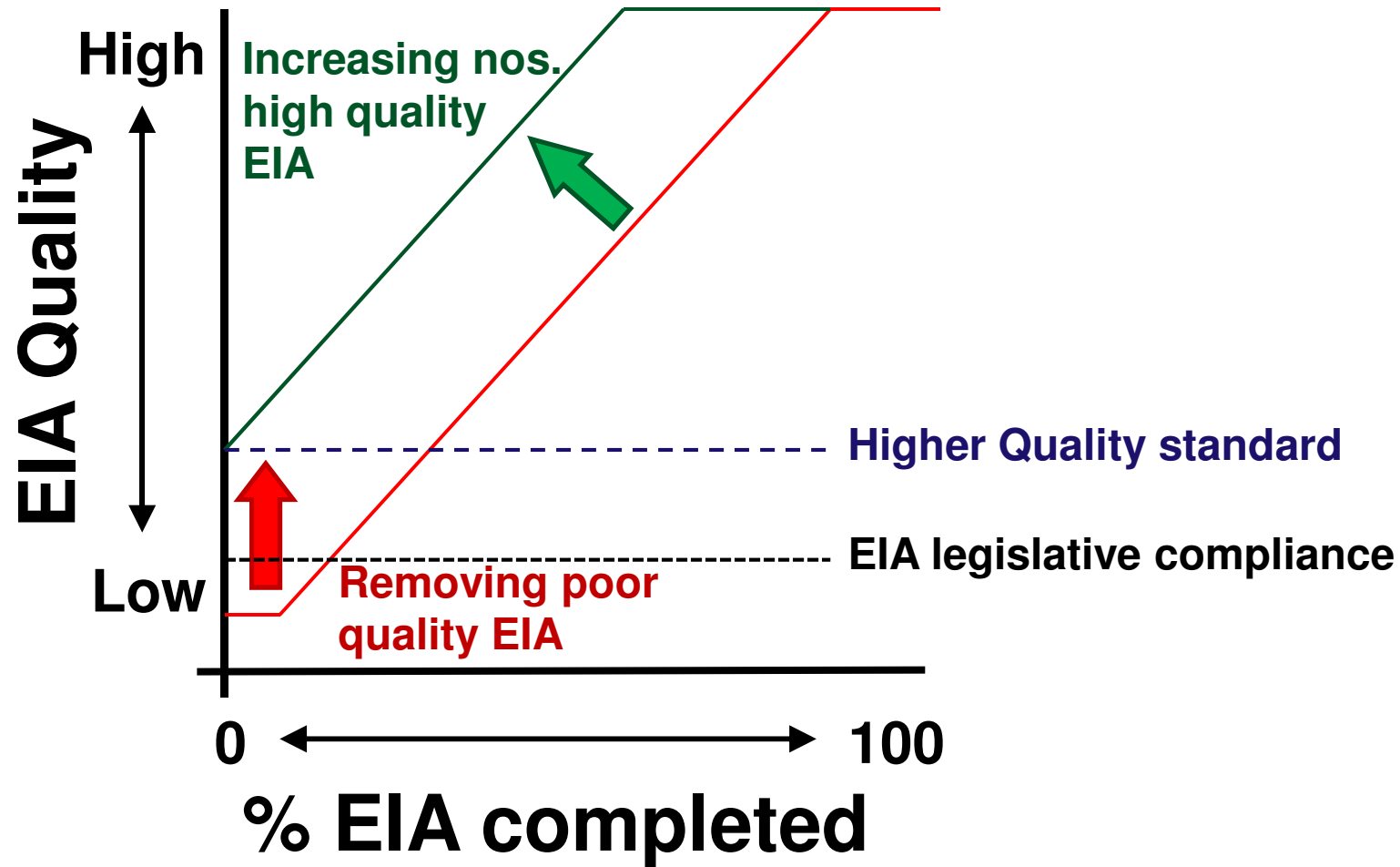
A systems approach to quality EIA practice



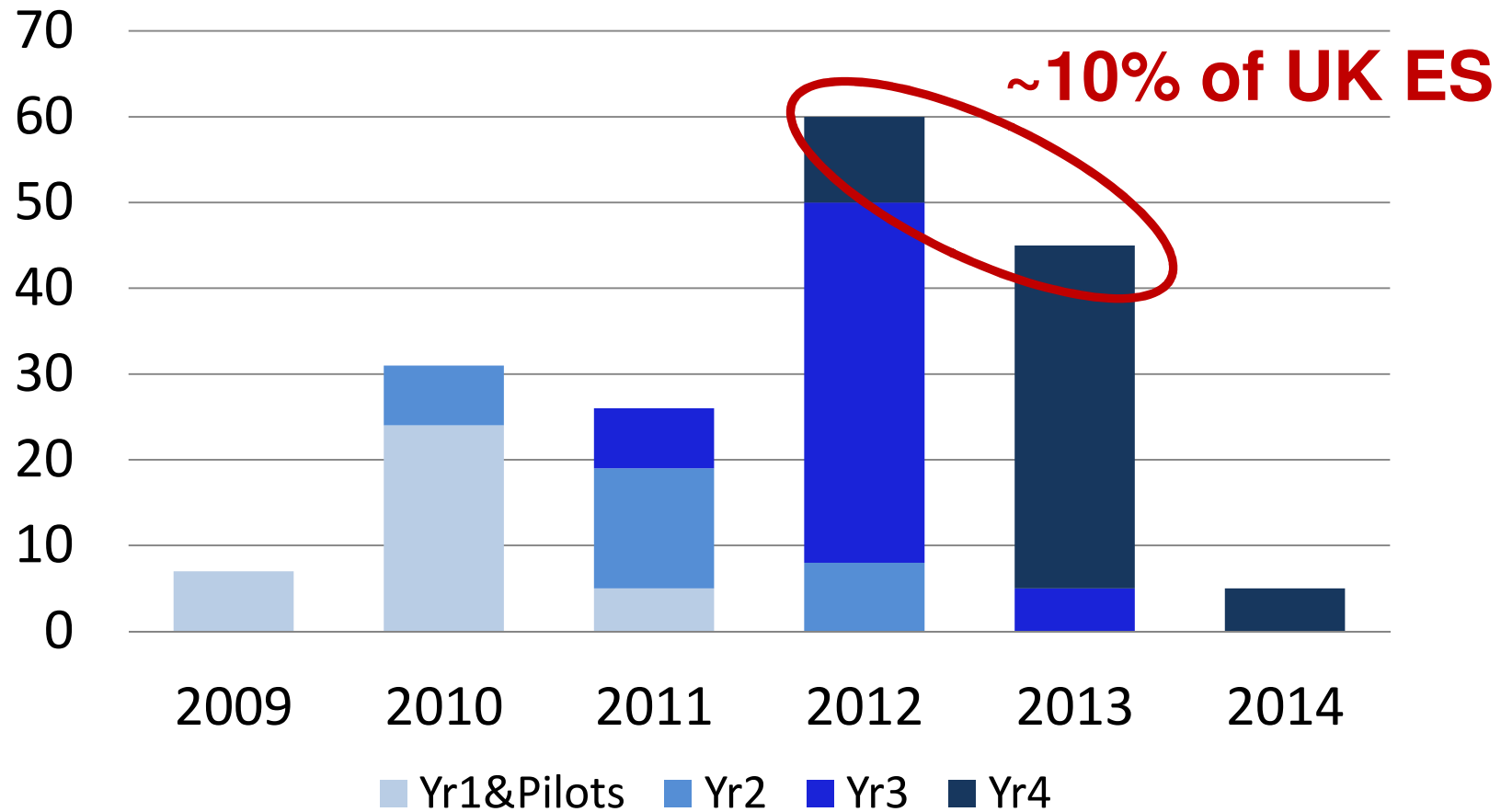
Systems approach to continually improving EIA



Improvement Cycle 1: 2009-13



EIS reviewed by Year of Publication





4 Years of Trends

Improving Quality Across UK EIA Practice



EIA Management & Team Capabilities

Key Trends:

- **Ensuring consistent EIA & ES quality across the organisation - Up from ~85% to >96%**
- **Progressing EIA staff development through mentoring - Up 20% in 4yrs to 97% of registrants**
- **Maintaining and updating EIA knowledge across the organisation - Up 10% in 4yrs, now stands at 98%**

EIA Regulatory Compliance

Key Trends:

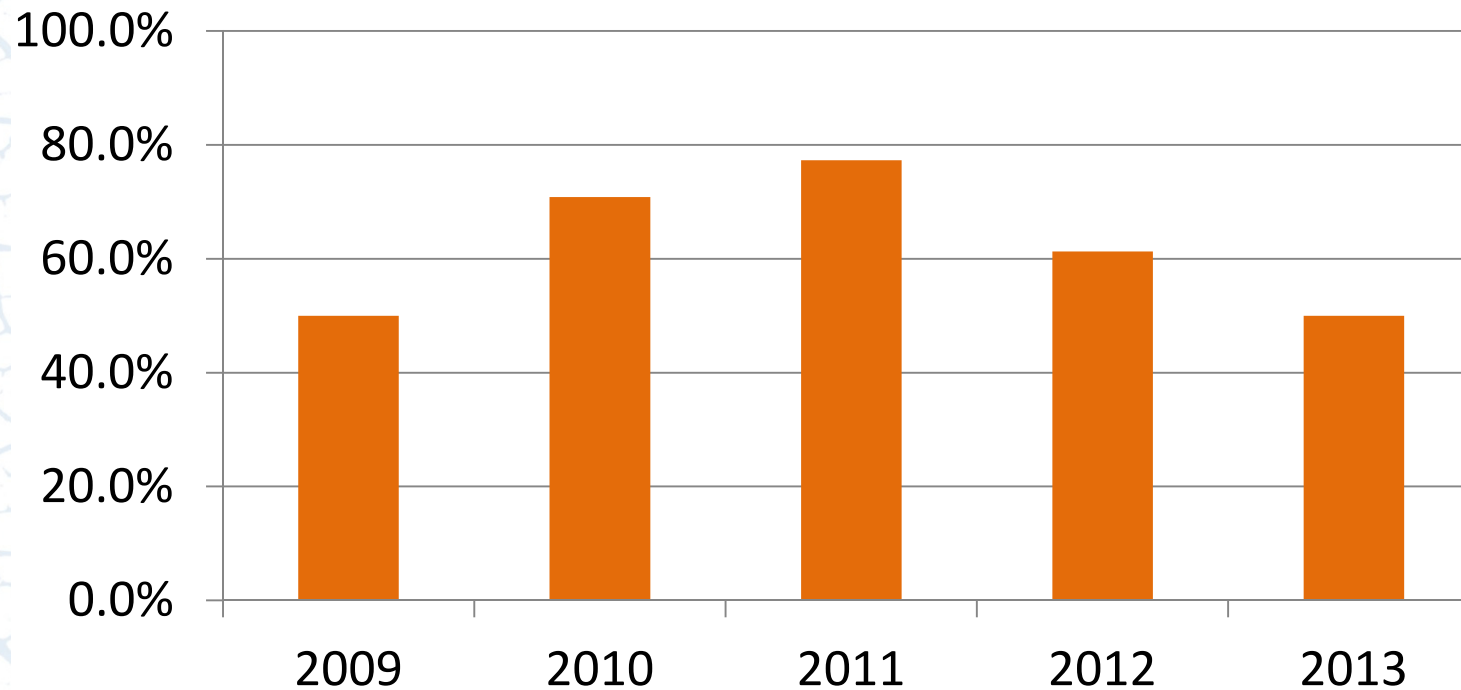
- Majority maintained >90% Pass rate

BUT...

- Coverage of *Interaction* between topics in EIA is **poor**
 - Variability in Yr4 fell back to <60% Pass rate
- Coverage of *Climatic Factors* is **poor**
 - See Graph

Poor Coverage of Climate

Pass Rate for Climatic Factors - UK EIA



EIA Context & Content

Key Trends:

- **Clarity on how decided what topics scoped into EIA**
 - Improved from 75% to >90% Pass rate
- **Clarity on main alternatives / iterations considered**
 - 3rd of ES reviewed from 2013 did not Pass
- **Justifying approach to significance evaluation** - up from ~80% 2010 to >95% in 2013
- **Detail on mitigation uncertainty & responsibility improved** - See Graph

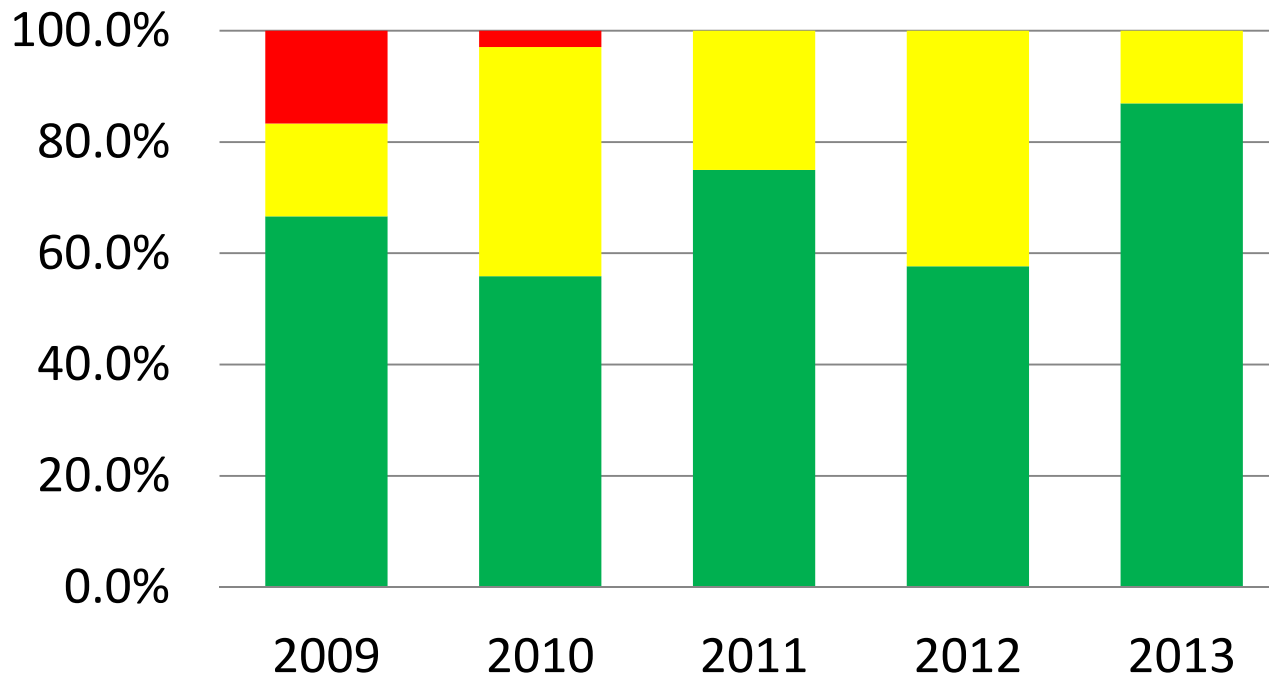
COM5: EIA Content

Key Trends:

- **Justifying approach to significance evaluation - up from ~80% 2010 to >95% in 2013**
- **Detail on mitigation uncertainty & responsibility improved - See Graph**

Improving coverage of *Mitigation*

ES defines *How & Who* on Mitigation

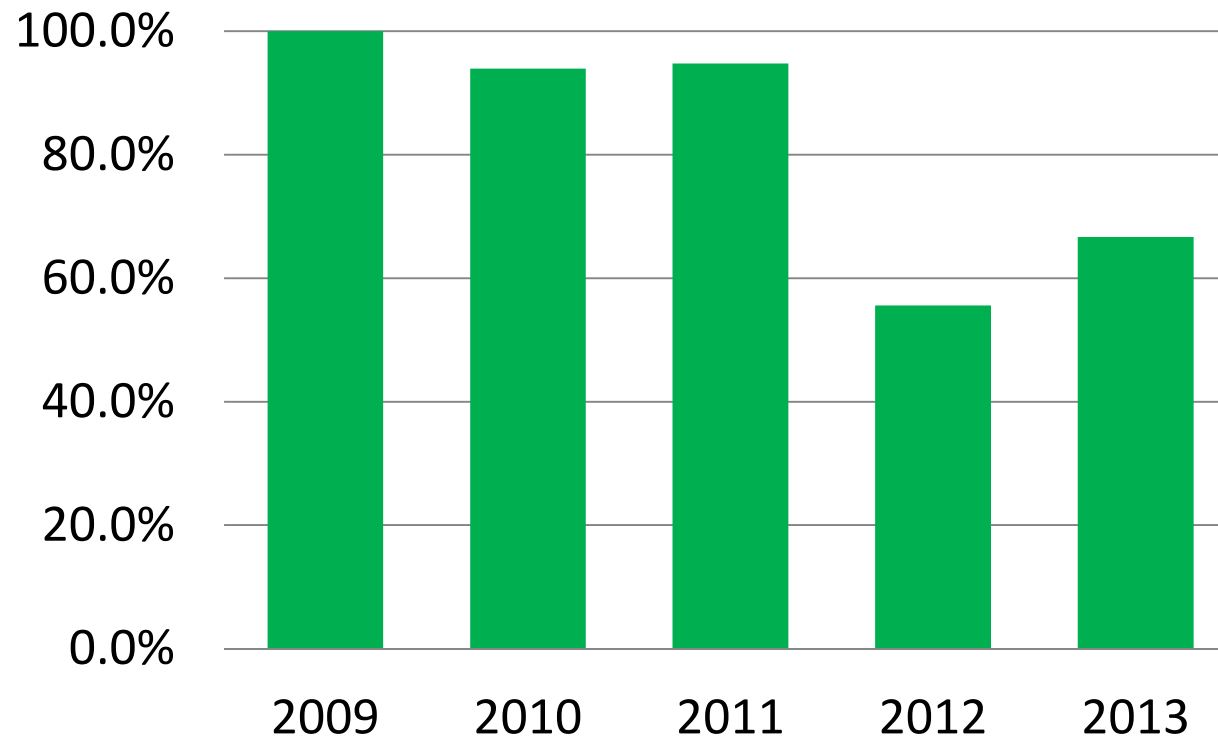


EIA Presentation

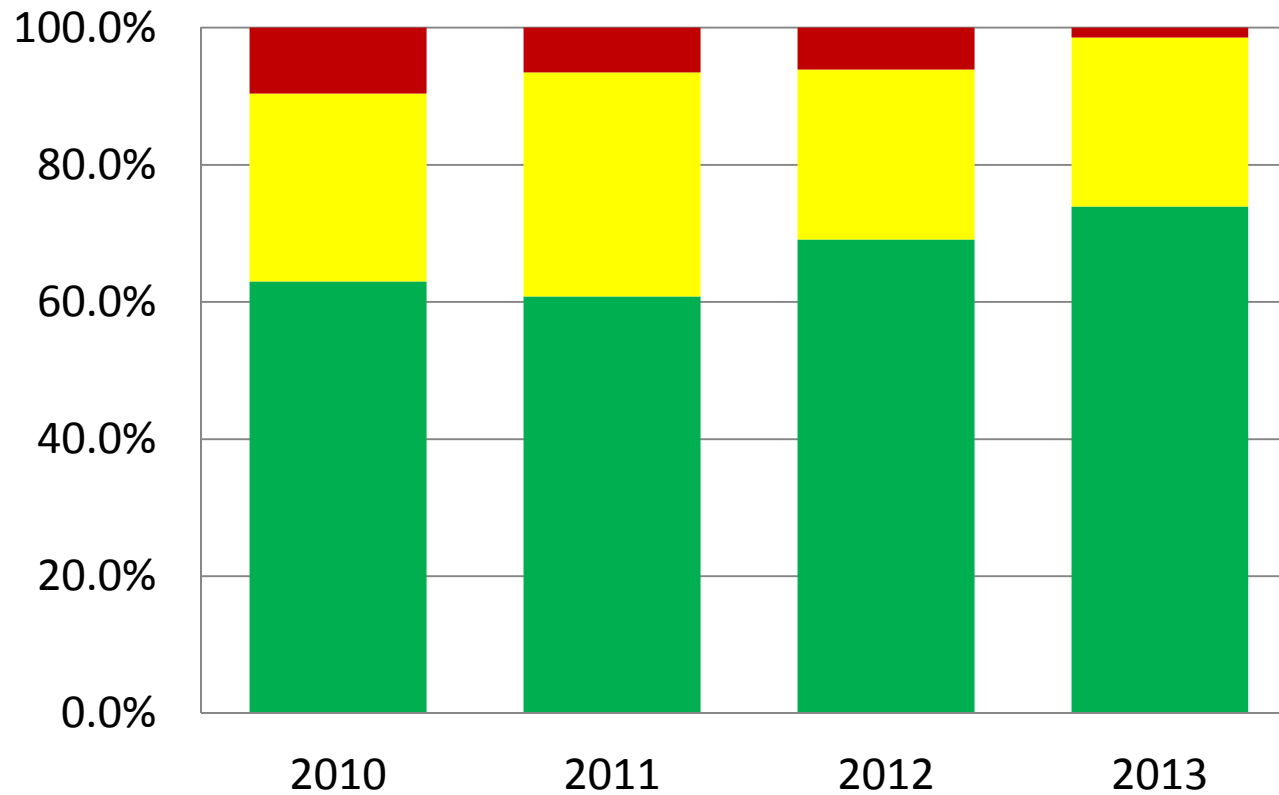
Key Trends:

- **Length of main text (vs significance of effects) - See Graph**
- **Overall quality of Non-Technical Summary improved - See Graph**

Proportionate ES length



NTS: Overall Good Progress



Summary

Is the QMark a mark of quality?

YES!

- ✓ Market recognition – specified in contracting
- ✓ On-going growth - >7%/yr
- ✓ Overall, positive data trends – **some issues remain**
- ✓ Recognised by peers – 2012 IAIA Institutional Award
- ✓ International Interest
- ✓ Active community of practice – beginning phase 2

But, QMark (like any audit) cannot guarantee the quality of every EIA undertaken within it...

